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Social Group Disparities in contemporary India and Madhya Pradesh on the basis of key development indicators

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Abstract:

On the basis data from Census for 2011, Socio Economic and Caste Census for 2011, NSS 68th round survey for 2011-12 on employment and unemployment, and National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) for 2015-16 are used to analyze level of development in rural Madhya Pradesh with respect to India as a whole and social group disparities in the level of development. Although, due to constitutional provisions and interventions by government in favour of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, their level of development (on various development indicators such as education, health and economic) has improved in the post-independence period. However, due to long historical deprivation and because of widespread discrimination and prejudice against them in contemporary India, and ineffective government interventions, wide social group disparities between them (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) and their non-SC/ST counterparts continue to exist in India as a whole as well as in Madhya Pradesh.

The Backward character of Madhya Pradesh was reflected in terms of the lower level of development on different indicators of development when compared with the level of development for India as a whole. Data show significant social group disparities in developmental outcomes in the area of education, health, and economic conditions. On most of the parameters analyzed in the paper, the level of disparities in rural Madhya Pradesh is found to be worse than the level of disparities in rural India.

1. Introduction:

Historically present-day Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have suffered from various types of injustices in society. After independence many provisions were enacted under the constitution to bridge social group disparities (between Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) in levels of development. Consequently, many policies and programmes have been made by the Central and State governments to support development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The objective of this chapter is to present a brief account of

social group disparities in the level of development between Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other social groups (non-Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) for contemporary India and Madhya Pradesh. The paper is organized into five sections. Section 2 describes the data sources. Social group disparities in education are analysed in Section 3. Section 4 analyses social group disparities in health. Section 5 describes economic inequalities between Scheduled Castes and others. Section 6 concludes the discussion.

2. Sources of Data:

Census data for 2011 and NSS data from Employment and Unemployment Survey for 2011-12 have been used to analyse social group disparities in education. Two indicators; namely, literacy rates and age-specific attendance rates have been used to measure social group differences in education. Three indicators of health—mortality rates among children, the prevalence of malnutrition among children, men and women, and the incidence of anemia among men and women—are used to show social group disparities in health. Four indicators, source of income by social group, social group differences in per capita monthly consumption expenditure, the proportion of population below the poverty line and proportion of the deprived population by the social group are used to measure economic disparities among social groups.

Latest data from the Census, Socio-Economic and Caste Census, NSS Employment and Unemployment Survey, NSS consumption expenditure Survey and National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) have been used in this paper.

3. Social group disparities in education:

Although, literacy rate as a measure of educational attainment has several limitations, given wide spread illiteracy in India, ensuring everyone was at least literate became an important social goal after Independence. Even this minimal goal has not been achieved in India till date. As per Census data for 2011, overall literacy was 69 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, which was about 5 percentage points lower when compared with the literacy rate for India as a whole (74 per cent). Literacy rate figures for Scheduled castes (66 per cent) and others (non-Scheduled Castes/ Tribes 76 per cent) was identical for Madhya Pradesh and India as a whole, and therefore, show 10 percentage points social group disparity in the level of literacy between Scheduled castes and non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes.

Table 1: Literacy rates by social group, for persons 7 years and above, India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011(in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
SC	63	76	66	62	75	66

ST	57	77	59	49	67	51
Non-SC/ST	71	86	76	71	85	76
All	68.0	84.0	73.0	64	83	69
Gap between SC and others	-8	-10	-10	-9	-10	-10

Source: Census of India 2011

The Constitution of India, under Article 45, made the provision for free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen years within ten years of promulgation of the Constitution. However, despite Constitutional provisions, free education for all children remained a distant dream for more than five decades. Article 45 of the Constitution was amended in 2002 and Article 21A was inserted in Part-III under Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India. The Parliament has passed Right to Education Act 2009 (henceforth, RTE Act), which declared education as a fundamental right and directed the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children between 6 and 14 years of age. The RTE Act 2009 is effective across the country from April 1, 2010. Given this context, it is relevant to analyse whether all children from different social groups are attending school or caste disabilities still restrict scheduled castes children from attending schools.

