

A STUDY OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN NASHIK DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT:

Caste system in Indian society is based on economic and social inequality. Untouchables or Scheduled Castes were denied their economic, social, political and cultural rights in various social forms. Scheduled castes have faced discrimination and social exclusion since historical times. They were placed at the lowest level in the caste hierarchy. Due to discrimination and social exclusion, the Schedules have to endure a great deal of poverty and exploitation.

The government has been making continuous and sustained efforts to improve the economic and social conditions of Scheduled Castes, yet this section of the society ranks among the poorest and lowest strata of Indian society if any human development criteria is used to classify it. The deprivation of Scheduled Castes is associated with economic and social exclusion and caste-based discrimination. In this research paper, the economic and social status of scheduled castes in Maharashtra state and Nashik district has been discussed.

KEY WORDS: Scheduled Castes, Socio-Economic Status, District, State.

INTRODUCTION:

In India, society has been divided into different castes and varna since ancient times. In the ancient Indian social system, the caste of a person was determined according to his birth and the occupation of the person was determined according to the caste.¹ Untouchables or Atishudras were considered as unhygienic and menial jobs, deprived of all rights, exploited, marginalized, neglected and economically very weak.

Indian society is divided on the basis of many castes, religions, creeds, languages, cultures etc. Caste system is an integral part of Indian social system. Caste system is an important social institution in Indian society. In India, a person's social, cultural, economic, political way of life and the nature of social relations are determined by caste. Therefore, caste system is considered as the foundation of Indian social structure. It cannot be said with certainty when and how the caste system was created or derived in Indian society. But caste system is deeply rooted in Indian social system. Any society is made up of many individuals, each individual living in a group. Society comes into being when there is an organization of interrelationships within a human group.² In India too, the society has come to extremes through the same process. Over time, caste system and varna system emerged in Indian society and the society is confined in varna as well as caste and sub-castes.³

SCHEDULED CASTE:

In 1930, the Simon Commission used the term Scheduled Caste for the first time for untouchable castes. The term 'Scheduled Caste' was first presented to the Indian Citizenship Committee in 1932 by the pre-independence provincial government of Bengal. Accordingly, in the Government of India Act of 1935, a

¹ Dr. Ambedkar B. R., Abolition of Caste Institution (Marathi translation), Raj Publications Akola (MH), 2008, P. No. 54.

² Thorat Sukhdev, Social and Economic Problems of Dalits (1993-2012) (Marathi), Neeraj Publications Aurangabad (MH), 2015, P. No. 256.

³ Thorat Sukhdev, Dalit Perpetual Inequality and Poverty (Marathi), Sugawa Publications Pune, 2007, P. No. 91.

Schedule listing the Scheduled Castes was added for the first time.⁴ Earlier this community was classified as Dalit or Paddalit.

Several lists of Scheduled Castes have been prepared, revised and changed in various parts of the country by various Presidential orders from 1950 to 1978. At present 1231 castes are included as Scheduled Castes in this Schedule.

'Schedule' means the Schedule to the Constitution.

'Scheduled Caste' means such caste, clan, tribe or a section of such caste, clan, tribe which is referred to as 'Scheduled Caste' for the specific purpose of the Constitution under Article 141 of the Constitution.⁵

The exact meaning regarding Scheduled Castes has been studied in the Government of India Act 1935. According to this Act certain criteria were given for a caste to be included in Scheduled Castes. Social, economic and educational backwardness caused by untouchability as per traditional customs and traditions was the main criteria for this selection.⁶ In the Government of India Act 1935, the criteria regarding social and economic backwardness were determined based on the following points.⁷

- Castes occupying a lower position in the Hindu social structure.
- Castes that are under-represented in government services.
- Castes which are under-represented in trade, commerce and industry.
- Castes who are socially and physically excluded from other communities.
- Lack of educational development is generally seen among the majority of the caste community.

In relation to which caste should be called Scheduled Caste, it has been clarified in clauses 23, 24 and 25 of the Article 366 of the Indian Constitution that the Atishudra and Untouchable castes should be considered as Scheduled Castes.⁸

A total of 59 different castes in Maharashtra and Nashik district are included in the Scheduled Castes, among which the major castes are Mahar, Chambhar, Matang, Mehtar or Bhangi, Khatik etc.⁹ Despite the persistent and continuous efforts of the government to improve the condition of Scheduled Castes, this section of the society is still classified among the poorest and lowest in Indian society by any measure of human development.¹⁰

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH:

Through this research, we can tell what are the difficulties in the way of development of the deprived scheduled castes in the society and we can also suggest solutions, so it is hoped that this research will be useful to the society and the purpose of the research that the research should be socially useful can also be achieved here.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the concept of Scheduled Caste
- To make a comparative study of economic and social status of scheduled castes in Nashik district.
- To suggest some suggestions and recommendations based on the facts obtained after the study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION:

Descriptive social research method has been adopted for the present research paper. This research paper is completely based on secondary sources. Reference materials and various websites which provide

⁴ Goswami B., Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Rawat Publications, Jaipur and Delhi, 2003, P. No. 25-29.

