



Issues of Indian Dalit elderly require different perspective for study

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ABSTRACT

Population ageing is the most significant emerging demographic phenomenon in the world today. In 1950, the world population aged 60 years and above was 205 million (8.2 per cent of the population) which increased to 606 million (10 per cent of the population) in 2000. By 2050, the proportion of older persons 60 years and above is projected to rise to 21.1 per cent, which will be two billion in number. Old age presents its special and unique problems but these have been aggravated due to the unprecedented speed of socioeconomic transformation leading to a number of changes in different aspects of living conditions. The needs and problems of the elderly vary significantly according to their age, socioeconomic status, health, living status and other such background characteristics. The most of the study is only considering all elderly same factors for study of the issues and problems of elderly. The Indian society structure is form on the basis of the caste of the people. The whole society divided as per their role and function in the society. The allocation of the resources also divided as per the caste, the Dalit in India are the most vulnerable communities in the India due to various reasons. The women condition of the Dalit women elderly are facing multi level exclusion on the basis of the gender, caste, economic, caste atrocities and social exclusion. The paper is demanding that while studying the issues of Dalit elderly need different perspective for studying the issues and problems of the Dalit elderly.

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Introduction

Today all countries in the glob experiencing population aging but the issues and challenges are not same within countries and within regions. In African and Gulf counties sixty plus population ranges under five percent but in European and East Asian countries the rate of elderly population is more than 20 percent. The trends of increasing ageing population are higher in all countries in the world. Though there is increasing elderly population but at a same time there is also increasing discussion and dialogues in the society on the issues of elderly. There is concern about the increasing population can be using elderly capacity and knowledge for the economic purpose as per some study suggested this will be helpful to increasing national economy. The national economy working on the progress of individual but after some period economy will be leading for need of elder care and support and it is require to urgent attention when the family-based care is becoming less and less.

The world's is growing older by increasing elderly population this will bring uncharted demographic waters. The population data show that higher number of people having longer healthy life expectancies, and the lesser number of elderly engaging in working groups. It is difficult to predict the effect of increasing elderly population but increasing numbers of elderly people raising various issues with different challenges. There is chance of arising opportunity from the longer and healthier lives the elderly can be an added to the working population with their ability and capacities to work.

Population Aging a Scenario

Population aging is taking place in every country in the world with this trend:

- Increased longevity: In most parts of the world mainly in developed countries, people are living significantly longer lives than in previous decades. The world life expectancy increased 20 years in the years 2005-10 the life expectancy is 48 years in the year 1950-55. The UN population division projects that there is world life expectancy will be 76 years in the year 2010- 2020.
- Declining fertility: Today the world's total fertility rate is 2.5 children per women and there is sharp decline of half times as compare to the fertility rate is 5 children per women in the year 1950, and UN population division also projected that in the year 2050 the world fertility rate will be about 2.2 per children per women. So the families have fewer children or no children so automatically the share of elderly population will be increases.
- The aging of "baby boom" generations: the aging of large cohorts of children born after World War II in the United States – paralleled by similar booms elsewhere at various times – are leading to high shares of elderly people.

At the global level, the number of those over age 60 is projected by the UN Population Division to increase from just under 800 million today (representing 11% of world population) to just over 2 billion in 2050 (representing 22% of world population). World population is projected to increase 3.7 times from 1950 to 2050.

Accompanying these projected increases in elder shares throughout the world is another salient trend: the “compression of morbidity”. Anti-aging technologies – from memory-enhancing drugs to high-tech joint replacements – and healthier lifestyles have not merely increased longevity but have also made old age healthier. Indeed, it may be reasonably anticipated that in the coming decades, employees in significantly growing numbers – particularly those who are not doing manual labor – will be able to work productively into much later ages than currently.