Age-specific attendance rate measures the proportion of students those attend educational institution to the proportion of the total population of children in a particular age group. Data from NSS 68th round (Employment and Unemployment) Survey for 2011-12 has been used to analyze social group disparities in age-specific school attendance rates for three age-groups that is, 5-14 years, 15-19 years and 20-24 years. Data on school attendance for specific age group as shown in Table 2 show that attendance rates in the educational institution were lower in Madhya Pradesh than in India as a whole for all the three age groups. Further, Madhya Pradesh had considerably higher social group disparities in access to schooling. Age-specific attendance rates were higher in Madhya Pradesh than the all-India level for other social groups (belonging to non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ non-OBC) for all the three age-groups. Consequently, the magnitude of social group disparities in attendance rates (difference in attendance rates between Scheduled Castes and others and also between Scheduled Tribes and others) were higher in Madhya Pradesh than in India as a whole for all the three age-groups (Table 2). Social group disparity in attendance rates was wider for age group 16-19, as higher proportion of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes students do not continue education beyond the elementary-school going age (Thorat, 2009).

Thus, data show that, despite a constitutional mandate and parliamentary laws in place to ensure free and compulsory elementary education for all children, caste still influences the attendance rates of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes students in schools. The lower attendance rates for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes may further widen social group disparities, as relatively larger

proportion of older population among them remain uneducated.

Table 2: Age-specific attendance rates in schools, by social group rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	5-14	15-19	20-24	5-14	15-19	20-24
SC	88.7	54.6	12.6	86.4	46.7	11.8
ST	88.0	51.5	9.9	86.4	40.0	5.7
OBC	89.2	62.3	15.7	91.0	62.7	12.2
Others	92.4	67.5	23.5	96.6	79.0	30.4
All	89.6	60.8	16.3	89.4	55.5	13.0
Gap	-3.7	-12.9	-10.9	-10.2	-32.3	-18.6

Source: NSS Employment and Unemployment Survey Report, 2011-12.

Table3 shows that, in India as a whole, between 1999-2000 and 2011-12, there was a convergence in school-attendance rates of children belonging to different social groups in age groups 5-14 and 15-19, and divergence in the age group 20-24 . This convergence among young children is expected as rate of increase slows down for groups that reach near universal school attendance for the first two age groups. Trends in social group disparity are more interesting for the highest age-group where considerable scope for improving attendance rates remains in all the social groups. Divergence in attendance rates for this age group (20-24 years) suggests that government should formulate policies, such as the extension of National Scholarship schemes to all Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes students those who are enrolled in Universities/ Colleges including technical/ medical education.

Table 3: The magnitude of social group disparities between Scheduled Castes and others in school attendance rates between 1999-2000 and 2011-12, rural India (in percentage points)

Gender	1999-2000			2011-12		
	Age group			Age group		
	5-14	15-19	20-24	5-14	15-19	20-24
Person	-12.4	-14.8	-5.3	-3.7	-12.9	-10.9
Male	-10.1	-14.6	-7.0	-3.8	-13.0	-14.8
Female	-15.2	-15.7	-3.6	-3.6	-12.9	-7.0

Source: NSS Employment and Unemployment Survey Reports for 1999-2000 and 2011-12

4. Social group disparities in health:

Health is one of the key determinants of human development and therefore, closely linked with one's lifetime achievements and income (Thorat, 2009, 2014). The three indicators of health—

mortality rates among children, the prevalence of malnutrition among children, men and women, and incidence of anemia among men and women—are used to analyze social group disparities in health.

Data from National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) for 2015-16 show that all three types of child mortality rates (infant, child, and under-five mortality in 1000 live births) among children were higher in rural Madhya Pradesh when compared with corresponding figures for rural India as a whole. Except for others (belonging to non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and non-OBC), infant, child and under-five mortality were higher among all social groups (belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and OBC) in Madhya Pradesh. In other words, social group disparities (difference in mortality rates between Scheduled Castes and others, and between Scheduled Tribes and others) in the level of all three the three indicators of mortality among children were even higher in rural Madhya Pradesh than in India as a whole (Table4).