⁵ Saxena H. S., Safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Uppal Publication House, New Delhi, 1981, P. No. 522-539.

⁶ Chatterjee S. K., The Scheduled Castes of India, Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi, 1996, P. No. 963.

⁷ Sukhdev Thorat, Dalit Society in India in Search of Collective Rituals (Marathi), SAGE Publications India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 2017, P. No. 309 - 313.

⁸ Constitution of India (Marathi Edition) Government of Maharashtra Printing and Stationery, 2006, P. No. 167.

⁹ The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, Gazette of India, dated 10th August, 1950, P. No. 8.

¹⁰ Thorat Sukhdev, Social Discrimination, Civil Disenfranchisement and Atrocities in Maharashtra (Marathi), Sugawa Publications Pune, 2012, P. No. 144.

information about the economic and social status of scheduled castes in Nashik district have been used as references for this research paper.

In this research paper, statistics related to the socio-economic aspects of scheduled caste in Maharashtra state and Nashik district are obtained through Census of India 2011, Nashik District Census Handbook 2011, Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 and Nashik District Social and Economic Review 2011. It has been studied and analysed.

Primary data has been collected by personally visiting 400 respondents selected as a sample of Scheduled Caste and Neo-Buddhist community in 15 talukas of Nashik district through random sampling method and filling the questionnaire from them.

Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Castes in Nashik District:

Scheduled caste population is about 20 crores i.e. 16.63% in the population of India. Out of which 1 crore 32 lakh i.e. 11.81% SC population lives in Maharashtra.¹¹ About 5 lakh 50 thousand i.e. 9.08% of the total population of Nashik district is SC population.¹²

Table no. 1
Scheduled Caste Population

District / State	Total Population			SC Population			SC Population %
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Nashik	6107187	3157186	2950001	554687	282213	272474	9.08
Maharashtra	112374333	58243056	54131277	13275898	6767759	6508139	11.81

Source: Nashik District Census Handbook, Census of India 2011

The proportion of SC population in Nashik district is less as compared to the state of Maharashtra. Nashik district has 9.08% SC population while the same ratio is 11.81% in respect of Maharashtra state.

Table no. 2
Rural/Urban Distribution of SC Population

District / State	Total Population			SC Population			SC Population %	
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Nashik	6107187	3509814	2597373	554687	231171	323516	41.68	58.32
Maharashtra	112374333	61556074	50818259	13275898	7497562	5778336	56.47	43.53

Source: Nashik District Census Handbook, Census of India 2011

In Nashik district, 41.68% of the total SC population lives in rural areas while 58.32% of the population lives in urban areas. That is, at the state level of Maharashtra, more population of SC lives in rural areas and less population lives in urban areas. At the Nashik district level, less population of SC lives in rural areas and more population lives in urban areas.

Table no. 3
Gender Ratio of SC Population

District / State	Total Population			SC Population		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Nashik	945	920	934	962	968	965
Maharashtra	952	903	929	958	956	957

Source: Nashik District Census Handbook, Census of India 2011

In Nashik district, Gender Ratio in general population is 945 in rural areas, 920 in urban areas and 929 in total. The Gender Ratio in the SC population is 962 in rural areas, 968 in urban areas and 965 in total. Both the district and state levels have a higher proportion of women in the SC population than the general population. But at the district level the proportion of women in the population of SC is more than at the state level.

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheduled_Castes_and_Scheduled_Tribes.

¹² Nashik District Census Handbook 2011.

Table no. 4

Marital status wise classification of SC respondents

Sr. No.	Marital Status	Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	261	65.25
2	Unmarried	139	34.75
Total		400	100

District Primary Survey 2023-24

Out of 400 respondents 261 (65.25%) respondents are married while 139 (34.75%) respondents are single. That is, more than half of the respondents are married and the proportion of unmarried people is less than half.

Table no. 5

Classification of Scheduled Caste Respondents by Number of Family Members

Sr. No.	Number of family members	Respondents	Percentage
1	1 to 4 members	246	61.5
2	5 to 7 members	115	28.75
3	8 to 10 members	33	8.25
4	More than 10	6	1.5
Total		400	100

Source: District Primary Survey 2023-24

Out of 400 respondents, 246 (61.5%) respondents have family of 1 to 4 members, 115 (28.75%) respondents have family of 5 to 7 members, 33 (8.25%) respondents have family of 8 to 10 members. 6 (1.5%) respondents have a family of more than 10 members. That is, more than half of the respondents belonging to Scheduled Castes were nuclear families while the rest of the respondents were joint families.

