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SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, 1971-2011: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT
This paper examines the social transformation among the scheduled caste population in Himachal Pradesh from 1971 to 2011 through three key indices: non-agricultural worker proportion, total literacy rate, and female literacy rate. The index for non-agricultural workers among scheduled castes increased from 0.203 in 1971 to 0.342 in 2011, with significant district-level variations. Una district exhibited the highest index (0.530), contrasting with Lahaul&Spiti and Kinnaur districts which showed declines. Similarly, literacy rates among scheduled caste improved markedly, with the overall index rising from 0.188 to 0.690. Hamirpur led with an index of 0.763, while Chamba lagged at 0.588. Female literacy saw substantial gains, rising from 0.097 to 0.627, with districts like Hamirpur and Solan showing the highest increases. A social transformation index reflects disparities, with districts like Hamirpur and Kangra demonstrating high levels of change across all indices, while Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur lagged behind. This analysis underscores the uneven regional development and identifies areas for targeted intervention to promote social equity and educational advancement among the scheduled caste population in Himachal Pradesh.

KEY WORDS: *Social Transformation, Scheduled Caste Population, Index Value, Non-Agricultural Workers, literacy, Regional Disparities.*

INTRODUCTION

The idea of 'social transformation' has enjoyed an important place in social sciences after the Second World War. The literal meaning of the idea is 'changing form or appearance or character or change out of recognition'. This concept was specially used by Karl Marx in his book 'German Ideology' (1846) to mean an aspect of social change which is born out of paradoxes in a society and leading to quick change or revolution. Marx was of the view that at some stage of social development, there was a clash between the physical forces of production with the present rules of production. The clash, based on these paradoxes, led to social revolution. This phase of social revolution has been termed by Marx as a period of rapid social transformation. Social transformation signifies the change in the form of society or the rise of new evolution or developments (Marx, K. 1846).

The transformation of the traditional societies had been the center of the study of many sociologists as well as the anthropologists. The dynamics and the movers of the process have been differently identified. Redcliff-Brown (1952) thought social transformation to be the result of outer influences and motivators. Firth (1954) considered social transformation to be a slow and steady change brought about by the sum total of minor changes in the behavior of persons in response to changing physical, economical, technical and social conditions, Dalton (1961) puts forth the substantivist view wherein the social change may be seen in structural, institutional and systemic change. Whereas theone emphasizes a lot on the individual decisions the other sets more in store by the technical, economic and ecological change.

Social transformation involves process of basic change in society, which can be compared with the social change seen as gradual or incremental changes over a period of time (Castles S. 2003). Before undertaking the effort of examining the social transformation of the study area, the meaning of social transformation has been comprehended. The Merriam-Webster's dictionary (2019) has defined transformation as "an act, process, or instance of transforming or being transformed".

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OBJECTIVE

- To examine the social transformation of scheduled caste population in terms of changes in non- agricultural workers, total literacy and female literacy in the state during 1971-2011.

Data Source and Methodology

To achieve the above stated objective the district has been considered to the most appropriate unit of study, for which data are available. This study primarily based on secondary source of data, which obtained in the form of Primary Census Abstract (1971,81,91,2001,2011), for Himachal Pradesh, from census of India. The quantitative techniques have been used in this paper.

On the basis of the above understanding, the three attributes that have been used to measure social transformation in the present study are: (i) change in proportion of the workers of the scheduled caste population in the non-agricultural sectors; (ii) change in the levels of literacy of the scheduled caste population; and (iii) the change in the levels of the female literacy of scheduled caste population.