Indian Ageing Population

As per Registrar General of India Census report 2011 counted 1.21 billion inhabitants in India, India is the second most populous country in the world. As per Census report 2011 60+ population accounts for 8% of India's population, translating into roughly 93 million people. By 2050, the share of the 60+ population is projected to climb to 19%, or approximately 323 million people. The elderly dependency ratio which is calculated by the number of people aged 60 and older per person aged 15 to 59 will be 0.31 in the year 2050. The Indian elderly population is the victim of the non-communicable diseases which has an upward trend. There is projection of increasing the women participation in workforce so ultimately there is less person available at home for the taking care of the elderly. As per various changes in the society the children of aged people have little chance to live with them or live near their parents. The international migration and within state migration will be increasing so there is less people at home to take care of elderly. In India the issues of elderly are not priority issues for government there is lack of policies and institutions to deal with elderly issues effectively and effectively. There are lots of forces driving India's for changing age structure one of this is an upward trend in life expectancy and falling fertility rate of women. As per the data a person born in India in the year 1950 could expect to live for 37 years, whereas today life expectancy at birth in India has risen to 65 years; by 2050 it is projected to increase to 74 years. The Fertility rates per women in India have declined sharply, and in the year it is 2.6 children per women in year 2010 but in the year 2050 the fertility rate of women was nearly 6 children per woman. Due to various reasons the India traditional extended family structure is slowly breaking and this affects the care of elderly.

A few important characteristics of the elderly population in India are noteworthy. Of the 7.5% of the population who are elderly, two-thirds live in villages and nearly half are of poor socioeconomic status (SES) (Lena et al., 2009). Half of the Indian elderly are dependents, often due to widowhood, divorce, or separation, and a majority of the elderly are women (70%) (Rajan, 2001). Of the minority (2.4%) of the elderly living alone, more are women (3.49%) than men (1.42%) (Rajan and Kumar, 2003). Thus, the majority of elderly reside in rural areas, belong to low SES, and are dependent upon their families. While the southern states (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu) may be considered the biggest drivers of aging in India, other Indian states (notably Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Punjab) are also experiencing an elderly population boom, largely in rural areas (Alam and Karan, 2010). Large-scale studies of the health behaviors of this growing elderly Indian population are scarce. However, information gathered from numerous surveys and regional and local studies point to the high prevalence of several risky behaviors, such as tobacco and alcohol use (Goswami et al.,

2005; Gupta et al., 2005; Mutharayappa and Bhat, 2008), and physical inactivity (Rastogi et al. 2004; Vaz and Bharathi, 2004). With these stressors, predictably, aggregate data comparing the 52nd (1995–1996) and 60th Rounds (2004) of the National Sample Survey (NSS) suggest a general increase in the reports of ailments and utilization of healthcare services among the elderly (Alam and Karan, 2010; Rao, 2006). Access to services, however, is uneven across the country.

An analysis of morbidity patterns by age clearly indicates that the elderly experience a greater burden of ailments (which the National Sample Survey Organisation defines as illness, sickness, injury, and poisoning) compared to other age groups (see National Sample Survey Organisation, 2006, Fig. 1), across genders and residential locations. The elderly most frequently suffer from cardiovascular illness, circulatory diseases, and cancers, while the non-elderly face a higher risk of mortality from infectious and parasitic diseases (Alam, 2000; Kosuke and Samir, 2004; Shrestha, 2000). In developed countries advancing through demographic transition, there have been emerging epidemics of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), most of which are lifestyle-based diseases and disabilities (Gruenberg, 1977; Waite, 2004). In contrast, India's accelerated demographic transition has not been accompanied by a corresponding epidemiological transition from communicable diseases to NCDs (Agarwal and Arokiasamy, 2010). As indicated in Figure 15-1, the Indian elderly are more likely to suffer from chronic than acute illness. There is a rise in NCDs, particularly cardiovascular, metabolic, and degenerative disorders, as well as communicable diseases (Ingle and Nath, 2008). While cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among the elderly (Jha et al., 2006), multiple chronic diseases afflict them: chronic bronchitis, anemia, high blood pressure, chest pain, kidney problems, digestive disorders, vision problems, diabetes, rheumatism, and depression (Angra et al., 1997; Kumari, 2001; Raju, 2000; Roy, 1994; Shah and Prabhakar, 1997). Concurrently, the prevalence of morbidity among the elderly due to reemerging infectious diseases is quite high, with considerable variations across genders, areas of residence, and socioeconomic status (Goldman, Korenman, and Weinstein, 1995; Gupta and Sankar, 2002; Kumar, 2003; Mini, 2008; National Sample Survey Organisation [NSSO], 1996; Radha et al., 1999; Rajan, Misra, and Sharma, 1999; Sudha et al., 2006). It is projected that NCD-related disability will increase and contribute to a higher proportion of overall national disability, in step with the greying of the population (Kowal et al., 2010). However, a very significant shortcoming of most of the above studies is the use of self-reported data, which, in the absence of autopsies and physician examinations of patients, represents enormous lacunae in data on the conditions affecting the elderly. More detailed studies are needed, other than surveys, to extract information on the epidemiology of health conditions experienced by the elderly.