Table 4: Infant mortality, Child mortality and Under-five mortality rates, by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in 1000 live birth)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Infant mortality	Child mortality	Under-five mortality	Infant mortality	Child mortality	Under-five mortality
SC	49.6	12.1	61.1	54.3	16.2	69.6
ST	47.3	14.7	61.3	59.0	21.0	78.5
OBC	46.1	10.4	56.0	51.7	11.5	62.6
Others	38.2	7.4	45.4	34.6	8.5	42.8
All	45.5	10.7	55.8	51.4	14.2	65.0
Gap between SC and others	11.4	4.7	15.7	19.7	7.7	27.1

Source: NFHS-4 for 2015-16 Pp. 191-2 for India and Pp. 75-76 for Madhya Pradesh

Not only are rates of child mortality higher in Madhya Pradesh, children also faced very high levels of malnutrition. Data show that the rates of stunting and wasting (and consequently also the proportion of underweight children) were higher among children in rural Madhya Pradesh than in rural India as a whole. Wide social group disparities in child malnutrition (difference in magnitude of malnutrition between Scheduled Castes and others, and between Scheduled Tribes and others) were visible in India as a whole as well as in Madhya Pradesh. However, social group disparities in the level of child malnutrition (by all three indicators of malnutrition) among children were relatively higher in rural Madhya Pradesh (Table 5).

Similarly, the proportion of children suffering from anemia was higher in rural Madhya Pradesh (69 per cent) than in rural India (about 59 per cent).¹ Social group disparities in prevalence of anemia among children were slightly lower in rural Madhya Pradesh than in rural India (Table 6).

Table 5: Proportions of malnourished children (below five years) by social group, India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Stunted (Low height for age)	Wasted (Low weight for height)	Underweight (Low weight for age)	Stunted (Low height for age)	Wasted (Low weight for height)	Underweight (Low weight for age)
SC	42.8	21.2	39.1	47.6	25.5	46.0
ST	43.8	27.2	45.3	48.2	30.2	51.5
OBC	38.7	20.5	35.5	39.7	25.0	40.7
Others	31.2	19.0	28.8	31.6	21.5	30.6
All	38.4	21.0	35.7	42.0	25.8	42.8
Gap between SC and others	11.6	2.2	10.3	16.0	4.0	15.4

Source: NFHS-4 report for 2015-16, Pp. 306-7 for India and Pp. 109-10 for Madhya Pradesh

Table 6: Proportion of anemic children (below five years) by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Severe Anemia	Moderate Anemia	Total cases of Anemia	Severe Anemia	Moderate Anemia	Total cases of Anemia
SC	1.6	30.7	60.6	2.0	37.4	69.3
ST	1.5	33.3	63.3	2.4	42.8	76.1
OBC	1.6	29.2	58.6	1.9	35.7	66.0
Others	1.4	25.6	54.2	1.4	34.5	65.2

¹Children below five years those who had less than 11 g/dl hemoglobin count in blood. For detail, please see NFHS-4 Pp. 117-18 for Madhya Pradesh and Pp. 320-22 for India.

All	1.6	29.2	58.5	2.0	37.6	69.0
Gap between SC and others	0.2	5.1	6.4	0.6	2.9	4.1

Source: NFHS-4 report for 2015-16, Pp. 320-22 for India and Pp. 117-18 for Madhya Pradesh

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides data on Body Mass Index (BMI), an indicator of nutritional and health status of adults.² Data from NFHS-4 for 2015-16 as shown in Table 7 show that high proportions of rural women had BMI below 18.5 in both rural India as a whole (23 per cent) as well as in Madhya Pradesh (28 per cent). Although, data show wide social group disparities in terms of both severe/moderate malnutrition and total incidence of malnutrition (in terms of low BMI) among women in India as a whole as well as in Madhya Pradesh. Both the prevalence and social group disparities in prevalence of low BMI among rural women were higher in rural Madhya Pradesh than in rural India (Table 7).

Although, when compared to women lower proportions of men were suffering from malnutrition in rural India as a whole as well as in Madhya Pradesh, similar wide social group disparities were evident in case of nutritional and health status of men too, with the relatively higher disparities in India for severely/ moderately thinness and higher disparity in Madhya Pradesh in total thinness (Table 8).

Table 7: Nutritional status of women (age between 15 and 49 years) by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in per cent)

Social group	India		Madhya Pradesh	
	Moderately/severely thin	Total thin	Moderately/severely thin	Total thin
SC	10.8	25.3	12.8	30.5
ST	13.4	31.7	13.6	34.4
OBC	9.5	23.0	11.4	28.1
Others	7.4	17.8	8.3	20.2
All	9.6	23.0	11.5	28.3
The gap between SC and others	3.4	7.5	4.5	10.3

Source: NFHS-4 report for 2015-16, Pp. 330 for India and Pp. 124 for Madhya Pradesh

²Normal range- BMI between 18.5 and 24.9, mildly thin- BMI between 17 and 18.4, moderately/ severely thin- BMI less than 17, Overweight- BMI between 25 and 29.9, Obese- BMI 30 and above.

