

## Scheduled Caste Occupational Mobility: A Study in Askaranpur Magrohani Village of Sirathu Block in Kaushambi District

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### Abstract

*Occupational mobility actually modifies the real labour income and in-turn changes the socio-economic profile of an individual or a family. The occupational mobility may act as a catalyst in case of scheduled caste upliftment because they are subjugated since time immemorial. They are still engaged in low ranked fixed occupations. If they will be able to show upward occupational mobility then their social and economic status will surely be improved. But such studies on occupational mobility of scheduled caste population are meager. Thus in the present work an attempt is made to study occupational mobility and immobility of scheduled caste population. Regional analysis of occupational mobility is necessary for rational planning and legitimate minimization of regional disparities to foster a healthy and balanced development. From the results it is clear that a small proportion of scheduled caste workers shifts from agricultural sector to construction sector and service sector in the second and third generation of the selected area (fig2&3). This shows upward intergenerational occupational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani village of Sirathu block in Kaushambi District.*

**Keywords:** Occupational Mobility, Scheduled Caste Workers, Askaranpur Magrohani Village, Sirathu, Kaushambi

### Introduction

In recent years issues like discrimination especially caste discrimination and social exclusion have been discussed extensively in India. However, while the linkages between caste and society have been studied widely but the interface between caste and economy requires little more attention. The economic interpretation of the caste system is fixed economic and social right to each individual. According to Ambedkar, 1936 unlike many other societies, the Hindu social order governed by the caste system does not recognize an individual and his

distinctiveness as the centre of social purpose. The empirical studies on market discrimination will give more visibility to research on discrimination. The standard economic theory of discrimination implies that market discrimination will generate consequences that adversely affect overall economic efficiency and lower economic growth. Market discrimination in terms of occupational immobility will lead to failure of the market mechanism, which in turn induces inefficiency due to less-than-optimal allocation of labour and other factors among firms. Thus factor immobility brings gross

inefficiency in resource allocation and economic outcome (Ambedkar, 1936, 1978b). The Indian economy has witnessed substantial structural change over the last three decades. First employment generation has shifted from agriculture to services. Second, a rapid increase in the introduction of new information based technologies has occurred since 1990. Third, this has accompanied by substantial adjustments in operations and organizational re-structuring of agriculture. Thus this structural change has brought a magnificent change in the occupational structure of India and enhanced the individual as well as national income.

Occupation which affect our belief, values and preferences, and thereby our choice is a vital factor for the economic progress of any community. Thus occupation is one of the best indicators of class, because people tend to agree on the relative prestige they attach to similar jobs (Karade, 2009). Those at or near the top rung of the prestige ladder usually have the highest income, the best education, and the most of the power. According to Giddens, 2009 a famous sociologist occupation is the most critical factor in an individual's social standing, life chances and level of material comfort. Individuals in the same occupation tend to experience similar degrees of social advantage or disadvantage, maintain comparable lifestyles, and share similar opportunities in life. The people try to shift from one job to another job depending upon their circumstances and this shifting of jobs is called occupational mobility. Occupational mobility is defined as the percentage of currently employed individuals who report a current occupation different from their most recent previous report of an occupation, as

in Kambourov and Manovskii, 2004. The sociologist conceived that, as the movement from one occupational category to another, the person's category consists with the social and cultural prestige.

A micro level study on occupational mobility of scheduled caste is done by Wilson in 2004. In this study, he has analysed the effect of the change of agricultural techniques, poverty, outmigration and many other factors on the occupational mobility of scheduled caste population of two selected villages. Caste wise occupational mobility in India has been studied by Majumder, 2010. In this work he has found that only few castes among the scheduled caste people are showing upward occupational mobility.