According to the NSS 52nd round, still 82 per cent of the male elderly are the head of the household which is given them the decision making authority in the family but only 15 percent of the females have such a status. Around 63 percent of the elderly in India are illiterates, more so among females – around 79 percent compared to half in the elderly men. Around 44 percent of the elderly men and 24 percent of the elderly women are currently economically active, while the majorities are not economically active. The first among the problems faced by the elderly is the high levels of economic dependence on others, especially for women. As per the report

of the ministry of statistics government of India dependency ratio for total elderly population is 13 per cent and the elderly woman is 14 per cent in year 2001. The female old-age dependency ratio as well as the gap between female and male old-age dependency ratio are increasing over time and the two assumed the values 13.8% and 12.5% respectively in 2001. About 65 per cent of the aged had to depend on others for their day-to-day maintenance. The situation was worse for elderly females with about only 14 per cent to 17 per cent being economically independent in rural and urban areas respectively with the remaining are dependent on others.

In terms of living arrangements, around 3.45 percent of the elderly live alone either as an inmate of an old age home or otherwise. While 75 percent of the elderly men live with their spouses, only around 39 percent of the elderly women live with their spouse. The rest live with their children. While economic dependency may be prompted by lack of current earnings, it does not necessarily mean that the elderly own no assets. The NSS data shows that around 71 percent of the elderly men and 40 percent of the elderly women own some financial assets, and in addition, around 80 percent men and 46 percent women among elderly own some property. However, it is obvious that mere ownership of assets does not guarantee the economic self-reliance.

Profile of Dalits (Schedule Castes) in India

Schedule Castes (SC) constitute 201,378,372 which are 16.6 per cent of India's total population. As per the Censes 2011 76 per cent of them live in rural areas the female percent of population among SC is 49 percent and sex ratio is 945. The literacy rate among SC is 66.1 but India literacy rate is 73 it means as compare to the general categories the SC community are backward in the education in India. The SC female literacy rate is 56.5 lower than the Indian female literacy rate which is 64.6. The work participation rate of SC in India is 40.9 but only 28.9 work as a main worker and remaining work as a marginal worker which constitutes 12 percent and in India total population the marginal worker percent is only 9.9 it means more SC population engage with marginal work as compare to the other categories of community. In marginal workforce of SC the 23.6 percent of SC workforce engaged in employment for more than 3 months but less than 6 months it means quarter of workforce of SC don't have livelihood option for more than 6 months in a year. The female population of SC in the marginal worker is 33.3 it means female who can earn their livelihood are unemployed for a six months in a year. Out of total Dalit women working population only 9 percent Dalit women able to earn livelihood for at least 3 month in a year it means 9 percent of the total Dalit women worker are unemployed for more than 9 months in a year.

In India 24 percent population are under the categories of cultivator but in the SC population only 14 per cent of the population are cultivators and 46 per cent of the SC are working as a agricultural labourers. As per the Census 2011, 55.7 percent of Dalit women are agricultural labour and 26 per cent Dalit women of total working population are engaged in unorganized sector in India, it means 26 percent of women workforce of SC are not getting assured wages.