Table no. 6

Literacy Rate of SC Population

District / State	Rural/ Urban	Total Literate Population %			SC Literate population %			Difference %		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Nashik	Total	82.3	88.2	76.1	82.6	89.8	75.1	0.3	1.6	-1
	Rural	77.2	84.7	69.3	80.1	88.6	71.4	2.9	3.9	2.1
	Urban	89.1	92.7	85.2	84.3	90.7	77.6	-4.8	-2	-7.6
Maharashtra	Total	72.5	77.7	67.1	69.9	76.3	63.3	-2.6	-1.4	-3.8
	Rural	67.3	74.1	60.2	66.2	73.7	58.3	-1.1	-0.4	-1.9
	Urban	78.8	81.8	75.4	74.7	79.7	69.6	-4.1	-2.1	-5.8

Source: 1. Census of India 2011,

2. Nashik District Social and Economic Review Reference Year 2011.

In Nashik district, male and female literacy rates in rural areas are 88.60 % and 71.40 % respectively in terms of SC population and total rural literacy is 80.10 %. Male and female literacy rates in urban areas are 90.70 % and 77.60 % respectively and overall literacy in urban areas is 84.30 %. At the same time total literacy in rural and urban areas combined is 89.80% for males and 75.10% for females. Overall literacy in Maharashtra is 82.60 %. In short, the literacy rate among SC is lower compared to the general population in urban areas at the district level. In rural areas, the literacy rate is higher among SC than the general population. Compared to the general population in terms of total literacy in rural and urban areas combined, SC have slightly higher overall and male literacy rates but lower female literacy rates.

If we compare Maharashtra state and Nashik district regarding the literacy rate of SC, it can be seen that the literacy rate of SC population in Nashik district is higher than the state level.

Table no. 7

Education wise classification of SC respondents

Sr. No.	Education	Respondents	Percentage
1	Uneducated	23	5.75
2	Primary	81	20.25
3	Secondary	126	31.5
4	Higher Secondary	90	22.5
5	Degree	43	10.75
6	Master's Degree	27	6.75
7	Professional	10	2.5
Total		400	100

Source: District Primary Survey 2023-24

Out of 400 respondents 23 (5.75%) respondents are uneducated or illiterate, 81 (20.25%) respondents have primary education, 126 (31.5%) respondents have secondary education, 90 (22.5%) respondents have higher secondary education, 43 (10.75%) respondents have completed graduate education, 27 (6.75%) respondents have completed master's degree while 10 (2.5%) respondents have completed professional education. That is, among Scheduled Castes, the number of primary, secondary and higher secondary education is more, while the number of degrees, post-graduate and professional education is less. Along with this, the proportion of uneducated people is also high among Scheduled Castes.

Table no. 8

Classification of SC Households according to availability of agricultural land

District / State	Total SC Households	Availability of agricultural land and other factors (%)					
		Landless Farm Labor Households	Dryland Landholding Households	Irrigated Landholding Households	Other Landholding Households	Households Having Necessary Tools for Irrigation	Kisan Credit Card Holders Households
Nashik	49601	48.84	23.48	15.60	7.92	11.45	0.39
Maharashtra	1707321	57.71	21.23	6.84	5.09	3.20	0.95

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

Out of total Schedule Caste households, 48.84 % households are landless agricultural labourers, 23.48 % households are dry land holders while 15.60 % households are Irrigated land holders. A comparison of Maharashtra state and Nashik district regarding land tenure of SC reveals that both have a higher proportion of landless agricultural labour families. The status of Nashik district is satisfactory as compared to Maharashtra regarding the ownership rights of SCs.

Table no. 9

Classification of SC Population by Work Participation

District / State	Rural/ Urban	Total SC Population			Main Working Population %			Marginal Working Population %			Unemployed Population %		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Nashik	Total	554687	282213	272474	37.21	49.18	24.82	4.26	4.37	4.15	58.52	46.44	71.04
	Rural	231171	117824	113347	45.14	51.49	38.55	5.12	4.21	6.06	49.74	44.30	55.39
	Urban	323516	164389	159127	31.55	47.53	15.03	3.65	4.49	2.79	64.8	47.98	82.18
Maharashtra	Total	13275898	6767759	6508139	38.39	48.90	27.45	5.54	5.34	5.74	56.08	45.76	66.81
	Rural	7494819	3825053	3669766	43.30	50.18	36.13	6.78	5.84	7.76	49.92	43.98	56.11
	Urban	5781079	2942706	2838373	32.01	47.23	16.24	3.93	4.69	3.13	64.06	48.08	80.83

Source: Census of India 2011

In case of Nashik District SC constitute 37.21% of the total population of Main Working, the proportion of Males is 49.18% while the proportion of Females is 24.82%. In the rural areas of the district SC constitute 45.14% of the total population of the main working population, in which the proportion of males is 51.49% while the proportion of females is 38.55%. In terms of urban areas of the district, Schedule Castes

constitute 31.55 % of the total population of the main working population, in which the proportion of males is 47.53 % while the proportion of females is 15.03 %.

If the state and district are compared, the proportion of women in the Main Working population is less than that of men in both.

Regarding the marginal working population in case of Nashik district, out of the total population of SCs, marginal working population is 4.26%, male proportion of marginal working population is 4.37% while female proportion is 4.15%. Out of the total population of SC in the rural areas of the district, 5.12 % marginal working population, in which the proportion of males is 4.21 % while the proportion of females is 6.06 %. The marginal working population is 3.65% of the total population of SC in terms of urban areas of the district, in which the proportion of males is 4.49% while the proportion of females is 2.79%.