Table 8: Nutritional status of men (age between 15 and 49 years) by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in per cent)

Social group	India		Madhya Pradesh	
	Moderately/ severely thin	Total thin	Moderately/ severely thin	Total thin
SC	8.9	23.0	11.4	30.6
ST	9.1	25.2	10.7	30.3
OBC	8.3	20.3	12.3	29.3
Others	6.3	16.3	9.5	20.8
All	8.0	20.2	11.4	28.4
The gap between SC and others	2.6	6.7	1.9	9.8

Source: NFHS-4 report for 2015-16, Pp. 320-22 for India and Pp. 124 for Madhya Pradesh

In 2015-16, more than half of women in rural India (53 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (about 53 per cent) were suffering from anemia.³ Except for Scheduled Tribes women, the incidence of anemia among all women (belonging to Scheduled Castes, OBC, and other women) was higher in India as a whole than that of figures for Madhya Pradesh. Although, visible social group disparity existed in the moderate and total incidence of anemia in India as well as in Madhya Pradesh. However, along with higher incidence, social group disparity was higher in India in moderate and total cases of anemia (Table 9).

Although, in relation to women, anemia was relatively less prevalent among men both in Madhya Pradesh and in India (Table 9 and 10). Further, social group disparities were also lower in prevalence of anemia for men than for women (Table 10).

Table 9: Prevalence of Anemia among women (age between 15 and 49 years) by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Severe Anemia	Moderate Anemia	Total cases of Anemia	Severe Anemia	Moderate Anemia	Total cases of Anemia
SC	1.2	14.0	56.0	1.1	12.0	51.7
ST	1.3	15.0	60.0	1.2	15.5	64.0
OBC	1.1	12.2	52.2	1.1	11.3	50.0

³Anemia is deficiency of red cells or of hemoglobin in blood. For detail see NFHS-4 Pp. 334-35.

Others	0.7	10.6	49.8	0.8	11.0	47.4
All	1.0	12.4	53.1	1.1	12.2	52.5
Gap between SC and others	0.5	3.4	6.2	0.3	1.0	4.3

Source: NFHS-4 report for 2015-16, Pp. 334-35 for India and Pp. 125 for Madhya Pradesh

Table 10: Prevalence of Anemia among men (age between 15 and 49 years) by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2015-16 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Severe Anemia	Moderate Anemia	Total cases of Anemia	Severe Anemia	Moderate Anemia	Total cases of Anemia
SC	1.0	10.5	23.6	1.0	9.4	23.2
ST	1.3	13.3	32.0	1.6	16.7	39.6
OBC	1.2	9.3	22.0	1.1	8.2	22.0
Others	1.0	8.4	20.3	0.6	9.0	22.2
All	1.1	9.7	22.7	1.1	10.1	25.5
Gap between SC and others	0.0	2.1	3.3	0.4	0.4	1.0

Source: NFHS-4 report for 2015-16, Pp. 336 for India and Pp. 125 for Madhya Pradesh

5. Caste and economic disparities:

As per data from NSS Employment and Unemployment Survey for 2011-12, little more than two fifths of (about one fourth in agriculture and one-sixth in non-agriculture) Scheduled Castes rural households in Madhya Pradesh were self-employed (either owned land or small enterprises/business), this figure was about 30 percentage points lower for Scheduled Castes when compared with corresponding for others (households belonging to non-Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and non-OBC). The magnitude of social group disparity between Scheduled Castes and others in the level of self-employment was a little lower (25 percentage points) for rural India as a whole (Table 11). Therefore, larger proportions of rural households of Scheduled Castes were dependent on others for wage employment. Data show that more than half of rural households of Scheduled Castes in Madhya Pradesh were casual/manual labour (about 23 per cent in agriculture and 28 per cent in non-agriculture), this figure was about 37 percentage points higher for them when compared with proportion of labour households among others (households belonging to non-Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and non-OBC). Social group disparity (difference in the proportion of casual wage

labour households between Scheduled Castes and others) was lower (32 percentage points) in rural India (Table 12).

