



Scheduled Caste Population and Their Educational and Occupational Mobility in Khaira Hasan Village of Bahraich

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Abstract: In the present paper socio-economic mobility of scheduled caste is studied in terms of educational and occupational mobility. The data regarding the current problem is collected through the direct questionnaire method to the respondents of Khaira Hasan Village and later it is arranged in tabular form after necessary calculations and processing. From the results of the study it is clear that educational mobility is recorded in the second generation. From the indepth analysis of the data it is also clear that upward educational mobility among the scheduled caste of Khaira Hasan Village is not restricted to the more educated household of the scheduled caste but the larger share of more educated children was produced by the parents having more than lower primary education (categories 4 and 5), there was significant decline in the share of children with lesser educational attainment than their parents. It is also clear from the results that most of the scheduled caste workers in both the generation are involved in primary sector of economy though their percentage has slightly declined in the second generation. Apart from it the probability of the children of primary worker to become secondary worker is increasing.

Keywords: Intergenerational Mobility, Educational Mobility, Occupational Mobility, Scheduled Caste Population

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Introduction

One of the most enduring social arrangement in India since ancient time is caste system. This system is an offshoot functional classification of the society i.e., dividing the society into ordered classes of its functioning. A key characteristic of this system is that caste status is inherited by birth. (Hnatkowska, V. Lahiri, A. and Sourabh, B.P.

2011) and (Mohammad, 1987). The economic interpretation of the caste system is fixed economic and social right to each individual (Thorat, Mahamallik, and Sadana, 2012). The Indian economy has witnessed substantial structural change over the last three decades. First employment generation has shifted from agriculture to services. Second, since, 1990, a rapid increase in the introduction of new information based technologies has occurred. Third, this has accompanied by substantial adjustments in operations and organizational re-structuring of agriculture. Thus this structural change has brought a magnificent change in the employment structure of India and enhanced the individual as well as national income. Now the question is how discriminated group has performed during this period? A fundamental issue that can be studied about any society is its transformation from one generation to another. Do children live in a world that is very different from the one in which their parents lived? Are they better educated? Are they involved in better occupation? However, little rigorous work has focused on the above questions so in this paper efforts are made to answer some of these questions.

The growth theories in economics place education and human resource development at the centre of their explanation for long term economic growth. Human capital theory suggests that just as a physical capital (machines) augments a person's economic productivity, so human capital acquired through education improves the productivity of individuals. Studies on the sources of economic growth demonstrate persuasively that education plays a major role as a factor in rise of output per worker (Khan and Butool, 2013). Education is not just a social amenity; it is the foundation of socio-economic development of a country as education determines occupation and occupation determines the income which in-turn determines the purchasing capacity and expenditure pattern of an individual or a family. Occupation which affect our belief, values and preferences, and thereby our choice is a vital factor for the economic progress of any community (Henreich et al, 2004). Harper, 1995 focuses on occupational quits in Britain. He finds that young and more educated individuals are more likely to change occupations and concluded that education has helped in occupational mobility. After getting education, people are able to get respectable and even highly paid jobs. Lack of education inhibits people from mobility of any kind.

The people try to shift from one to another job depending upon their circumstances and this shifting of jobs is called occupational mobility. Occupational mobility is defined as the percentage of currently employed individuals who report a current occupation different from their most recent previous report of an occupation, as explained by Kambourov and Manovskii, 2004 in their study. Ray and Jhilam,

2010 in their work on educational and occupational mobility has observed that for sc's and st's occupational mobility is lower than educational mobility, indicating that educational progress is not being transformed into occupational improvement and brings up the possibility of discrimination in the labour market. They also observed that regional pattern of mobility suggests that mobility levels, in general, are lower in many of the lagging states.

A comparative study of intergenerational mobility in education and occupation of various social groups of India is done by Majumder, 2012. In his work he has found that only few castes (*Ahirwar, Chadhar*) among the scheduled caste people are showing upward mobility while few castes of scheduled caste like *Bunkar* and *Basodare* showing marginal downward mobility. Hnatkovska, Lahiri, and Paul, 2011 have used NSSO data in their study and concluded that historically disadvantaged scheduled caste and scheduled tribe are showing low social and economic mobility as compared to general population. However Motiram and Singh, 2012 in their work used data generated by Indian Human development Survey, 2005 and have analysed it by using both transitional matrix and mobility measures and found that scheduled caste and scheduled tribe show higher persistence over the generations in the lower order occupations than non scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and they are showing sometimes downward occupational mobility.