The participation of men and women in the total marginal working population in the state and district is almost equal. In rural areas, the participation of women in the marginal working population is higher than that of men. Women's participation in the marginal working population in urban areas is less than that of men.

Regarding the unemployed population in case of Nashik district, 58.52 % of the total population of SC is unemployed, male proportion is 46.44 % while female proportion is 71.04 %. 49.74 % of the total population of SC in the rural areas of the district is unemployed, in which the proportion of males is 44.30 % while the proportion of females is 55.39 %. 64.80 % of the total population of SC with respect to urban areas of the district is unemployed, in which the proportion of males is 47.98 % while the proportion of females is 82.18 %.

If the state and district are compared, the proportion of women in the unemployed population is higher than that of men in both. Along with that both the unemployment rate is higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas and also the proportion of women is higher.

Table no. 10
Classification of SC Households by Monthly Income

District / State	Total Households	Total SC Households	Total SC Households %	Total monthly income of the Households %		
				Less than Rs. 5000	Rs. 5000-10,000	More than Rs. 10,000
Nashik	702961	49601	7.06	5.66	0.88	0.51
Maharashtra	13841960	1707321	12.33	9.96	1.50	0.88

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

The proportion of SC families in the total families of Nashik district is 7.06%. Out of 7.06 % households belonging to SCs, 5.66 % households have a monthly income of less than Rs.5000, 0.88 % households have a monthly income between Rs.5000 to 10,000 and 0.51 % households have a monthly income of more than Rs.10,000.

This means that out of the total Schedule Caste households at the district level, nearly 80% of the households have a monthly income of less than Rs.5000, 12% of the households have a monthly income between Rs.5000 to 10,000 and 7% of the households have a monthly income of more than Rs.10,000.

According to the above data of income distribution, it is clear that the monthly income of majority of SC families at state and district level is less than Rs.5000. That is, there is a large amount of poverty in this society.

Table no. 11
Classification of SC Households by Source of Income

District / State	Total Households	Total SC Households	Total SC Households %	Source of Income						
				Cultivation	Manual Casual Labour	Domestic service	Non-agricultural Own Account Enterprise	Foraging Rag Picking	Begging/ Charity/ Alms collection	Others
Nashik	702961	49601	7.0	1.7	3.88	0.19	0.12	0.02	0.02	1.09
Maharashtra	13841960	1707321	12.3	2.07	8.07	0.28	0.14	0.03	0.04	1.69

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

Out of a total of 7.06 % households of SC in Nashik district, 1.73 % households are engaged in Cultivation, 3.88 % households are Manual Casual labours, 0.19 % households are engaged in domestic service, 0.12 % households have their own Account non-agricultural Enterprise, 0.02 % households are engaged in Foraging Rag Picking and 0.02 % households are engaged in Begging/Charity/ Alms collection and 1.09 % of the families are engaged in other work or employment.

This means that out of the total SC households at the district level, about 25% of the total households of SC are engaged in Cultivation, 55% of the families are Manual Casual Labours, 3% of the families are engaged in domestic service, 1% of the families have their own Account non-agricultural Enterprise, 0.28% of the families earn their living by Foraging Rag Picking and 0.28% of the families earn their livelihood by Begging/Charity/ Alms collection and 15% of households are employed or employed in other jobs.

According to the above data on sources of income i.e. occupations of SC families, it is clear that the majority of SC families at the state and district level have various types of labour as the major occupation and agriculture is the second occupation. Considering all the aspects shown above, one can get an idea of the state of poverty in this society.

Table no. 12
Poverty line wise classification of SC respondents

Sr. No.	Poverty Line	Respondents	Percentage
1	BPL	146	36.5
2	APL	254	63.5
Total		400	100

Source: District Primary Survey 2023-24

Out of 400 respondents 146 (36.5%) respondents are below poverty line while 254 (63.5%) respondents are above poverty line. That is, the rate of poverty in Scheduled Castes is more.

Table no. 13
Classification of SC Households by Salaried Employment

District / State	Total Households	Total SC Households	Total SC Households %	Type of Salaried Employment		
				Government Jobs	Public Sector Jobs	Private Sector Jobs
Nashik	702961	49601	7.06	0.47	0.09	0.23
Maharashtra	13841960	1707321	12.33	0.69	0.13	0.42

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

The proportion of SC families in the total families of Nashik district is 7.06%. Out of 7.06 % families belonging to SCs, 0.47 % family members are in government jobs, 0.09 % family members are in public sector jobs and 0.23 % family members are in private sector jobs.

This means that out of the total SC families at the district level, about 7% of the total families of SC have members in government jobs, 1% of families have members in public sector jobs and 3% of families have members in private sector jobs.

According to the above statistics of SC households with salaried employment, it is clear that at the state level, 10% of the total SC households have their members in salaried employment and at the district level, 11% of the SC households have their members in salaried employment. From these statistics it is estimated how much representation of SC families in salaried employment is in Maharashtra and Nashik district.