Table 11: Proportion of self-employed and regular salaried households, by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in per cent)

Social group	India				Madhya Pradesh			
	Self-employed			Regular salaried	Self-employed			Regular salaried
	Total	Agriculture	Non-Agriculture		Total	Agriculture	Non-Agriculture	
SC	33.7	19.5	14.2	8.5	41.4	24.0	17.4	4.7
ST	49.5	41.4	8.1	6.3	43.5	39.6	3.8	5.6
OBC	53.0	36.6	16.3	9.0	65.6	53.4	12.2	7.1
Others	71.6	54.9	16.7	9.7	71.6	54.9	16.7	9.7
All	56.3	44.9	11.3	6.7	56.3	44.9	11.3	6.7
Gap between SC and others	-24.7	-20.3	-4.4	-4.8	-30.2	-30.9	0.7	-5.0

Source: NSS Employment and Unemployment Survey 2011-12, Report no. 563.

Table 12: Proportions of labour households by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture
SC	52.6	31.4	21.3	50.0	22.8	27.7
ST	38.3	24.5	13.9	46.1	29.7	16.4
OBC	32.1	19.6	12.6	25.5	14.8	10.7
Others	21.0	12.8	8.3	12.8	8.7	4.7
All	34.5	21.0	13.5	33.5	19.4	14.1
The gap between SC and others	31.6	18.6	13.0	37.2	14.1	23.0

Source: NSS Employment and Unemployment Survey 2011-12, Report no. 563

Data from Socio-Economic and Castes Census for 2011 also show that about three fourth (74 per cent) of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes in Madhya Pradesh earned their income from casual wage employment; this figure was 25 percentage points higher than other social groups. In rural India, social group disparity (between Scheduled Castes and others in proportion of households those who earned income from casual wage employment) was about 20 percentage points higher for Scheduled Castes (Table13). The available literature on poverty by economic class sheds light on relatively high magnitude of poverty among casual wage workers (Sundaram and Tendulkar 2003, Panagariya and More 2013). Therefore, the economic hardship of Scheduled Castes as casual wage workers was reflected in terms of lower monthly per-capita consumption expenditure and relatively higher proportion of poverty among them.

Table 13: Proportions of households those who earned income from different sources, by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Deprivation criterion	India					Madhya Pradesh				
	SC	ST	Others	All	gap between SC and non-SC/ST	SC	ST	Others	All	gap between SC and non-SC/ST
1. Cultivation	18.4	38.0	32.0	30.1	-13.6	18.7	32.0	40.1	34.8	-21.4
2. Casual labour	67.3	51.3	47.0	51.2	20.3	74.0	63.6	49.4	56.7	24.6
3. Business	1.1	0.6	1.9	1.6	-0.8	0.25	0.12	0.6	0.4	-0.35
4. domestic service	2.2	2.0	2.7	2.5	-0.5	1.6	1.0	2.0	1.6	-0.4
5. Foraging Rag Picking	0.27	0.2	0.21	0.23	0.06	0.3	0.14	0.14	0.2	0.16
6. Begging/Charity/ Alms collection	0.4	0.23	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.00
7. Other sources	10.4	7.6	16.0	14.0	-5.6	4.8	3.0	7.3	5.8	-2.5

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Census for 2011

In India, where reliable data on income are not available, consumption expenditure is used as a proxy variable to assess and analyze social group disparities in material standards of living (Deshpande 2014). Data from NSS on household consumer expenditure Survey for 2011-12 show that average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE hereafter) of rural households in India as a whole was Rs. 1430. The level of average MPCE was Rs. 278 lower for rural households in Madhya Pradesh when compared with all India average. Besides, data show lower average MPCE for all social groups (belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, OBC and Others) in Madhya Pradesh. Although, wide social group disparity (difference in average MPCE between Scheduled Castes and others and between Scheduled Tribes and others) existed in the average level MPCE in India as a whole as well as in Madhya Pradesh. However, along with a lower level of consumption, social group disparity was relatively higher in Madhya Pradesh (Table 14).