To measure the extent of change, the values of attributes were converted into indices ranging from 0 to 1. Here the minimum possible value was taken as zero and the maximum as 1. In order to calculate the index value, the formula followed by the United Nations Development Programme (2016) in the calculation of the Human Development Index was used. The formula is as follows:

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{Actual Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}$$

In case of each of the indicators we have taken the minimum value as zero and the maximum value as 100 per cent. As per the above formula the normalized score for each district in the study along each indicator has been calculated for all five census years from 1971 to 2011. The difference between the score in 2011 and 1971 provided with the change along each of the indicators over the period of four decades. The change against each indicator was then added and divided by 3 to obtain the index of the social transformation.

i. Index Value for Changes in the Proportion of the Non-Agricultural Worker to Total Workers of the Scheduled Caste Population: 1971- 2011

The index value for proportion of non-agricultural workers of the scheduledCaste population in Himachal Pradesh in 1971 was 0.203. This increased to 0.342 in 2011 recording a change of 0.139 points (Table 1). At the district level the index value for the proportion of the non-agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population varied between 0.624, (Lahaul & Spiti district) and 0.082 (Kullu district) There were six districts that recorded the index value for the proportion of the non-agricultural workers of scheduled caste population above the state average (0.203). These included Lahaul&Spiti (0.624), Kangra (0.311), Kinnaur (0.273), Una (0.266), Mandi (0.211), and Solan (0.209). On the other Hand, Hamirpur, Shimla, Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Chamba and Kullu districts had displayed the index value among the scheduled caste population that was lower than the state average (Table 1).

As per 2011, the state had registered 0.342 index value in terms of the proportion of the non- agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population. The regional variation of the non-agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population became more pronounced when examined at the district level. The Index value of the scheduled caste population was recorded the highest at 0.530 in Una district that was followed by Kangra (0.504); Solan (0.402); Hamirpur (0.390) and Bilaspur (0.357) district. Lahaul & Spiti (0.339), Mandi (0.297), Shimla (0.292), Chamba (0.267), Kinnaur (0.235), Sirmaur (0.233) and Kullu (0.173) district recorded index value lower than the state average.

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Table: 1
Himachal Pradesh: Index of Social Complexion of Scheduled Caste Population, 1971-2011

Sr No	District/State	Index of Proportion of Non-Agriculture Workers of Scheduled Caste Population			Index of Total Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste Population			Index of Female Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste Population		
		1971	2011	Change in Index Value (1971-2011)	1971	2011	Change in Index Value (1971-2011)	1971	2011	Change in Index Value (1971-2011)
1	Chamba	0.164	0.267	0.103	0.130	0.588	0.458	0.060	0.502	0.442
2	Kangra	0.311	0.504	0.193	0.207	0.718	0.511	0.117	0.664	0.547
3	Hamirpur	0.202	0.390	0.188	0.211	0.763	0.552	0.136	0.717	0.581
4	Una	0.266	0.530	0.264	0.310	0.745	0.435	0.179	0.693	0.514
5	Bilaspur	0.171	0.357	0.186	0.213	0.717	0.504	0.115	0.658	0.543
6	Mandi	0.211	0.297	0.086	0.179	0.678	0.499	0.079	0.607	0.528
7	Kullu	0.082	0.173	0.091	0.133	0.651	0.519	0.045	0.573	0.527
8	Lahaul&Spiti	0.624	0.339	-0.285	0.181	0.714	0.533	0.055	0.613	0.558
9	Shimla	0.185	0.292	0.108	0.176	0.698	0.522	0.093	0.633	0.540
10	Solan	0.209	0.402	0.193	0.194	0.699	0.505	0.098	0.636	0.538
11	Sirmaur	0.178	0.233	0.055	0.144	0.633	0.489	0.064	0.572	0.508
12	Kinnaur	0.273	0.235	-0.038	0.142	0.678	0.536	0.065	0.606	0.541
Himachal Pradesh		**0.203**	**0.342**	**0.139**	**0.188**	**0.690**	**0.502**	**0.097**	**0.627**	**0.530**

Source: Calculated from Primary Census Abstract, Himachal Pradesh, 1971and 2011

Out of the total 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh, there were 5 districts with a high index value of the proportion of the non- agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population that was more than the state average of 0.342. These districts constituted: (i) continuous belt in the western parts of the state covering Una, Kangra, Solan, Hamirpur and districts. On the other hand, there were 7 districts which had recorded a low index value of less than the state average. These districts were Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Chamba, Kinnaur, Sirmaur and Kullu.