Table no. 14
Number of SC households using the Bank's services

District / State	Rural/Urban	SC households Using bank services (%)
Maharashtra	Total	59.60
	Rural	52.60
	Urban	67.80
Nashik	Total	57.10

	Rural	52.90
	Urban	60.00

Source: Census of India 2011

59.60 % of the total Schedule Caste households in the state of Maharashtra are availing the various services of the banks, the rate of bank service utilization of Schedule Caste households in rural areas is 52.60 % while the rate of bank service utilization of Schedule Caste households in urban areas is 67.80 %. 57.10 % of the total SC households in Nashik district are availing various services of the banks, 52.90% of the SC households in rural areas are using bank services while urban SC households are 60.00%.

From the above data it is clear that Schedule Caste families in Nashik district use bank facilities to a lesser extent as compared to the state. Interestingly, the rate of using bank services by SC families in the urban areas of the district is much less as compared to the state.

Table no. 15
Classification of SC households according to availability of assets

District / State	Rural/ Urban	Availability of Assets (%)										
		Radio/ Transistor	Television	Computer Laptop		Telephone/Mobile			Bicycle	Motorcycle/ Moped	Car Jeep Van	all items available
				With internet	Without internet	Telephone	Mobile	Both				
Maharashtra	Total	16.30	50.90	3.00	6.40	5.00	50.10	4.70	28.20	16.70	2.90	3.90
	Rural	10.30	30.00	0.70	4.10	3.80	37.20	2.70	25.20	9.60	1.30	0.80
	Urban	23.20	75.00	5.70	9.00	6.40	65.10	7.00	31.80	25.00	4.70	7.50
Nashik	Total	15.40	57.50	3.10	7.30	4.60	57.40	4.50	32.60	24.80	4.20	5.60
	Rural	9.90	37.40	1.00	4.40	3.50	49.80	2.40	25.00	17.00	2.30	0.90
	Urban	19.20	71.50	4.50	9.30	5.40	62.70	6.00	37.90	30.30	5.50	8.80

Source: Census of India 2011

In terms of entertainment in the context of Nashik district, 15.40 % of the total SC households in the district own a radio/transistor. In rural areas it is 9.90 % while in urban areas it is 19.20 %. 57.50 % of the total SC households have the facility of television. In rural areas it is 37.40 % while in urban areas it is 71.50 %.

In terms of information and instruction and communication, 3.10 % of the total SC households have computer or laptop facility with internet. In rural areas this proportion is 1.00 % while in urban areas it is 4.50 %. 7.30 % of the total SC households have computer or laptop facility without internet. In rural areas it is 4.40 % while in urban areas it is 9.30 %. 4.60 % of the total SC households have telephone facility. In rural areas the proportion is 3.50 % while in urban areas it is 5.40 %. 57.40 % of the total SC households have mobile facility. The proportion in rural areas is 49.80 % while in urban areas it is 62.70 %. In terms of both mobile and telephone facilities, 4.50% of the total SC households have both facilities. In rural areas the proportion is 2.40 % while in urban areas it is 6.00 %.

In terms of vehicles or automatic vehicles, 32.60 % of the total SC households have the facility of a cycle. In rural areas this proportion is 25.00 % while in urban areas it is 37.90 %. 24.80 % of the total SC households own a motorcycle/moped/automatic two-wheeler facility. In rural areas it is 17.00 % while in urban areas it is 30.30 %. 4.20 % of the total SC households own a car/jeep/van/four-wheeler. In rural areas the proportion is 2.30 % while in urban areas it is 5.50 %. Considering the combined availability of all the above assets and facilities, 5.60% of the total SC families have all the facilities. In rural areas the proportion is 0.90 % while in urban areas it is 8.80 %.

Table no. 16
Classification of Scheduled Caste families according to availability of resources

District / State	Total Households	Total SC Households	Total SC Households %	Availability of other facilities (%)		
				Fishing motorboat	Automatic vehicles for agriculture	Fridge
Nashik	702961	49601	7.06	0.09%	1.54%	7.69%
Maharashtra	13841960	1707321	12.33	0.09%	0.80%	6.01%

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

Out of total SC households in Nashik district, 0.09 % households own a fishing motorboat, 1.54 % households own an automatic vehicle for agriculture, while 7.69 % households own a refrigerator.

If we compare the statistics of facilities owned by Scheduled Caste families of the state and the district, the position of Nashik district is better than Maharashtra in terms of facilities.

Table no. 17
Classification of SC households according to house ownership

District / State	Total Households	Total SC Households	Total SC Households %	House Ownership %		
				Own	on Rent	Other
Nashik	702961	49601	7.06	5.78	0.98	0.28
Maharashtra	13841960	1707321	12.33	10.99	0.88	0.41

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

Out of total 7.06 % Schedule Caste households in Nashik district, 5.78 % households live in own-owned houses, 0.98 % households live in rented houses, while 0.28 % households live in other ownership houses. That is, out of total SC families in Nashik district, about 82% families live in own-owned houses, 14% families live in rented houses, while 4% families live in other-owned houses.

