

Review

The case study of scheduled caste in western Uttar – Pradesh (Meerut 2005-2010), India

Abhimanyu Kumar^{1*} and Mohd. Shadab²

¹Asst. Prof. Sociology Govt. P.G. College, Ranikhet

²Research Scholar, Govt.P.G.,College, Ranikhet,Almora

Accepted 20 March 2012

This paper is based on the Secondary data collected from secondary sources, i.e. the news paper and findings which have come out from this analysis. As we have said earlier that data for this study have also been collected form secondary sources. For collecting data we have selected Hindi News Papers Dainik Jagran and Amar Ujala, for identifying events. We have collected the news cutting of various news items which are related to the scheduled caste protests in western U.P District (Meerut) during last Five years from 2005 to 2010. On the basis of these items we have made an effort to analysis the scheduled caste protest in Meerut District. We have found 100 news items based on 11 various issues such as land related cases, reservation policy cases, rape cases, corruption in development schemes, crop cases, and panchayat conflict tourchers against scheduled caste, killing / Murder against scheduled caste conflicts beside these issues. We have also taken area of events as another variable, rural, semi urban and urban. We have also presented the record of six concerned authorities like District Magistrate, S.D.M. police administration, development officer, state government, chief minister and panchayat against whom the protests have been held.

Keywords: Scheduled caste, Secondary data, Meerut district, crimes

INTRODUCTION

Scheduled castes were one of the groups which were most backward. The basic determinants of scheduled caste status were untouchability and impure occupations, other determinants were their low economic, political and educational conditions. After independence, the scheduled caste (SCs) receives special mention in the constitution of India with special provisions in education, employment and political representation. Article 46 for instance declares. "The state shall promote with special care the programmes for educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Wankhede, 1999: 28).

The various terms by which they were identified early in the 19th century, e.g. Jyotirao Phule used the term Dalit to describe them as the most oppressed and broken victims of the caste ridden society (Zelliot, 1992: 271).

Though it is also believed that the term was first coined by Ambedkar (Murugkar, 1991: 6). The term Dalit as understood by the Dalit, Panthers, indicates that the Dalits (the scheduled castes) are those bearing the worst forms of atrocities, having no power to counter it and thus need to take the support of similar groups of people such as scheduled castes, tribes, neo Buddhists, the working people. The landless and poor peasants, women and all those who are exploited politically, economically and in the name of religion (Joshi 1986: 145).

The term scheduled castes coined by the British government of India brings to light the fact that these castes had suffered from untouchability and hence, need to be helped by the government through its special constitutional safeguards and measures. On the country, those used in Hindu religious scriptures reflect not only their degraded social status but were also responsible for their degradation. In the Vedas they had been described as Dasa and Dasyu depicting their unique dark colour complexion which was considered to be inferior to a relatively fair complexion of the Aryans and as Rakshasa and Asura depicting them as evils. They had also been

*Corresponding author E-mail: kumar_abhi004@yahoo.co.in

polluting the Brahmins and others for instance, under the rule of the Peshawar in the Maratha country the untouchable was not allowed to use the public streets if a Hindu was coming along lest he should pollute the Hindu by his shadow. The untouchable was required to have a black thread either on his wrist or in his neck as a sign or a mark to prevent the Hindu from getting them polluted by his touch through mistake. In Poona, the capital of the Peshwa, the untouchable was required to carry an earthen pot, hung in his neck. Wherever he went, for holding his spit lest his spit falling on earth should pollute a Hindu who might unknowing happen to tread on it (Ambedkar 1979: 39). If an untouchable caste touched a caste Hindu either by mistake or unconsciously, the former seemed to have polluted the latter and for this 'crime' he had to undergo severe punishment and the polluted one to a series of purification ceremonies in order to purify himself from the devotement. Such was the social condition of the scheduled caste. Scheduled castes were one of the groups which were most backward. The basic determinants of scheduled caste status were untouchability and impure occupation; other determinants were their low economic, political and educational conditions. After independence the scheduled castes (SCs) receive special mention in the constitution of India with special provisions from them in education, employment and political representation. Article 46 for instance declares. "The state shall promote with special care the programmes for educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and the particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Wankee, 1999: 28). In the present work the constitution criteria has been followed for identification of scheduled as there is no such sociological definition has been for mulcted.

The objectives of this study are follows

1. The study of extent of the Scheduled caste protests
2. The study of the issues on which scheduled caste protests are taking place
3. The study of the issues of protests vary in rural and urban area

METHODOLOGY

Area of Study

For the purpose of present study NCR Area of Meerut was selected as the area of study. The total area of the district according to the records is 3911 square miles. The total population of Meerut district is 241751, which is distributed as 132904 in rural area and 108848 in urban

area. The population of scheduled castes in rural area is 287108 in urban areas is 161.694, thereby scheduled caste constitute larger segment of the total population in rural areas and in urban area. Thus the scheduled castes have been active in politics. They are artisans, workers, professionals, servicemen and there are several institutions and associations run by them.