A regional contrast was also observed in the change in the index value of the proportion of the scheduled caste population workers in the non-agricultural sector over the period 1971-2011. Table 1. has shown that the districts of Una (0.264), Kangra (0.193), Solan (0.193), Hamirpur (0.188) and Bilaspur (0.186) had seen a high increase in the index value of the proportion of non-agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population. Contrary to this, five districts had recorded a low increase in the index value of proportion of the non-agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population (below 0.139). it is significant to note in this regard that two out of the twelve districts in the state like Lahaul & Spiti (-0.285) and Kinnaur (-0.038) had recorded a decline in the index value of the proportion of the non-agricultural workers of the scheduled caste population during the period of 40 years i.e. 1971 – 2011.

ii. Index Value for Changes in the Total Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste Population: 1971 – 2011

The index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population in Himachal Pradesh in 1971 was 0.188. This increased to 0.690 in 2011 recording a change of 0.502 points (Table 1). At the district level in 1971 the index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population varied between 0.310 points, which was the highest in Una district to 0.130 points in Chamba district which was the lowest in the state in 1971. As per 1971 census the index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population had represented a different picture. From Table 1, it would become clear

that the index value for literacy differed from one part of the state to another. Overall, there were five districts out of twelve in the state with a high index value for literacy above its state average of 0.188 points.These included Una (0.310), Bilaspur (0.213), Hamirpur (0.211), Kangra (0.207) and Solan (0.194). On the other hand, Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Kinnaur, Kullu and Chamba districts had displayed the index value for the literacy rate among scheduled caste population that was lower than the state average.

As per 2011 data, the state had registered 0.690 index value in terms of the literacy of the scheduled caste population. The regional variation of the index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population became more pronounced when examined at the district level (Table 1). The Index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population was recorded to be the highest at (0.763) in Hamirpur district that was followed by Una (0.745); Kangra (0.718); and Bilaspur (0.717). Contrary to this, the districts of Chamba (0.588); Sirmaur (0.633); Kullu (0.651); Kinnaur (0.678) and Mandi (0.678) had recorded the low index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population. Out of the total twelve districts in the state, there were seven districts with a high index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population that was more than the state average (0.690) points. On the other hand, there were five districts which had recorded a low index value of less than the state average. These districts were Mandi, Kinnaur, Kullu, Sirmaur and Chamba.

A regional contrast was also observed in the change in the index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population during the period of 1971-2011. Table 1 has shown that the districts of Hamirpur (0.552); Kinnaur (0.536); Lahaul & Spiti (0.533); Shimla (0.522); Kullu (0.519); Kangra (0.511); Solan (0.505) and Bilaspur (0.504) had observed a high increase in the index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population compared to the state average (0.502). Contrary to this, the four districts i.e. Una (0.435); Chamba (0.458); Sirmaur (0.489) and Mandi (0.499) had recorded a low increase in the index value for the literacy of the scheduled caste population (below state average of 0.502).

iii. Index Value for Changes in the Female Literacy of Scheduled Caste Population: 1971-2011

The index value for female literacy of the scheduled caste population in Himachal Pradesh increased from 0.097 points in 1971 to 0.627 points in 2011 implying an increase of 0.530 points during the reference period (Table 1). In 1971, out of the twelve districts, five districts (Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, Bilaspur, and Solan) enjoyed a higher index value of female literacy of the scheduled caste population while the remaining seven districts (Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Chamba, Sirmaur, Kinnaur, Mandi and Shimla) had a lower index value of female literacy than the state average (0.097 points). With the index value of 0.045 points of female literacy, Kullu district lagged behind all other districts in the state, whereas Una district with the index value of 0.179 was at the top. There was a difference of 0.134 points between the two districts.