Exclusion of Dalit in society caste structure in India

The Indian societal structure history has excluded some communities from social, economic, culture, civil and political rights. In Indian social hierarchy which are base on the birth of person and some section of the society treated as 'polluted' Jatis or caste where they don't have certain rights. The caste

structure is characterised by six important features 1.Segmented division of Society 2. Hierarchy 3. Restrictions on feeding and social intercourse 4. Lack of unrestricted choice of occupation 5. Civil and religious disabilities and privileges of different sections, and 6. Restrictions on marriage. In Indian jati system divided people in to section as per the pure and the impurity the higher caste people using this concept as a tool for social exclusion and exploitation of Dalti and other community. Religious text of Hindu community also legitimized the denial of fundamental rights to the lower caste community. The lower caste community which is called as Dalits are among the most socially and economically vulnerable and facing social exclusion, lack of access to landownership, lack of significant political participation etc from the upper caste Hindu community. In India the livelihood of Dalit is always dependent upon dominant caste and for then Dalit which are assured workforce to the higher caste community. Within the Dalit community, the Dalit elderly are more vulnerably placed on the basis of the economic, health and social conditions.

Economic condition of Dalit

As per the Census of India, 2011 the total percentage of the SC population is 16.2 of total population of India. Out of 16.2 percent of total population of SC in India more than 74 per cent live in rural areas and remaining in urban areas of country. Across the nation percent of Schedule Casts population is same but in the state of Gujarat and Maharashtra the percentage of SC population is different. Gujarat is the odd man out among all States, with more S.C. households in urban areas (5.04 lakh) than in rural areas (4.91 lakh). In Maharashtra, which has a total of 33.11 lakh households, 17.77 lakh are located in rural areas and 15.34 lakh in urban areas. A look at the distribution of Dalits across States shows that 60 per cent of the entire S.C population is concentrated in six States: Uttar Pradesh (76.49 lakh households), West Bengal (51.40 lakh), Tamil Nadu (37.59 lakh), (undivided) Andhra Pradesh (36.71 lakh), Maharashtra (33.11 lakh) and Bihar (32.30 lakh).

According to the findings, more than 91 per cent of all the households live in good or liveable residences, and this is one can say that an encouraging sign of the progress. It is also encouraging to note that 3,98,20,398 households, over 90 per cent, live in own residences but out of which 2,06,16,913 households live in houses with just one dwelling room and 1,39,24,073 get by with just two rooms, and their share into total population is account for 78 per cent. As per the data only 30 lakh households have at least four rooms at home. Only 60 per cent of household belong to SC have an electricity connection and only 34 per cent SC population having their own toilets.

As per the estimated by the planning commission in the year 1994 the Dalit people living below poverty line is 32 crores and this population are from state like U.P. accounts for more than 6 crores, followed by Bihar (4.93 crores), Maharashtra (3 crores), Madhya Pradesh (2.9 crores) and West Bengal (2.5 crores). Bihar has the largest percentage of Scheduled Castes (70.66%) living below poverty line, followed by U.P. (58.99%) and Maharashtra (51.64%).

Information contained in the following table shows that the percentage of Scheduled Castes below poverty line in rural areas was 49.04 as compared to 32.96% for other categories, while, for urban area, it was 42.35% for Scheduled Castes as compared to 23.91% in respect of other categories.

Details of People below Poverty Line

Years	Social Group	Proportion of poor Households in the Social group to the total households		Proportion of a household category in all poor households		Proportion of a household category in all non-poor households	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1987-88							
	SC	55.22	47.07	24.72	17.63	16.30	9.17
	Others	39.45	28.82	60.65	76.70	75.74	87.59
	All India	44.86	31.62	100	100	100	100
1993-94							
	SC	49.04	42.35	28.24	21.65	18.34	19.84
	Others	32.96	23.91	56.74	73.87	72.14	86.10
	All India	38.46	26.89	100	100	100	100

Source: "Counting the poor", Sarvekshana analytical report No. 1, Dept. of Statistics, Government of India

Occupational Classification of Scheduled Castes

	1961		1991		2001		
	Genl.	SC	ST	Genl	SC	ST	
Cultivators	52.78	37.76	68.18	39.74	25.44	54.50	
Agri. Labourers	16.71	34.48	19.71	19.66	49.06	32.69	
Household Industry	6.38	6.56	2.47	2.56	2.41	1.04	
Other workers	24.13	21.20	9.64	38.04	23.08	11.76	

Source: Quoted in National Commission for SCs & STs, Sixth Report

Occupational Categories

The incidence of poverty is directly relatable to their economic status reflected in occupations they pursue as would be evident from the information given below. As per 1991 census 49.06% of Scheduled Castes are agricultural labourers, compared to 19.66% belonging to other categories, which by itself is sufficient to establish the wide gap in economic status between the two as also of how the development process has affected them differentially.