Universe/Sample and Respondents

The rural and urban area of the Meerut district would be the universe of our study. In the present study we have collected 100 news items from Dainik Jagran and Amar Ujala Hindi daily News papers Meerut edition during 2005-2010. 15 news items have been selected for detailed case study.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

At the first stage we have collected data of 100 events of protest by scheduled caste in Meerut district through two Hindi newspapers namely Amar Ujala and Dainik Jagran published from 1995 to 2000. At the second stage 50 events were selected for Interview.

At the third stage 15 events have been selected for intensive case studies. The data have been collected in two years from 2003 to 2010.

In the third stage the narratives of respondents coming through the case studies have been analysed qualitatively. Findings have been arrived at on the basis of fact collected though case studies. At the first stage data of 100 news items have been presented in the form of tables related to all variables and aspects related to every objective/question. Simple statistics, percentages and proportions have been presented in all tables and findings are arrived at. At the second stage 50 events have been presented in the form of table on nature and consequences of protests

First of all year wise total number of protests as reported in news, have been presented in table 1.

The above table shows that of the 100 events reported in the news items of 13 (i.e. 13 %) events have taken place in 2005, 09 (i.e. 09 %) in 2006, 37 (i.e. 37 %) in 2007, 23 (i.e. 23 %) in 2008, 08 (i.e. 08 %) 2009 and 10 (i.e. 10 %) in 2010. The table shows that the largest numbers of events of protests have taken place in 2007 and the minimum numbers of events of protests have taken place in 2009. Thus the year 2007 appears to be more important quantitatively for protests of the scheduled castes as largest number of events have been reported in this year. This needs further explanation on which will be undertaken later.

After the dividing of news items yearly, there is need to classify data in different sectors like the area or place of happening where they occur i.e. rural, urban and semi

Table 1. Year Wise Distribution of Scheduled Caste protest in western U.P (2005 – 2010)

S.No.	Year	No. of News	Percentage
1.	2005	13	13 %
2.	2006	09	09 %
3.	2007	37	37 %
4.	2008	23	23 %
5.	2009	08	08 %
6.	2010	10	10 %
	Total	100	100 %

Source: Dainik Jagran and Amar Ujala (Daily Newspapers, Hindi (2005 – 2010)).

Table 2. Distribution of News Items of the Scheduled Caste Protest according to Area (Rural Semi Urban, Urban) western U.P (2005 – 2010)

S.No.	Area	No. of Events	Percentage
1.	Rural	64	64 %
2.	Twon	14	14 %
3.	Urban	22	22 %
	Total	100	100 %

Source: Dainik Jagran and Amar Ujala [Daily Newspapers, Hindi (2005 – 2010)].

Table 3. Year and Area Wise Distribution of News Items of the Scheduled Caste Protest in western U.P (2005 – 2010)

S.No.	Year	Rural	Town	Urban	Total	Percentage
1.	2005	06	03	04	13	13 %
2.	2006	07	--	02	09	09 %
3.	2007	23	09	05	37	37 %
4.	2008	16	02	05	23	23 %
5.	2009	06	--	02	08	08 %
6.	2010	06	--	04	10	10 %
	Total	31	14	22	100	100 %

Source: Dainik Jagran and Amar Ujala (Daily Newspapers, Hindi (2005 – 2010)).

urban. Thus the area wise distribution of items has been presented as follows in table 2.

The above table shows that out of 100 news items 64 (i.e. 64 %) news items indicate that all events have taken place in rural area and 14 (i.e. 14 %) in town and 22 (i.e. 22 %) urban areas. Thus the fact suggests that the largest number of events reported from the rural areas. It means larger number of scheduled caste protests have taken place in rural areas.

Distribution of events in different sectors of society has been presented in the previous table. Now it is also necessary to know how many protests taken place in which year in different sectors. This has been presented in table 3.

The above table shows that out of 100 news items 13 (i.e. 13 %) news items in 2005, 06 are taken place in rural area, 03 in town and 04 from urban area. In the year 2006, 7 news items reported from rural area and only 2 from urban area. Out of 37 (i.e. 37 %) news items in 2007, 23 are taken place from rural area 09 in twon and 05 in urban area. In the year 2008 of the 23 (i.e. 23 %) news items 16 are from rural area, 02 from twon and 05 are taken place in urban area. In the year 2009 only 08 (i.e. 8 %) news items 06, are taken place from rural area and 02 are taken place in urban area. In the year 2010 of the 10 (i.e. 10 %) news items 06 are reported from rural area and 04 from urban area, no case from town. The above facts suggest that maximum news items reported

Table 4. Distribution of News Items of the Scheduled Caste Protest according to nature of events in western U.P (2005 – 2010)

S. No.	Nature of Events	No. of Events	Percentage
1.	Land cases	19	19 %
2.	Reservation policy cases	08	08 %
3.	Rape cases	04	04 %
4.	Corruption in development schemes	08	08 %
5.	Crop cases	01	01 %
6.	Panchayat conflict	01	01 %
7.	Torture cases against SCs	19	19 %
8.	Conflict related to Ambedkar status	13	13 %
9.	Physical violence against SCs	05	05 %
10.	Killing / Murder of SCs	14	14 %
11.	Caste Conflict	08	08 %
Total		100	100 %

Source: Dainik Jagran and Amar Ujala [Daily Newspapers, Hindi (2005 – 2010)].

in 2007 from rural area.