Table no. 18
Classification of SC households by House Type

District / State	Total Households	Total SC Households	Total SC Households %	Type of House (%)				
				Kuccha House	Pucca House	Semi Kuccha House (Kuccha Wall & Pucca Roof)	Semi Pucca House (Pucca Wall & Kuccha Roof)	No House on the Record
Nashik	702961	49601	7.06	1.23	3.55	1.99	0.14	0.15
Maharashtra	13841960	1707321	12.33	2.23	5.96	3.26	0.53	0.35

Source: Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

Out of total 7.06 % SC households in Nashik district, 1.23 % families live in Kuccha houses, 3.55 % families live in Pucca houses, while 2.13 % families live in half Kuccha or semi- Pucca houses. 0.15% of SC families are those who do not have a house to live in. That is, out of the total SC families in Nashik district, about 17% families live in Kuccha houses, 50% families live in Pucca houses, while 30% families live in semi-Kuccha or semi- Pucca houses. 2% of the SC families are those who do not have a house to live in.

Table no. 19
Classification of SC households according to available lighting source

State /District	Rural/ Urban	Main Source of Lighting %					
		Electricity	Kerosene	Solar Energy	Other Oil	Any other	No Lighting
Maharashtra	Total	79.80	18.20	0.20	0.20	0.30	1.30
	Rural	67.70	29.40	0.30	0.30	0.40	1.80
	Urban	93.70	5.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.70
Nashik	Total	81.50	17.00	0.20	0.10	0.20	0.90
	Rural	66.10	31.80	0.30	0.20	0.30	1.40
	Urban	92.30	6.60	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.60

Source: Census of India 2011

81.50% of the total SC households in Nashik district use electricity for lighting. The proportion of electricity consumption in rural areas is 66.10 % while in urban areas it is 92.20 %. 17.00 % of the total SC households in the district use kerosene for lighting. The proportion of kerosene consumption in rural areas is 31.80 % while in urban areas it is 6.60 %. 0.20 % of the total SC households in the district use solar energy for lighting. The proportion of solar energy utilization in rural areas is 0.30 % while in urban areas it is 0.10 %. 0.30% of the total SC households in the district use combustible oil and other means for electricity. The proportion of use of combustible oil and other resources for electricity in rural areas is 0.50% while in urban

areas it is 0.30%. 0.90% of the total SC families in the state do not have access to electricity. In rural areas the proportion is 1.40 % while in urban areas it is 0.60 %.

From the above data it is clear that electricity is the main source of lighting in terms of availability of electricity to SC households in Maharashtra state and Nashik district. Some SC families in the state and district still use kerosene for lighting. There is still no electricity facility in the state and district where SC families live.

Table no. 20
Classification of SC Households According to Availability of Fuel Recourses

State /District	Rural/Urban	Type of Fuel used for Cooking %									
		Fire-wood	Crop residue	Cow dung cake	Coal, Lignite, Charcoal	Kerosene	LPG/ PNG	Electricity	Biogas	Any other	No cooking
Maharashtra	Total	46.80	6.50	1.30	0.50	8.60	35.10	0.10	0.30	0.10	0.60
	Rural	72.90	11.20	2.20	0.20	1.70	10.90	0.10	0.30	0.10	0.40
	Urban	16.60	1.10	0.30	0.80	16.60	63.20	0.10	0.20	0.10	0.90
Nashik	Total	36.00	1.90	1.70	0.30	11.90	47.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.90
	Rural	66.30	3.50	3.30	0.30	3.70	22.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.50
	Urban	14.90	0.80	0.50	0.20	17.60	64.50	0.00	0.10	0.10	1.10

Source: Census of India 2011

In Nashik district 36.00 % of the total SC households use firewood for fuel. 66.30 % of SC households in rural areas use firewood for fuel. 14.90 % SC households in urban areas use firewood for fuel. 1.90 % of the total SC households in the district use crop residues for fuel. 3.50 % of SC households in rural areas use crop residues for fuel. 0.80 % of SC households in urban areas use crop residues for fuel. 1.70% of the total SC households in the district use cow dung for fuel. 3.30 % of SC households in rural areas use cow dung for fuel. 0.50 % of SC households in urban areas use cow dung for fuel. 11.90% of the total SC households in the district use kerosene for fuel. 3.70 % of SC households in rural areas use kerosene for fuel. 17.60 % SC households in urban areas use kerosene for fuel. 47.00 % of the total SC households in the district use LPG/PNG gas for fuel. 22.00 % SC households in rural areas use LPG/PNG gas for fuel. 64.50 % of SC households in urban areas use LPG/PNG gas for fuel.

From the above data it is clear that mainly firewood, crop residues, cow dung, kerosene, LPG/PNG gas etc. are used for fuel by SC families. Fuelwood, crop residues, cow dung etc. are widely used for fuel in rural areas whereas firewood, kerosene, LPG/PNG gas etc. are widely used for fuel in urban areas.

Table no. 21
Classification of SC households according to available source of drinking water.