As per 2011, the index value for the female literacy of the scheduled caste population has shown variations from one district to another. Hamirpur with 0.717 points of the index value of female literacy was on the top whereas Chamba with 0.502 points was at the bottom among the districts representing literacy level of female scheduled caste population (Table 1). There was a difference of 0.215 points between the highest and the lowest in the index value for female literacy of the scheduled caste population. The distribution of the index value of the female literacy was not uniform in the state. Among all the districts, the index value recorded to be the highest was of Hamirpur (0.717) district followed by Una (0.693), Kangra (0.664), Bilaspur (0.658), Solan (0.636) and Shimla (0.633) district. The remaining six districts Chamba (0.502), Sirmaur (0.572), Kullu (0.573), Kinnaur (0.606), Mandi (0.607) and Lahaul & spiti (0.613) had index value for the literacy of female scheduled caste population that was less than the state average (0.627).

Index value for female literacy of the scheduled caste population in the state changed from 0.097 in 1971 to 0.627 points in 2011, registering an increase of 0.530 points during 1971-2011. In all the twelve districts, seven districts recorded a high increase in their index value for the female literacy of the scheduled caste population during the last forty years. These included the districts of Hamirpur, Lahaul&Spiti, Kangra, Bilaspur, Kinnaur, Shimla and Solan (Table 1). These seven districts of the state that performed well were above the state average (0.530) in terms of the index value of the female literacy of the scheduled caste population. Contrary to this, there were five districts, which recorded the index value for the female literacy that was less than the state average. These included Chamba, Sirmaur, Una, Kullu and Mandi districts.

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On the basis of index value calculated for (i) changes in proportion of non- agriculture workers of the scheduled caste population 1971- 2011; (ii) changes in total literacy rate of scheduled caste population 1971- 2011 and (iii) changes in female literacy rate of scheduled caste population 1971 -2011, the level of social transformation has been examined. The following are the major observations:

- Western districts (Una, Kangra, Solan, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur) generally performed better across all indices, suggesting higher development levels in terms of education and employment opportunities.
- Eastern districts (Lahaul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Shimla, Sirmaur, Mandi, Kullu, and Chamba) faced greater challenges, with some districts even experiencing declines in certain indices over the decades.
- While there have been improvements in literacy and non-agricultural employment among the scheduled caste population in Himachal Pradesh, disparities persist across districts.
- The data underscores the need for targeted interventions to address regional disparities and ensure equitable development, particularly focusing on improving educational outcomes and employment opportunities in less developed districts.

In the following, an attempt has been made to understand the complete picture of the social transformation of the scheduled caste population that took place during the last four decades, i.e. 1971- 2011. For this purpose, change in the index value displaying the social transformation of the scheduled caste population in the state is computed on the basis of these three variables: a) change in the proportion of non-agricultural workers b) change in total literacy, and c) change in female literacy.When the census data of these variables had been computed its result indicated that the state had experienced the social transformation among the scheduled caste population. During 1971 – 2011, the index value for the level of the social transformation of the scheduled caste population ranged from a high of 0.440 for Hamirpur district to a low of 0.268 for Lahaul & Spiti district. The difference between high and low index values was of 0.172 points (Table 2). The difference between high and low index values indicates wider inter- district difference in the social transformation of the scheduled caste population. However, there were five districts viz. Hamirpur (0.440), Kangra (0.417), Solan (0.412), Bilaspur (0.411), and Una(0.404) which recorded the index value of more than 0.400 and hence were classified as district with high level of social transformation of scheduled caste population in the state(Map 6.2). Hamirpur, Kangra, Solan, and Bilaspur districts had experienced a high index value in the change in the proportion of non -agricultural workers, change in total literacy, and change in female literacy during 1971 – 2011. In the state, Una district has witnessed the relatively highest

Table: 2
Himachal Pradesh: Index Value of Social Transformation of Scheduled Caste Population, 1971-2011