Many scheduled caste protests have taken place during the period 2005 to 2010. These protests are different in their nature like killing, land dispute case, rape case etc. Nature wise distribution of protest among scheduled caste during last five years has been presented in table 4.

The above table shows that out of 100 news items 19 (i.e. 19 %) events are related to land cases, 08 (i.e. 8 %) are related to reservation policy, 04 (i.e. 04 %) is rape cases, 08 (i.e. 08 %) related to corruption in development schemes, only 01 (i.e. 01 %) is crop case and 01 (i.e. 01 %) is panchayat conflict case, 19 (i.e. 19 %) torture cases, 13 (i.e. 13 %) conflict related to Ambedkar status. 05 (i.e. 05 %) events are related to physical violence, 14 (i.e. 14 %) cases are related to killing/murder, 08 (i.e. 08 %) events are caste conflicts.

CONCLUSION

Scheduled castes were one of the groups which were most backward. The basic determinants of scheduled caste status were untouchability and impure occupations, other determinants were their low economic, political and educational conditions. After independence, the scheduled caste (SCs) receives special mention in the constitution of India with special provisions in education, employment and political representation. Article 46 for instance declares. The above table shows that of the 100 events reported in the news items of 13 (i.e. 13 %) events have taken place in 2005, 09 (i.e. 09 %) in 2006, 37 (i.e. 37 %) in 2007, 23 (i.e. 23 %) in 2008, 08 (i.e. 08 %) 2009 and 10 (i.e. 10 %) in 2010. The result largest numbers of events of protests have taken place in 2007 and the minimum numbers of events of protests have taken place in 2009. Thus the year 2007 appears to be more important quantitatively for protests of the scheduled

castes as largest number of events have been reported in this year. This needs further explanation on which will be undertaken later. That out of 100 news items 13 (i.e. 13 %) news items in 2005, 06 are taken place in rural area, 03 in town and 04 from urban area. In the year 2006, 7 news items reported from rural area and only 2 from urban area. Out of 37 (i.e. 37 %) news items in 2007, 23 are taken place from rural area 09 in town and 05 in urban area. In the year 2008 of the 23 (i.e. 23 %) news items 16 are from rural area, 02 from town and 05 are taken place in urban area. In the year 2009 only 08 (i.e. 8 %) news items 06, are taken place from rural area and 02 are taken place in urban area. In the year 2010 of the 10 (i.e. 10 %) news items 06 are reported from rural area and 04 from urban area, no case from town. The above facts suggest that maximum news items reported in 2007 from rural area. The above table shows that out of 100 news items 19 (i.e. 19 %) events are related to land cases, 08 (i.e. 8 %) are related to reservation policy, 04 (i.e. 04 %) is rape cases, 08 (i.e. 08 %) related to corruption in development schemes, only 01 (i.e. 01 %) is crop case and 01 (i.e. 01 %) is Panchayat conflict case, 19 (i.e. 19 %) torture cases, 13 (i.e. 13 %) conflict related to Ambedkar status. 05 (i.e. 05 %) events are related to physical violence, 14 (i.e. 14 %) cases are related to killing/murder, 08 (i.e. 08 %) events are caste conflicts.

REFERENCE

- Atal Y (1979). Changing Frontiers of Caste, New Delhi, National Publishing House, pp. 146-175
- Alexander KC (2002). Rural Development Studies in Eighties in ICSSR Third survey of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology, Vol. II, New Delhi, Haranand, pp. 243-273
- Agarwal B (1980). "Effect of Agriculture Mechanization on crop output" Ind. Econ. Rev. XVI (3): 29-51
- Beteille A (1969). Castes: Old and New, Bombay, Asis Publishing House, pp: 229-36
- Bhatt A (1975). Caste, Class and Politics: Empirical Profile of Social

Stratification in Modern India, New Delhi, Manohar, pp: 20-76
Beteille A (1965). "The Future of the Backward Classes: The Competition Demands of States and Power". Perspective Supliment to The Ind. J.Public Admin., 10(2).

Beteille A (1974). Studies in Agrarian Social Structure, London, Oxford University Press, p. 119
Barber B, Beiley FG (1957). Caste and the Economic Frontier, Manchester, E.L.Bs