The present article adds value to existing literature by describing educational mobility and occupational mobility for scheduled caste and in turn their socio-economic mobility in Khaira Hasan village of Bahraich district. The study is significant from the viewpoint of both assessing the current dispensation and understanding temporal dynamism of socio-economic mobility of scheduled caste population as also studied by Majumder in 2010. Thus this study will grove the geographical literature about the meagre availability of studies on socio-economic mobility and help policy makers and planners to give insights into the constraints that limit the lower classes and castes especially the scheduled caste to move from less educated low skilled/menial occupation to better one. In other words this study will surely be helpful in improving the socio-economic status of this downtrodden segment of the Indian society.

Study Area

Khaira Hasan is a scheduled caste dominated village located in the northern part of Chittora block of Bahraich district. The village is economically and politically isolated from the nearest major commercial centre i.e., Lucknow and it is satellite village of a small town (Chichri). The household of the village are mostly engaged

in subsistence farming and local wage labour as their primary source of income. The population of scheduled caste in the selected village is 65 percent while Muslims are 30 percent and rest of the 5 per cent are Hindu OBC's with no upper class Hindu family in the village.

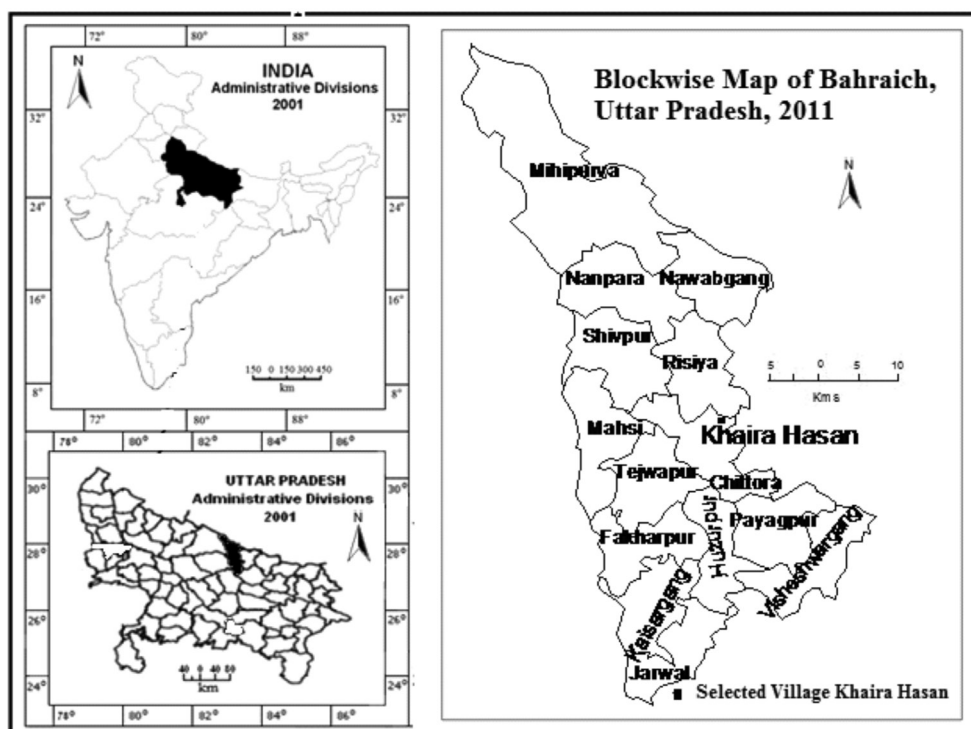


Fig. 1

The total population of the village is 954. Among them 668 people or 96 families belongs to scheduled caste population. Out of which all the adult households from scheduled caste population are selected for survey.