Here occupational mobility which simply means the ability of the individual to change job after the acquisition of a new skill (Maythrew, 2005) may be useful in improving their socio-economic status as it changes the real labour earning as studied by Parrado, Cancer and Wolff, 2005. The impact of occupational mobility in Albania is studied by Carletto and Kilic in 2009. However Behrman, and Taubman in 1985 have studied intergenerational earning mobility in the United States. Corak, and Heisz in 1999 have worked upon the intergenerational earning and income mobility of Canadian men. Hnatkovska, Lahiri, and Paul in 2011 have worked upon the impact of caste on labour mobility. Haider, and Solon in 2006 have worked upon life-cycle variation in association between current and life time earnings.

The stickiness of scheduled caste people with their traditional unclean occupation is

responsible for their sluggish occupational mobility and in turn for their slow socio-economic growth. If they will be able to show upward occupational mobility then their social and economic status will surely be improved. But such studies on occupational mobility of scheduled caste population are meager. So in the present study the occupational mobility of scheduled caste population is dealt at a village level. The selected village is Askaranpur Magrohani in Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh in India. Thus this kind of studies will grove the geographical literature about the meager availability of studies on occupational mobility of scheduled caste population.

This study will surely be helpful in improving the socio-economic status of this downtrodden segment section of the Indian society who accounts for about 16 percent of the total population of India 21 percent population of Uttar Pradesh and 70 percent population of the selected village Askaranpur Magrohani.

### **Objectives**

To meet out the current problem following objectives are formulated.

- i. To explain the occupational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani village.
- ii. To find out various determinants of occupational mobility of scheduled caste population in Askaranpur Magrohani Village.
- iii. To analyse the socio-economic condition of scheduled caste population in Askaranpur Magrohani village.

### **Database and Methodology**

The present study is based on primary data generated by comprehensive survey of scheduled caste population in the Askaranpur Magrohani Village of Sirathu block of Kaushambi district carried out during April 2017. This rural survey consisted of the 25 percent of households of scheduled caste population in the village. The data regarding the occupational characteristic of four generations of scheduled caste population is obtained to find out the intergenerational occupational mobility. However, only three generations are considered to find out the inter-generational occupational mobility because the children of the fourth generation are not lying in the working age. They are below 14 years. In the intergenerational occupational mobility the occupational structure of total workers of a generation is compared with the occupational structure of the workers of its previous generation and finally its percentage is calculated. However respondents are not changing their occupations over different period of times so no intra-generational occupational mobility can be calculated. Apart from it data regarding the demographic and socio-economic characteristics are also obtained through this household survey.