Not only this, the number of SCs as agricultural labourers was higher than that of Scheduled Tribes. This is largely because the Scheduled Castes have very poor access to land and even when they are recorded as cultivators, many of them cultivate land as tenants or share croppers and have very small area of land to operate. Their overwhelming status as agricultural labourers directly accounts for the higher level of poverty.

The more striking part of the information in the above table is the sizable decline in the percentage of cultivators among SCs between 1961 and 1991 census. This goes to show that access of SCs to land for cultivation, whether as owned land or operated land, has come down substantially. The increase in the percentage of SC agricultural labourers shows that many SCs who owned land earlier (and some many have cultivated land as tenants) have lost them - a single most

depressing indicator of their worsening economic situation which directly mirrors their vulnerability.

Occupational pattern of Scheduled Castes

Considering the fact that 25.44% Scheduled Castes have been classified as cultivators and 49.06% Scheduled Castes as agricultural labourers, nearly 75% of Scheduled Castes primarily depend on agriculture for employment. In view of the seasonal nature of agricultural operations they remain under-employed for most of the year, and wages paid to them are lower than the prescribed minimum wage rate. Their poor economic condition makes them vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, such as their compulsion to work as bonded labourers and send their children to work for just getting small food. A large number of them also migrate to distant places in search of work where they are subjected to even greater exploitation, particularly brutal in certain occupations like stone quarries and brick kilns.

As per data available, in 1990-91 the share of Scheduled Castes in respect of total number of holdings in the country was 12.6% but they operated 8% of the area. The average size of their land holdings is 0.98 hectares. This is in contrast to 79.3% of the total number of holdings belonging to others, who operate 81.2% of the area with average size of 1.59 hectares.

As cultivators, Scheduled Castes own very small percentage of agricultural land as the following table would indicate

Social Group	No. of Holdings (in lakh)			Area Operated (in lakh Hect)			Average land holding (In Hect)		
	1980-81	1985-86	1990-91	1980-81	1985-86	1990-91	1980-81	1985-86	1990-91
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Scheduled Castes	100.52 (11.3)	120.41 (12.4)	134.22 (12.6)	115.22 (7.0)	126.39 (7.7)	131.73 (8.0)	1.15	1.05	0.98
Scheduled Tribes	68.54 (7.7)	76.48 (7.9)	86.70 (8.1)	167.04 (10.2)	172.34 (10.5)	179.09 (10.8)	2.44	2.25	2.07
Others	719.77 (81.00)	774.66 (82.8)	845.45 (81.8)	1355.71 (81.2)	1346.89 (81.2)	1344.25 (81.2)	1.88	1.74	1.59
All Social Groups	888.83 (100.00)	971.55 (100.00)	971.55 (100.00)	1637.97 (100.00)	1645.62 (100.00)	1655.07 (100.00)	1.84	1.69	1.55

Source: National Commission for SCs and STs, Sixth Report

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The condition of rural elderly are they don't have sufficient land and if they have land but they are marginal farmer and don't have a capital or unable to access to capital and other agriculture inputs. There are lots of scheme for the improvement of the land of marginal farmers but only some Dalit farmers getting benefit from the such scheme and other are unable to access the scheme of land improvement. However, at all India level, only 19.12% were self employed cultivator households out of SC households who owned some

land, as per information available in 1991. This ratio did not change in the statistics available for 1997-98. As against this, the percentage of self-employed cultivators among non-SCs and STs was more than double in both periods. As per the data there is lower per cent of the Dalit self employed non-farm household in India as compare with the other categories of non-farm self employed. As per various researches finding the position of the Dalit has not change due to various poverty alleviation schemes and did not substantial impact in improving the economic position of SCs. In urban setting the gap among Dalit and non-Dalit is wider in respect of self-employed households. In 1993-94 while the SCs self-employed were 24%, the corresponding figure was 35.05% in respect of others in urban areas.