Objectives

The long term goal or the aim of the present work is to study the scheduled caste population of India with few short term objectives as given below:

- i) To study the educational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Khaira Hasan Village
- ii) To study the occupational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Khaira Hasan Village

Database and Methodology

The present study is based on primary data generated by comprehensive survey of scheduled caste population in the *Khaira Hasan Village of Chittora Block of Bahraich district*. This survey was carried out during June 2017. The data is collected through the direct questionnaire method in which head of the household is interviewed to tell the information of other family members along with his own information. This rural survey consisted of all the adult households of scheduled caste population.

Major Findings

Data set is meant to gather information. The information regarding to current problem is extracted from the data set which is collected through the field survey. This information is then transformed in to knowledge form by transforming the information in to parameters. Our dataset does not contain information on individual's years of schooling. Instead, the education variable is coded into detailed categories ranging from non literate to secondary education and above. We aggregate these categories into five broader groups: non literate; literate but below primary; lower primary education; upper primary; secondary and above education (which includes higher secondary, diploma/certificate course, graduate and above in different professional fields). These categories are coded as education categories Edu1, Edu2, Edu3, Edu4 and Edu5 respectively. Likewise occupations are coded into primary, secondary and tertiary economic categories.

In the foregoing analysis we shall define the intergenerational educational/occupational switch as a binary variable that takes a value of one if the child's education level/occupational level is different from his parents's (who is the head of household); and zero otherwise. We also distinguish education improvement, which is another binary variable equal to one if the child's education/occupation is higher than that of his parent and zero otherwise, from education/occupational reduction which is a binary variable that takes a value of one if the child's education is below his parent's education and zero otherwise. These binary variables will help us to prepare the transition matrix of educational mobility and occupational mobility. The format of the table for compiling the data to prepare the transition matrix is given in the annexure1.

Intergenerational Mobility

Now the researcher will turn to the key questions that we started with ; that is how children's education and occupation are related to parental standards. More

specifically we want to quantify the degree of intergenerational mobility in education and occupation. Here this has been done by comparing the percentage of two generation of scheduled caste occupying various educational groups and using the transitional mobility matrix. The results reported and analysed in the following sections, will throw light on this issue.

Educational Mobility

We will start by analysing intergenerational educational changes. Our focus is in determining the degree to which children are changing their education levels relative to their parents and by how much. From the **Table 1** it is clear that persistence of illiteracy has declined to 10 per cent as 40 percent illiterate parents have produced only 30 per cent illiterate children. The gradual decline in the population of below primary and primary educated people have been recorded in the next generation with an increase of percentage in the secondary and above educated people in the second generation.

Education Transition Matrix

The overall mobility trend in education gives a generalised picture of its change over time. It does not reveal the underlying changes at the disaggregated level. Here the transition matrix through light on underlying distributional patterns in the intergenerational educational mobility of scheduled caste population. It tells that most of the increase in the intergenerational education mobility is either due to children of the least educated parents are moving up the educational ladder or is it the upward mobility of the children of relatively more educated parents that accounts for the aggregate pattern?

Table 1: Showing Educational Mobility (in percentage) of Scheduled Caste Population in khaira Hasan Village, Chittora Block, Bahraich

| <i>Educational Levels</i> | <i>Parents</i> | <i>Children</i> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Illiterate | 40 | 30 |
| Literate below Primary Level | 25 | 20 |
| Lower Primary Education | 21 | 18 |
| Upper Primary Education | 12 | 25 |
| Secondary Education and above that | 2 | 4 |

Note: The total number of individuals surveyed are 480 out of which 180 people belongs to the category of parents and 300 people belongs to the category of children

Source: Based on authors calculation from the collected data

In the **Table 2** each row of the table shows the education of the parent while the column indicate the education category of the child.. Thus, the row labelled 'Edu 1' in the top left panel of the table says that in the selected year, 24 per cent of the adult children of scheduled caste remained illiterate 34 per cent acquired education below primary level 24 percent finished lower primary schooling 16 per cent had upper primary education and remaining 2 percent acquired secondary education. The above table also reveals some interesting features.