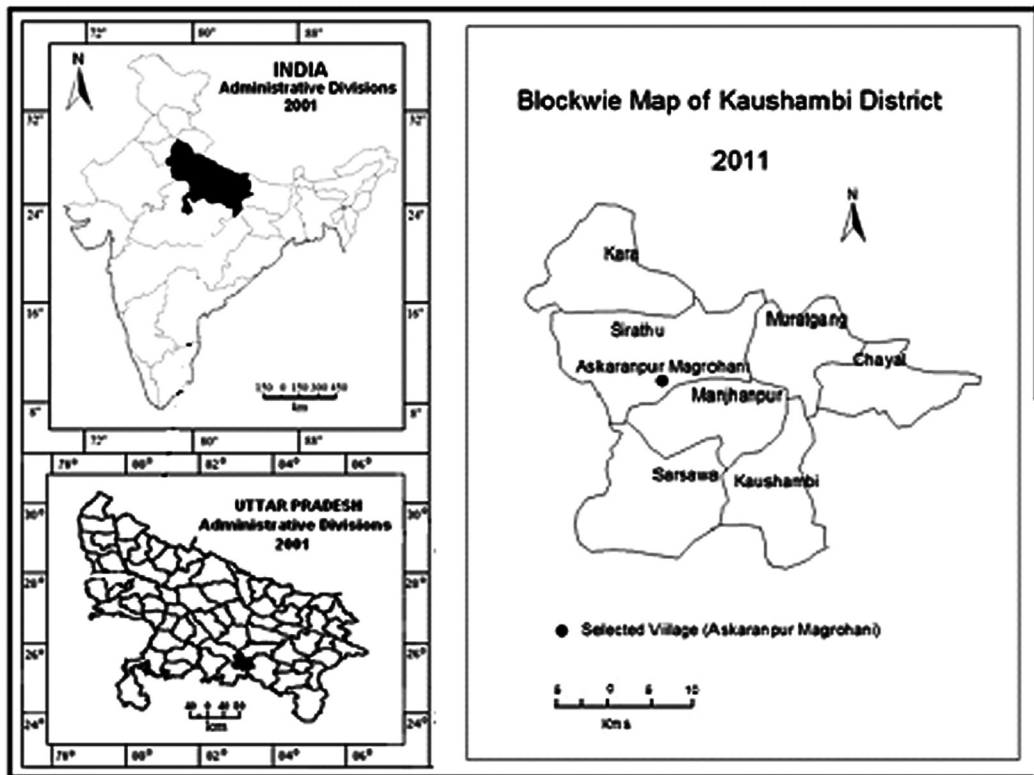


Fig. 1 : Location Map of Study Area

#### 4. Discussion

##### i. Types of Occupational Mobility

Jhilam, Majumder and Rajarshi, 2010 in their work they have observed that advance classes are showing vertical occupational mobility, whereas, excluded classes are showing much of their occupational mobility in lateral direction. Occupational mobility is studied in different manner and according to their nature they are categorised into following groups.

##### a. Intergenerational Occupational Mobility

In the inter-generational occupational mobility, the worker changes their occupation compared to the occupation of their fathers (Miller, 1960). In the inter-generational occupational mobility, it should be examined whether father influences occupational position of the son / daughter. From the table 1 it is clear that in the first generation of scheduled caste population

only 5 percent males were cultivators whereas no female of this generation was lying in this category. Most of the scheduled caste people whether it is male or female are working as agricultural labourer. Their share is 25 for male and 20 for female of this first generation. Apart from it 2 percent among the males and 1 percent among the females are working as labourers in the construction work. However, only 4 percent among the males and 2 percent females of this generation are involved in low ranked service sector like sweeper, gardener, dyers etc. In the low ranked government sector only 1 percent among the males is absorbed but no female lies at this rung (as shown in the fig.2&3).

In the second generation, the job profile of the scheduled caste shows only a little up-gradation. A significant percent of people have shifted from agriculture sector to construction sector and service sector. The in-depth analysis of the table shows that 1 percent loss and 0.5 gain of cultivators is observed among the scheduled caste males and females of the second generation from its previous generation. From the data it is clear that 5 percent male workers have

slipped from the category of agricultural labourer whereas, the percentage of female workers in this sector remains the same. However, 3 percent addition is observed in the category of construction labourers for both males and females. One percent male workers have occupied a new category i.e., contractor with no female in this category. In the low ranked government sector 1 percent males are added with no females in this group.

From the results it is clear that in the third generation the proportion of cultivators remains the same for male and female population however, 2 percent of female workers have slipped from the category of agricultural labourer with no change in the proportion of male population in this group. In the construction sector 2 per cent and 1 percent gain is observed in the category of male and female construction labourers and 1 percent gain in the category of male contractor. It is also visible from the table that no change is observed in the category of service providers or low ranked government sector in the third generation from its previous generation.

Table 1: Inter Generational Occupational Mobility of Scheduled Caste Population in Askaranpur Magrohani Village of Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh, 2017

	I Generation						II Generation						III Generation					
Gender	Culti-vators	Agri Lab	Const Lab	Con-tractor	Service providers (Gar-deniers, Sweep-ers)	Low ranked govt sector	Culti-vators	Agri Lab	Const Lab	Con-tractor	Service providers (Gar-deniers, Sweep-ers)	Low ranked govt sector	Culti-vators	Agri Lab	Const Lab	Con-tractor	Service providers (Gar-deniers, Sweep-ers)	Low ranked govt sector
Male	5	25	2	x	4	1	4	20	5	1	4	2	4	20	7	2	4	1
Female	x	20	1	x	2	x	0.5	20	4	x	2	x	x	18	5	x	2	x
Total	3	22	1.5	x	3	0.5	2.5	19.5	4.5	0.5	3	1	2	19	6	1	3	0.5