Occupational Pattern-Scheduled Caste and Other (in percentage)

Occupational Category	1987-88		1993-94	
	SC	Other	SC	Other
Rural				
Self-employed in agriculture	43.3	19.12	42.42	
Self-employed in non-agriculture	11.0	13.8	10.32	13.89
Self-employed (total)	29.8	57.1	29.49	56.31
Agricultural wage labour	51.7	23.2	50.6	22.37
Non-agricultural wage labour	11.4	09.7	10.22	6.67
Rural wage labour total	63.1	31.1	60.28	29.14
Others	06.9	11.5	9.67	14.62
Urban				
Self-employed	28.0	35.2	24.08	35.05
Regular wage/salaries	39.4	45.0	39.27	43.11
Casual labour	26.0	10.3	26.96	10.57
Other wage	08.5	09.2	9.67	11.25
All	100	100	100	100

SC = Scheduled Castes; Others = Non-SC/ST

Source: NSS Employment/Unemployment Survey, 1987-88 and 1993-94 CSO, Delhi, quoted in Thorat, S. Oppression and Denial, EPW Feb. 9, 2002, p. 576.

Percentage of Persons below Poverty Line (Household type for scheduled caste and others) Rural

Category	Self-employed Agri.		Self-employed in Non-agri.		Agri. labour		Non-Agri labour		Others		All	
Year	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94
SC	41.21	27.71	41.6	38.19	59.77	60.00	46.49	41.44	29.98	29.00	50.07	48.14
Others	27.68	25.57	31.42	29.49	53.30	52.34	34.45	35.59	19.26	20.51	34.37	31.29

SC = Scheduled Castes; Others = Non-SC

Source: Based on Consumption Expenditure Survey, NSSO, 1987-88 and 1993-94. Extracted in Thorat, S. EPW op. cit., p. 577.

Percentage of Persons below Poverty Line (Household type for scheduled caste and others) Urban

Category	Self-employed Agri.		Self-employed in Non-agri.		Casual labour		Others		All	
Year	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94	1987-88	1993-94
SC	61.48	54.60	43.69	35.28	73.45	69.48	56.84	45.00	56.84	49.90
Others	43.14	33.64	25.26	19.04	70.11	60.60	32.21	26.00	37.21	29.66

SC = Scheduled Castes; Others = Non-SC.

Source: Based on Consumption Expenditure Survey, NSSO, 1987-88 and 1993-94 Extracted in Thorat, S. EPW op. cit., p. 577.

As per the Government data most than 60% of agricultural labour households and 40% of wage labour households in the rural non-farm sector are below poverty line, it is clear showed that there is negligence impact of wage employment programmes on the changing income strata of the SC families the efforts of employment program has been inadequate in magnitude and coverage. The position in urban areas is even worse. With the growing trend towards privatization and dependence on the market for jobs, capital and social services, the position of SCs is going to worsen.

Status of Self-employed SCs

The disparity between SCs and non-SCs in various categories of self-employment is evident in the following table.

In India only 1/5 of all Dalit households were self-employed cultivators, while the percentage was high in case of others caste categories. The population of Dalit who are engaged in nonfarm self-employment activities was even lower than the self-employed cultivators the reason could be the no capital or not able to access the institutional credit. The picture of self-employment is also same in urban areas, the gap between SCs and non-SCs also higher in term of self-employment. The lesser number of self-employed SCs in agriculture can be attributed primarily to their lack of access to land, while in the non-farm sector it would be relatable to lack of access to capital and skills. The explanation for this lack of access would lie in caste based restrictions on owning land by SCs as well as the discrimination practiced against SCs in respect of access to credit, technology and avenues of skill development and even attempts to change occupation. The high level of manual wage labour among SCs is the direct consequence of these disparities.

The consequence of higher incidence of wage labour and underemployment among SCs is increased levels of poverty evidenced in their low level of income and consumption. The following two tables eloquently bring out this position.

In 1993-94, as against 48.14% of scheduled caste households below the poverty line live in rural areas, the percentage was 31.29% in the general population. In urban areas, corresponding percentage of 49.90% of SC households as compared to 29.66% in the other category indicates a wider gap. The incidence of poverty was evidently higher in the case of agricultural labourers and lower than those who were self employed in agriculture. Casual labour constitute the largest segment of urban poor among SCs, though the disparities with others is not as wide as it is in case of self employed, regular salaried and wage workers. Overall, nearly half the SC population was below poverty line both in rural and urban areas. These figures reveal "that the SCs were at least 25 years behind other groups in terms of level of poverty".