Table 2: Intergenerational Education Transition Probabilities

| | <i>Edu 1</i> | <i>Edu2</i> | <i>Edu 3</i> | <i>Edu 4</i> | <i>Edu 5</i> | <i>Size</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Edu 1 | 0.24 | 0.34 | 0.24 | 0.16 | 0.02 | 0.30 |
| Edu 2 | 0.19 | 0.33 | 0.24 | 0.16 | 0.07 | 0.28 |
| Edu 3 | 0.15 | 0.12 | 0.27 | 0.30 | 0.15 | 0.22 |
| Edu 4 | 0.09 | 0.13 | 0.23 | 0.32 | 0.23 | 0.15 |
| Edu5 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.22 | 0.44 | 0.06 |

Source: Based on Author's Calculation from the collected data

A large part of this upward intergenerational educational mobility was just because of the children of illiterate parents beginning to acquire largely upper primary education and up to certain extent secondary and higher education. Another positive feature of the trend in educational mobility is that amongst parents with more than lower primary education (categories Edu4 and Edu5), there was significant decline in the share of children with lesser educational attainment than their parents. It is also seen that an increase in the persistence or improvement of education status of children of relatively higher educated parents (Edu 4 and Edu5).

Occupational Mobility

We now turn to intergenerational occupation mobility which is another question raised under our research. From the **Table 3** it is clear that most of the scheduled caste workers in both the generation are involved in primary sector of economy though their percentage has slightly declined in the second generation. In the secondary sector the increase of the workers in the second generation is associated with the promotion of construction under various government schemes recently.

The tertiary sector workers are mainly involved in the menial service providers and their percentage in both the generation is near about same.

Table 3: Showing Occupational Mobility (in percentage) of Scheduled Caste Population in Khaira Hasan Village, Chittora Block, Bahraich

| <i>Occupational Category</i> | <i>Parents</i> | <i>Children</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Workers in primary sector | 28 | 25 |
| Workers in secondary sector | 3 | 6 |
| Workers in tertiary sector | 4 | 4.5 |

Note: The total number of individuals surveyed are 480 out of which 180 people belongs to the category of parents and 300 people belongs to the category of adult children

Source: Based on Authors calculation from the collected data

Occupation Transition Matrix

From the **Table 4** it can be inferred that relatively little occupational mobility is observed in the selected period as suggested by high value of diagonal element. The probability of the shift of children of primary sector into secondary sector is increasing but the probability of shift of the children of tertiary workforce to primary workforce is very low. The probability of children of secondary workers to tertiary workers is lower as compared to primary workers.

Table 4: Intergenerational Occupation Transition Probabilities

| <i>Occupational Category</i> | <i>Occu 1</i> | <i>Occu2</i> | <i>Occu 3</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Occu 1 | 0.82 | 0.13 | 0.05 |
| Occu 2 | 0.10 | 0.85 | 0.05 |
| Occu 3 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 0.88 |

Source: Based on Authors calculation from the collected data

Conclusion

In this paper we have studied the socio-economic mobility of scheduled caste people of Khaira Hasan village of Bahraich district through computing educational mobility and occupational mobility of scheduled caste population based on the analysis of primary data collected by researcher. From the results it is clear that the upward educational mobility among the scheduled caste of Khaira Hasan Village is not restricted to the more educated household of the scheduled caste as the results of transitional matrix of education attainment confirm that amongst parents with more than lower primary education (categories 4 and 5), there was

significant decline in the share of children with lesser educational attainment than their parents. It is clear from the results that most of the scheduled caste workers in both the generation are involved in primary sector of economy though their percentage has slightly declined in the second generation. In the secondary sector the increase of the workers in the second generation is associated with the promotion of construction under various government schemes. The tertiary sector workers are mainly involved in the menial service providers and their percentage in both the generation is near about same. The high diagonal values (0.82, 0.85, 0.88) of table 4 suggest that low occupational mobility is observed in the selected period of time. Apart from it the probability of the child of primary worker to secondary worker is increasing but the probability of children of tertiary workers to primary worker is very low. The probability of the shift of children of secondary workforce into tertiary workforce is lower as compared to the shift of primary workers in to tertiary sector.

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Annexure 1
Raw Table of Preparing Educational Transition Matrix in Excel Sheet

| S. N | Parent's Education | Child's Education | Binary Variable | | Switch Variable | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Same Education | Changed Education | Reduction | Upgradation | | | |
| | | | | | | Below Primary Education | Lower Primary education | Upper Primary Education | Secondary Education and above |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Up to 180 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Note: In the Same way raw table for Occupation Transition Matrix is also prepared