State /District	Rural/Urban	Main Source of Drinking Water (%)										Location of drinking water source (%)		
		Tap water from treated source	Tap water from untreated source	Covered well	Un-covered well	Hand pump	Tube well/ Borehole	Spring	River/ Canal	Tank Pond Lake	Other sources	Within premises	Near premises	Away
Maharashtra	Total	56.20	11.90	1.90	10.00	12.80	5.20	0.10	0.30	0.50	1.30	52.80	31.90	15.30
	Rural	32.80	18.80	2.60	17.10	19.90	6.40	0.20	0.40	0.60	1.20	36.90	40.70	22.30
	Urban	83.30	3.80	1.00	1.70	4.50	3.80	0.10	0.10	0.30	1.40	71.20	21.60	7.20
Nashik	Total	67.20	10.50	1.00	11.70	5.30	2.60	0.20	0.20	0.40	0.80	61.30	28.60	10.10
	Rural	33.90	21.90	2.10	26.80	10.40	3.00	0.20	0.50	0.70	0.60	46.50	38.20	15.30
	Urban	90.40	2.60	0.30	1.20	1.80	2.40	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.90	71.60	21.90	6.50

Source: Census of India 2011

67.20 % of the total Schedule Caste households in Nashik district use treated tap water for drinking. 33.90 % households in rural areas use treated tap water. 90.40 % households in urban areas use treated tap water. 10.50 % of the total Schedule Caste households in the district use untreated tap water for drinking. 21.90 % households in rural areas use untreated tap water. 2.60 % households in urban areas use untreated tap water. 11.70 % of the total Schedule Caste households in the district use open well water for drinking. 26.80 % households in rural areas use open well water. 1.20 % households in urban areas use open well water. 5.30% of the total SC families in the district use hand pump water for drinking. 10.40 % households in rural areas use

hand pump water. 1.80 % households in urban areas use hand pump water. 2.60% of the total SC families in the district use tap or bore water for drinking. 3.00 % households in rural areas use tap or bore water. 2.40 % households in urban areas use tap or bore water.

61.30% of the total SC families in the district have access to drinking water within their home premises. 46.50% households in rural areas have water available within their home premises. 71.60% households in urban areas have access to water within their home premises. 28.60% of the total SC families in the district have access to drinking water near their home premises. 38.20% households in rural areas have access to water near their home premises. 21.90% households in urban areas have access to water near home. 10.10% of the total SC households in the district have no access to drinking water in or near their home premises and have to travel far from the premises to get water. 15.30 % households in rural areas have to move away from the locality for water. 6.50% of households in urban areas have to move away from the locality for water.

From the above data it is clear that tap water, Vihari, hand pump, Tubewell/Borehole, etc. are the major sources in terms of availability of drinking water for SC in Maharashtra state and Nashik district. In both rural areas the situation is not very good in terms of availability of drinking water.

Table no. 22
Classification of SC households in Nashik district according to available latrine source

State /District	Rural/ Urban	Latrine Sources											
		Number of households having latrine facility within the premises	Flush/pour flush latrine connected to			Pit latrine		Night soil disposed into open drain	Service Latrine		Number of households not having latrine facility within the premises	Alternative source	
			Piped sewer system	Septic tank	Other system	With slab/ventilated improved pit	Without slab/open pit		Night soil removed by human	Night soil serviced by animal		Public latrine	Open
Maharashtra	Total	44.70	15.40	18.40	1.50	8.10	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.20	55.30	16.90	38.50
	Rural	32.60	2.10	14.30	2.10	13.10	0.70	0.20	0.00	0.10	67.40	6.80	60.60
	Urban	58.70	30.80	23.20	0.80	2.30	0.30	1.00	0.00	0.30	41.30	28.50	12.90
Nashik	Total	42.80	13.30	21.90	1.00	5.80	0.30	0.40	0.00	0.10	57.20	27.50	29.60
	Rural	28.80	1.90	12.10	1.70	12.20	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.10	71.20	16.40	54.80
	Urban	52.60	21.20	28.70	0.40	1.40	0.20	0.70	0.00	0.10	47.40	35.20	12.10

Source: Census of India 2011

In Nashik district 42.80% of the total SC households have access to toilet facilities at home. 28.80% households in rural areas have access to toilet facilities at home. Toilet facilities are available in 52.60% of the households in urban areas. 57.20% of the total SC families in the district do not have access to toilet facilities at home. 71.20% households in rural areas do not have access to toilet facilities at home. 47.30% of households in urban areas do not have toilet facilities.

In the district 27.50 out of total SC households who do not have a toilet facility at home use public toilets. 16.40 % households in rural areas use public toilets. 35.20 % households in urban areas use public toilets. 29.60 out of total SC households in the district who do not have a toilet facility in their house defecate in the open. 54.80 % households in rural areas defecate in the open. 12.10 % households in urban areas defecate in the open.

Status of SC households in Maharashtra state and Nashik district in terms of access to toilets is not satisfactory, both have poor status in terms of access to toilets in rural areas.