Not only has there been decline in their status as cultivators, the share in household industry as a source of occupation among Scheduled Castes reduced from 6.56% in 1961 to 2.41% in 1991. This significantly highlights the alienation of scheduled castes from production related activities, which may have constituted a source of economic security and enhanced their bargaining power. This deterioration in the nature of employment activity has not affected traditional occupations and Scheduled Castes continue to be engaged in works which are polluting such as scavenging, drum beating, skin and hide work, carrying carcasses. Precisely these occupations make them untouchables. No other community threatens to take over these occupations from them or compete with them areas.

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Employment of Dalit in formal sector

As per information available from the Sixth report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (1999-2000 and 2000-01), regarding representation of Scheduled Castes in services of Central Ministries/Departments, as on 1.1.1999, Scheduled Castes occupy 11.29% of the posts in Group 'A', 12.68% in Group 'B', 15.78% in Group 'C' and 19.99% in Group 'D' posts under the Central Government. The noteworthy aspect is that in Group 'D' posts, SCs occupy 65.57% of the total posts of Safai Karmacharis (Sweepers) and only 16.7% of total posts excluding those of sweepers, which shows that age old caste based occupational distribution gets reinforced in Government appointments as well. It would also be clear from this data that Scheduled Castes have not yet reached the ceiling of their entitled percentage in Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts.

In the public sector banks and financial institutions, as on 1.1.2000, Scheduled Castes occupy 12.51% of the total number of jobs in the officer grade, while it was 14.80% in the grade of clerks. It was 24.46% for subordinate staff, excluding Safai Karmacharis (sweepers), while in the category of Safai Karmacharis (sweepers) they occupy 15.97%. This data will show that in the officers' grade, the representation of Scheduled Castes is still short of their prescribed percentage, while it is adequate in the category of subordinate staff. The condition of the Dalit in other government and semi government sector is same and more than 80 per cent Dalit worker are from group D or group C in the formal employment.

Issues of Dalit women

Schedule Castes (SC) constitute 201,378,372 which are 16.6 per cent of India's total population. As per the Censes 2011 76 per cent of them live in rural areas the female percent of population among SC is 49 percent and sex ratio is 945. The literacy rate among SC is 66.1 but India literacy rate is 73 it means as compare to the general categories the SC community are backward in the education in India. The SC female literacy rate is 56.5 lower than the Indian female literacy rate which is 64.6. The female population of SC in the marginal worker is 33.3 it means female who can earn their livelihood are unemployed for a six months in a year. Out of total Dalit women working population only 9 percent Dalit women able to earn livelihood for at least 3 month in a year it means 9 percent of the total Dalit women worker are unemployed for more than 9 months in a year. As per the Census 2011, 55.7 percent of Dalit women are agricultural labour and 26 per cent Dalit women of total working population are engaged in unorganized sector in India, it means 26 percent of women workforce of SC are not getting assured wages.

In India history says that Dalit women sharing in this common livelihood venture, irrespective of gender and age difference, brings a measure of equality to Dalit women in their relationship with men. Likewise, evidence of Dalit women's experience of equality in combination with freedom of speech is to be found in their freely spoken exchanges with their husbands and other family members on such vital issues as economic resources, labour, wages, household expenditure and family welfare. Moreover, many instances point to the women's assertiveness vis-à-vis their dominant caste employers or contractors, often with even greater vehemence than their male counterparts on such matters as wages or assaults on them. Though there is equality in the Dalit community but due to brahmanical patriarchy forces the women into submission and subservience to dominant caste male authority. The Dalit women have weak bargaining position on economic, political and social front which makes them more vulnerable. The Dalit women are also conditioned by patriarchal ideology so there is no opposition to the patriarchal societal function.