Source: Based on calculation of the data generated by field survey conducted by researcher

(Generation I Grand Father and Grand Mother, Generation II Father and Mother Generation III Son and Daughter Generation IV (not included here as they are not in the age of working population) Grand Son and Grand Daughter)

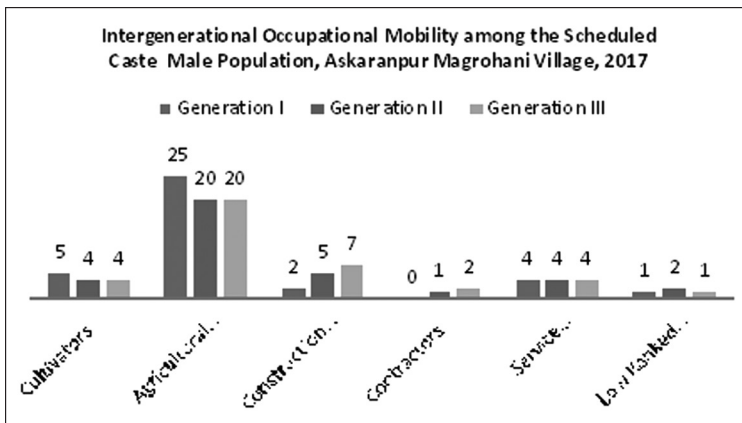


Fig. 2

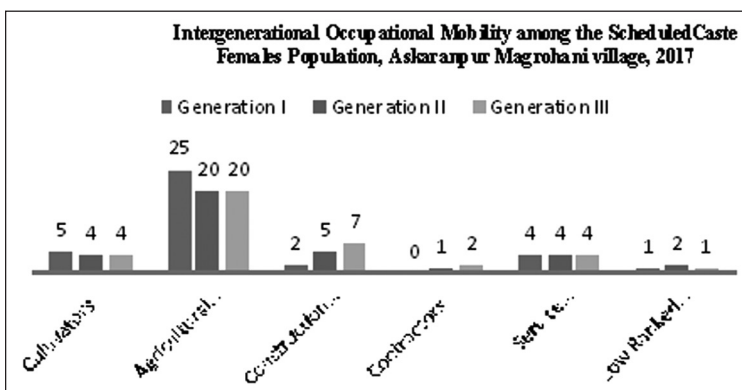


Fig. 3

The shift of a small proportion of scheduled caste workers from agricultural sector to construction sector and service sector in the second and third generation (fig2&3) records the upward intergenerational occupational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani village of Sirathu block of Kaushambi District.

#### b. Intra generational Occupational Mobility

From the collected data it is clear that the respondents are not changing their occupation at different time interval. This means that intra-generational occupational mobility is not seen in case of scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani village



## ii. Determinant of Occupational Mobility

### A. Demographic Determinants

#### a. Gender

Migration experience has positive impact on occupational mobility more specifically on upward occupational mobility. Literature on migration suggests that men are more likely to move for economic reasons and women for family reasons, and that, men are more mobile than women (De Jong et al., 1986; Anyanwu, 1992). It is clear from the household survey of scheduled caste of Askaranpur Magrohani village that 80 percent of the total young scheduled caste males have migrated either to other part of the same city (Manjhanpur Kaushmbi city) or other neighbouring cities like (Allahabad) as they are working as labourers or they got the service of sweeper in government institution or private institutions.