The lower level of consumption expenditure of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was also reflected in terms of their concentration in lower classes of consumption expenditure. Table 15 shows the distribution of households across fractile classes of MPCE for different social groups. The total amount of consumption expenditure is divided into twelve fractile classes, with households having lowest MPCE in Fractile Class 1 and households having highest MPCE in Fractile Class 12. Data show that a very high proportion of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes (69 per cent) and Scheduled Tribes (77 per cent) in India were concentrated in first seven fractile classes. The proportion of households in the first seven fractile classes was 23 percentage points higher for Scheduled Castes and 31 percentage points higher for Scheduled Tribes than the corresponding figure for others (46 per cent). Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh too higher proportion of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were concentrated in lower classes of consumption expenditure. However, relatively, social group disparity in Madhya Pradesh was lower for Scheduled Castes and higher for Scheduled Tribes than that of figures for India as a whole (Table 15).

Table 14: Average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in rupees)

Social group	India	Madhya Pradesh
SC	1252	1036
ST	1122	927
OBC	1439	1229
Others	1719	1507
All	1430	1152

The gap between SC and others	-467	-471
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Source: NSS 68th round Survey for 2011-12, Report no. 562

Table 15: Distribution of persons by social group, in each class of average MPCE, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in per cent)

Fractile class of MPCE/ Social group	India				Madhya Pradesh			
	SC	ST	OBC	Others	SC	ST	OBC	Others
1.	7	12	4	2	7	12	2	0.6
2.	6	9	5	3	4	11	3	0.8
3.	12	13	10	6	12	14	7	9
4.	11	13	10	8	10	9	12	5
5.	12	11	10	9	8	12	9	11
6.	11	9	11	8	10	13	9	9
7.	10	10	10	10	12	7	12	8
8.	10	8	11	10	14	7	11	7
9.	9	6	11	12	9	7	12	11
10.	7	6	10	14	7	4	12	19
11.	3	2	5	8	4	3	6	8
12.	3	2	5	9	2	2	66	12
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NSS 68th round Survey for 2011-12, Report no. 562

Consumption expenditure is the basis to assess and analyze poverty in India. Therefore, wide social group disparities in the level of consumption expenditure are also reflected in terms of social group disparity in the level of poverty. Following the pattern of lower consumption expenditure, relatively higher proportion of the rural population (35.7 per cent) in Madhya Pradesh was living below poverty than that of poverty figures for rural India as a whole (25.4 per cent). Social group-wise, about 32 per cent rural population belong to Scheduled Castes and about 45 per cent belonging to Scheduled Tribes in India were living below the poverty line, as against 15.5 per cent for others (Table 16). In Madhya Pradesh, even larger proportion of Scheduled Castes (about 41 per cent), and Scheduled Tribes (about 55 per cent) population was living below poverty when compared with corresponding figures for rural India as a whole (Table 16).

Table 16: Proportion of population below the poverty line, by social group, India and Madhya Pradesh 2011-12 (in per cent)

Social group	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
SC	29.4	31.5	21.7	39.6	41.3	33.2
ST	43.0	45.3	24.1	53.4	55.3	32.3
Others	12.5	15.5	8.1	NA	NA	NA
All	22.0	25.4	13.7	32.0	35.7	21.0
The gap between SC and others	16.9	16.0	13.6	NA	NA	NA

Source: Panagariya and More, 2013.

Notes: 1. NA indicates figures not available.

2. Author used Tendulkar methodology to estimate poverty among social and economic groups

Above analysis shows that the level of development in terms of education, health and economic status was lower in Madhya Pradesh than in India as a whole. On average, along with lower achievement/ development on different individual indicators of development, social group disparities in the level of development were also higher on most parameters in rural Madhya Pradesh.

The Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 provides data on fourteen of variables that can be considered as indicators of a decent economic status of households. These include variables such as proportion of households;

- i) Having any member working as a government employee,
- ii) Having any member earning more than 10,000 per month,
- iii) Paying income tax,
- iv) Paying professional tax,
- v) Having three or more rooms with pucca walls and pucca roofs,
- vi) Owning refrigerator,
- vii) Owning landline phone,
- viii) Owning motorized two/ three/ four wheelers/ fishing boats,
- ix) Owning mechanized three-four wheeler agricultural equipments,
- x) Own non-agricultural enterprises registered with government,
- xi) Owning 2.5 acre or more irrigated land with at least one irrigation equipment,
- xii) Owning five acre or more irrigated land for two or more crops,
- xiii) Owning 7.5 or more land with at least one irrigation equipment,
- xiv) Having Kisan credit card with credit limit 50,000 or more.