Need of special attention for doing studies on issues of Dalit elderly

India lacks an evidence base on the health, economic status, quality of life and wellbeing of older adults. Health research in India has historically been heavily focused on the younger population, particularly children and women of reproductive age. There are studies on the Schedule Casts women status but more focus on the reproduction and middle age women and no study on the health status of the elderly women in India. There are limited research studies on the issues of elderly but no specific study on the status Schedule caste elderly, in various studies of the elderly in India one of the sample size of the SC elderly. The need and issues of SC elderly are different and within the Indian context the issues and problems of SC population is different and within the SC population the elderly people issues and problems is different. The issues of Dalit elderly should be look with different perspective in Indian context. The social exclusion process started by the denial and discrimination by the hierarchy of the society and this outcome of this discrimination are future deepen and embed the poverty, exploitation and very low social power. The exclusion from one services or public goods also affect on exclusion of other services or public goods. For example exclusion from economic activities reduces chances of securing good health and good living condition and this is also decent housing and education. Exclusion from education and the unending 'cycles of eviction and relocation—make the possibilities of finding better economic activities and decent work much harder. In the case of the Dalit elderly when a person facing social exclusion than it means the person was denial of resources and the employment this denial push the person in poverty and due to poverty the person is not able to access services and social security and this make them vulnerable for the exploitation.

Based on this macro analysis of various condition of the Dalits population some conclusion that "it is thus beyond doubt that the historical impact of traditional caste based restrictions on the ownership of property, employment and occupation are still visible in significant measure, the access of formerly untouchables to income earning capital assets and employment is limited and their segregation into manual labour is overwhelmingly high.

In India the study of elderly are looking as a whole but If we compared the elderly from general categories and Dalit elderly there are huge gap on resources, education, human

development, employment opportunity and getting benefit from after retirement. The health condition of any person at old age is also depend upon their life style, access of health care facilities, living condition, education and so on. If we compare Dalit elderly and other elderly the Dalit population 49 per cent living below poverty line as compare to general categories are only 29 per cent. The most of Dalit people are working in unorganized sector and those are in organized sector are mostly from the class D and C. The land holding pattern also saying same thing that the Dalit population having less land holding and if they have a land but there is no irrigation facilities so they are depend upon rain or working as a farm labour where they did not able to get the retirement benefit. There is no nutrition data available among the elderly population but as having low in all indicator above the status of nutrition is also low in Dalit elderly. The level of development in a society determines the quality of life enjoyed by its people. Development measures affect day-to-day life intimately and the degree of access of an individual/group to basic amenities and services reflects its relative status in society. In many places they lack access to safe drinking water sources, clean living environment, education and health facilities. The economic conditions in a large majority of them make it impossible to avail of avenues of decent living. It is combination of all these features which defines their highly unequal position in the society. On the above various argument there is not possible to assess the elderly issues at same scale. Though the Indian elderly facing same problems but there should be using different scale for studying the condition of the Dalit elderly there is no chance to compare Indian elderly as whole and in Indian society structure this is hardly impossible to study the elderly issues at same scale there is need of different scale for studying the issues and problems of Dalit elderly.

Within the Dalit community, Dalit women face more burdens due to caste and gender discrimination. Dalit women are subjected to systematic oppression and structural violence both from the general community and from within their own community and their families. Atrocities and violence against Dalit women are used as means to reinforce this systemic caste and gender discrimination as well as to punish them when they challenge caste and gender norms. As per the research finding of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) 2005-06 reported that one-third of women aged 15 to 49 had experienced physical violence, and approximately one in 10 had been a victim of sexual violence and it is possible that most of victim of violence are from Dalit communities.

Conclusion

In India the research studies on issues of the elderly are in infant stage and there is now increasing trend of the doing research on the issues and problems of elderly. The Government also not active in taking care and protecting elderly in India as compare to the other social issues. There are special ministries or department to addressing issues of women, childe and other minority population but in the case of issues of the elderly government not doing efforts as require. The issues of elderly are not in the priority list of academic and research institution in India. There are some people are doing the research and writing on the issues but they are considering elderly population as whole. The Indian caste and society structure it is very difficult to measuring all elderly in same scale. The issues of elderly are different as per their caste, education background, living condition and social and economic status. The issues and problems of health among elderly are not similar the health status of elderly are largely

depend upon their social and economic condition. The Dalit elderly are the suffering community in India and while study the issues of Dalit elderly and especially Dalit women needs different approach within the elderly population.

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