Table no. 23
Classification of SC households according to availability of bathrooms

State /District	Rural/ Urban	Number of households having bathing facility within the premises %		
		Yes		No
		Bathroom	Enclosure without roof	
Maharashtra	Total	55.30	26.60	18.10
	Rural	36.20	36.50	27.30
	Urban	77.50	15.10	7.30

Nashik	Total	67.10	21.30	11.60
	Rural	51.00	28.40	20.60
	Urban	78.30	16.30	5.40

Source: Census of India 2011

In Nashik district 88.40% of the total SC households have access to bathroom facilities at home. 79.40% households in rural areas have access to bathroom facilities at home. 94.60 % households in urban areas have access to bathroom facilities at home. 11.60% of the total SC families in the district do not have access to bathroom facility either indoors or outdoors. 20.60% of households in rural areas do not have access to bathroom facilities either indoors or outdoors. 5.40 % households in urban areas do not have access to bathroom facility either indoors or outdoors.

Schedule caste households in Maharashtra state and Nashik district are not faring well in rural areas in terms of access to bathrooms.

Table no. 24

Classification of SC households according to availability of Waste water outlet

State /District	Rural/ Urban	Availability of Waste water outlet (%)		
		Yes		No drainage
		Closed drainage	Open drainage	
Maharashtra	Total	28.80	39.40	31.80
	Rural	6.90	43.50	49.60
	Urban	54.20	34.60	11.20
Nashik	Total	39.60	27.40	33.00
	Rural	6.20	33.90	59.90
	Urban	62.90	22.90	14.20

Source: Census of India 2011

Out of total SC households in Nashik district, 39.60% households have access to closed sewerage system. 6.20 % households in rural areas have access to closed sewerage system. 62.90 % households in urban areas have access to closed sewerage system. 27.40% of the total SC households in the district have access to open sewerage system. 33.90 % households in rural areas have access to open sewerage system. 22.90 % households in urban areas have access to open sewerage system. 33.00 % of the total SC households in the district do not have access to any type of sewage or sewerage system. 59.90% households in rural areas do not have access to any type of sewage or sewerage system. 14.20 % households in urban areas do not have access to any type of sewage or sewerage system.

FINDINGS:

1. Compared to Maharashtra state, Nashik district has a lower proportion of SC population.
2. At the state level of Maharashtra more population of SC lives in rural areas and less population lives in urban areas. At the Nashik district level, less population of SC lives in rural areas and more population lives in urban areas.
3. SC population has higher proportion of women as compared to general population both at district and state level. But at the district level the proportion of women in the population of SC is more than at the state level.
4. If we compare Maharashtra state and Nashik district regarding the literacy rate of SC, it can be seen that the literacy rate of females is lower than that of males in both. The literacy rate of SC population in Nashik district is higher than the state level.
5. A comparison of Maharashtra state and Nashik district regarding land tenure of SC reveals that both have a higher proportion of landless agricultural labour families. The position of Nashik district is slightly better than that of Maharashtra in terms of ownership rights of Scheduled Castes.
6. State wise and district wise the proportion of women in the unemployed population is higher than that of men in both. Along with that both the unemployment rate is higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas and also the proportion of women is higher.
7. The monthly income of majority of SC families at state and district level is less than Rs.5000. That is, there is more poverty in this society.

8. Manual Casual Labor is the primary source of income for majority of SC families at the state and district level while Cultivation is the second source of income. If we consider all aspects, it can be imagined that the condition of poverty is more in this society.
9. In Maharashtra and in Nashik district, the representation of SC families in salaried employment is low.
10. SC households in Nashik district use bank facilities to a slightly lesser extent as compared to the state. Interestingly, the rate of using bank services by SC families in urban areas of the district is less as compared to the state.
11. In Maharashtra and in Nashik district, SC families have less asset.
12. More than half of SC families in Maharashtra and Nashik district live in Kuccha and Semi-Pucca houses. Some families still do not have a house to live in.
13. Some SC families still use kerosene for electricity in the state and district. Electricity is still not available in some places where SC families live.
14. Firewood, crop residues, cow dung etc. are widely used for fuel by SC families of Maharashtra state and Nashik district in rural areas whereas firewood, kerosene, LPG/PNG gas etc. are widely used for fuel in urban areas.
15. In terms of availability of drinking water for SC in Maharashtra State and Nashik District, tap water, Wells, Hand Pump, Tubewell/Borehole, etc. are the major sources. In both rural areas the situation is not very good in terms of availability of drinking water.
16. Status of SC households in Maharashtra state and Nashik district in terms of access to toilets is not good, both have poor status in terms of access to toilets in rural areas.
17. SC households in Maharashtra state and Nashik district are not faring well in rural areas in terms of access to bathrooms.

CONCLUSION:

This research paper analyses the various aspects and problems related to the deprivation of Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra state and Nashik district. Gender, urbanization, occupational status, ownership of agricultural land, employment and unemployment, salaried jobs, poverty, literacy, physical amenities, civic amenities, etc. have been reviewed in this analysis. Despite the persistent and continuous efforts of the government to improve the condition of Scheduled Castes, this section of the society is still classified among the poorest and lowest in Indian society by any measure of human development. Recognizing the special difficulties of the Scheduled Castes, the government has continuously formulated many initiatives and policies in the last few decades to promote their human potential and efficiency. There is a need today to implement these policies and initiatives faster and more effectively. Only then will this social element come into the mainstream of society.

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