Sr. No.	District/State	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	Average Change in Index Value (1971-2011)
1	**Chamba**	0.118	0.189	0.244	0.365	0.452	0.334
2	**Kangra**	0.212	0.336	0.434	0.543	0.629	0.417
3	**Hamirpur**	0.183	0.371	0.478	0.557	0.623	0.440
4	**Una**	0.252	0.353	0.438	0.539	0.656	0.404
5	**Bilaspur**	0.166	0.279	0.387	0.500	0.577	0.411
6	**Mandi**	0.157	0.209	0.313	0.446	0.527	0.371
7	**Kullu**	0.087	0.143	0.228	0.385	0.466	0.379
8	**Lahaul&Spiti**	0.287	0.434	0.399	0.538	0.555	0.269
9	**Shimla**	0.151	0.211	0.323	0.457	0.541	0.390
10	**Solan**	0.167	0.259	0.376	0.489	0.579	0.412
11	**Sirmaur**	0.128	0.177	0.245	0.390	0.479	0.351
12	**Kinnaur**	0.160	0.242	0.311	0.475	0.506	0.346
Himachal Pradesh		**0.163**	**0.252**	**0.348**	**0.471**	**0.553**	**0.390**

Source: Calculated from Primary Census Abstract, Himachal Pradesh, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

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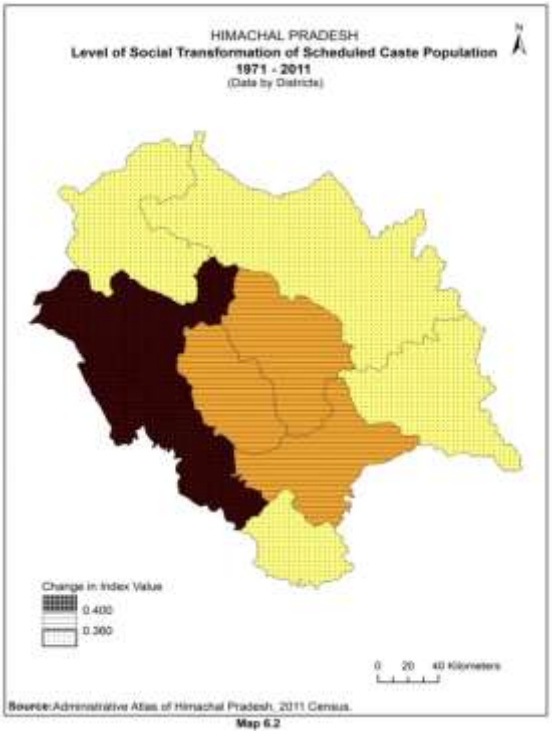

Map 6.2

Index value in terms of change in non-agricultural workers but the lowest change has been recorded in the total literacy. Contrary to this, there were four districts namely Sirmaur (0.351), Kinnaur (0.347), Chamba (0.334), and Lahaul & Spiti (0.269) which registered a low level of social transformation of scheduled caste population having an index value of less than 0.360 points. In the tribal districts (Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur) the relative change in index value in terms of proportion of non-agricultural workers was low while the change in the index value for total literacy and female literacy was high. Similarly, the other three districts viz. Shimla (0.390), Kullu (0.379), and Mandi (0.371) were in the moderate level of social transformation of the scheduled caste population having a range between 0.360 and 0.400. The above mentioned districts could fall in a moderate level of social transformation of scheduled caste population mainly because of their moderate change in all three parameters i.e. change in the proportion of non-agricultural workers, change in total literacy, and change in female literacy during the study period i.e. 1971- 2011.

FINDINGS

Based on the changes in the index value of the three variables of the proportion of non-agricultural workers, total literacy, and female literacy during 1971- 2011, the analysis reveals that in the state, the social transformation of the scheduled caste population is still in progress. The analysis reveals that in Himachal Pradesh, the social transformation of the scheduled caste population has shown significant variations across districts from 1971 to 2011. The index values for changes in the proportion of non-agricultural workers, total literacy rate, and female literacy rate illustrate these disparities. Districts such as Hamirpur, Kangra, Solan, Bilaspur, and Una have experienced higher levels of social transformation, indicated by substantial increases in these index values. In contrast, districts like Lahaul & Spiti, Kinnaur, Chamba, and Sirmaur have shown lower levels of social transformation. Overall, the state has witnessed a range of social changes among the scheduled caste population over the four decades, with some districts significantly outperforming others in terms of educational attainment and economic participation. This regional disparity underscores ongoing challenges and opportunities for further social development initiatives tailored to specific district needs.

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