Table 17, which summarizes statistics on these variables, shows that although a very small proportion of rural households in India answered in the affirmative for at least one of these variables. This proportion was smaller in rural Madhya Pradesh (29 per cent) than in rural India as a whole (39 per cent). Wide social group disparity existed in the proportion of rural households for which the survey returned an affirmative answer to at least one of these variables. The social group disparity for this indicator was also higher in rural Madhya Pradesh (20 percentage points) than in India as a whole (18 percentage points).

Table 17: Proportion of household those had/ owned/ possessed at least one materials item of the 14 material items, by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Social groups	India	Madhya Pradesh
SC	27.4	19.1
ST	21.5	14.4
Others (Non-SC/ST)	45.3	39.1
All	39.4	29.2
The gap between SC and Others	-18	-20

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011

Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 also provides data on deprived households on the basis of seven indicators of deprivation. These indicators of deprivation are;

- i. Households those who had only one room with kutchra walls and kutchra roofs,
- ii households with no adult member in family between age 16 and 59 years,
- iii. female-headed households with no adult male member between age 16 and 59 years,
- iv. Households with disabled member and no able-bodied adult in family,
- v. households with legally released bounded labour,
- vi. Households with no literate adult above 25 years, and
- vii. Landless households those who derived major parts of income from manual casual labour.

Data show that a very large proportion of rural households in India were deprived on at least one of these indicators. However, this proportion was higher in rural Madhya Pradesh (67 per cent) than in rural India (60 per cent). Further, the gap between Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and other households in terms of proportion of deprived households was almost similar in rural Madhya Pradesh as well as in rural India as a whole (Table 18). Proportion of households that were deprived by individual indicators of deprivation is shown in Table 19.

Table 18: Proportion of deprived households by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in percent)

Social group	India	Madhya Pradesh	The gap between all India and MP
SC	72.0	79.2	7.2
ST	74.5	75.6	1.1
Non-SC/ST	60.5	68.3	7.8
All	59.8	67.2	7.8
Gap between SC and non-SC/ST	11.5	10.9	-0.6

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011.

Table 19: Proportion of deprived households on the basis of the individual criterion of deprivation, by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Deprivation criterion	India					Madhya Pradesh				
	SC	ST	Others	All	gap between SC and non-SC/ST	SC	ST	Others	all	gap between SC and non-SC/ST
1. Only one room with kucha walls and kucha roof	18	23	38	31	-20	11	11	35	24	-24
2. No adult member between 16 – 59 years	39	36	12	28	27	33	32	17	30	16
3. Female headed households with no adult male member between 16 – 59 years	29	27	8	15	21	34	35	12	23	22

4. Disabled member and no able bodied adult member	11	11	2	5	9	17	19	3	10	14
5. Legally released bounded labour	2.3	2.1	0.5	1.1	1.8	4	3	1	2	3
6. No literate adult above 25 years	0.6	0.53	0.03	0.2	0.57	1.3	0.84	0.1	0.5	1.2
7. Landless households deriving major part of income from manual casual labour	0.03	0.03	1.0	0.02	-0.97	0.1	0.06	5.0	0.4	-4.9

Source: Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011.

Note: Each deprivation criteria is not exclusive to each other and therefore sum of deprivation of individual indicators may exceed the proportion of households that are deprived by any one indicator

6. Conclusion:

Although, due to constitutional provisions and interventions by government in favour of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, their level of development (on various development indicators such as education, health and economic) has improved in the post-independence period. However, due to long historical deprivation, and because of widespread discrimination and prejudice against them (Scheduled Castes and Tribes) in contemporary India, and ineffective government interventions, wide disparities between them (Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) and their non-SC/ST counterparts continue to exist in India as a whole as well as in Madhya Pradesh. The Backward character of Madhya Pradesh was reflected in terms of the lower level of development on different indicators of

development when compared with the level of development for India as a whole.

Evidence presented in this chapter shows that there are significant social group disparities in developmental outcomes in the area of education, health and economic conditions. On most of the parameters analysed in the paper, the levels of disparities in rural Madhya Pradesh are found to be worse than the level of disparities in rural India. Group-specific policies in favour of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (such as scholarship and hostel facilities to all students enrolled in educational institution to improve the education, access to health and free treatment to improve health status and distribution of land and capital and reservation in all economic, social and other sector including private sector to improve economic condition) may help to bridge existing wide social group disparities in the level of development in contemporary India and Madhya Pradesh.

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