The women are showing low occupation mobility as mostly women prioritize their families over their professional careers, and activity decisions often constrained by patriarchal norms and family models pervasive in their villages. (Macias, Grande, Poveda and Anton, 2014). From the household survey scheduled caste of **Askaranpur Magrohani** village, it is clear that 40 percent of the females has migrated among which 35 percent accompanied their husbands as non workers and 5 percent migrated alone as they are separated or they are old females is just because they don't have any other member in the family to look after them here in the **Askaranpur Magrohani** village.

## b. Economic Determinants

### i. Change in the Economy and Polity

Traditionally, village economies have been shielded from fluctuations in external markets and therefore instability is an inevitable result of agrarian life in an unfavourable climate, with sporadic rainfall and steady increases in population size relative to arable land. The land reform has allocated only a very small patch of agricultural land to the scheduled caste population of the **Askaranpur Magrohani** village on which they are living. Diversification is an important analytical tool to monitor livelihood and socio-economic mobility and in turn occupational dynamism. That is why majority of them are rearing cattle few of them are also having the horse cart to carry freight. Households rarely drop an activity completely, but will gradually take up new activities or slowly reduce involvement in other activities in response to short-term shocks or longer-term trends. Increased labour market participation is often a response to a short-term shock. However, such responses often influence future behaviour over the longer term, as households become accustomed to earn from the additional source Wilson, 2011: 35. It is clear from the photographs given below that scheduled caste people of the study area are trying to earn money from the other sources rather than solely depending upon their main occupation.



## **ii. Level of Income**

It is the level of income that largely determines the occupational mobility. The main target occupational shift of most of the people is better salary. The migrated adult males as labourers, sweeper or dyers from Askaranpur Magrohani is just as they are earning more there as compared to the village.

## **iii. Landownership**

Land ownership positively influences the upward mobility, though at a decreasing rate. This seems to indicate the importance of household asset position to exhibit mobility gains over time, with the implication that at the higher end of the land ownership spectrum, individuals are likely to stay in agriculture and exhibit immobility over time or downgrade to agriculture from higher occupational category (Carletto and Kilic, 2009:18). In case of scheduled caste people of Askaranpur Magrohani village they do not possess sufficient agricultural land. They only got a small patches of agricultural land through the land ceiling derive of government.

## **c. Social Determinants**

### **i. Level of Literacy and Education**

It is found that level of education and nature of employment are closely associated (Chandna, 1989). Education is a vital factor in the social transformation of a society and its economic amelioration (Sachchidananda, 1977). It is clear from the researches that education helps to increase the probability of occupational upgrading. Those who have more education may find better occupational opportunities at the destination simply

because they meet skill and educational requirements. They also may have more and better information to take action which promotes their mobility. Among the various human capital resources, education has been consistently found as the dominant factor that has positive and monotonic relation with occupational mobility of migrants (Stepick and Portes, 1986; Raijman and Semyonov, 1995). Harper (1995) focuses on occupational quits in Britain as opposed to occupational upgrading. Education level has a positive impact on the probability of upward mobility from bottom and reduces the likelihood of downward mobility of both men and women (Macias, Grande, Poveda, and Anton, 2014). He finds that young and more educated individuals are more likely to change occupations. It is observed that education has helped in occupational mobility.

Low education of scheduled caste people augmented with poverty and traditional social system, force them to continue their traditional employment from the childhood. As far as the education of the adult scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani is concern it is negligible only 10 per cent of the total adult population is literate and all of them are only primary literates.

### **ii. General Health Conditions and Longevity**

General standard of health of the people, being an index of their vitality, not only influences the participation rate of population in economic activities but also effects the possibility of occupational change up to limited extent. It is expected that social groups with good general health conditions show a higher participation rate than a social

group with poor health conditions (Liang and Lu, 2014). From the household survey it was observed that one of the scheduled caste boy is physically challenged in the village one is having some neurological disorder 2 males are suffering from chronic respiratory disorder, one female is having some liver problem. These poor scheduled caste people generally borrow money on interest from the rich upper class people. Which further entangle them in the poverty web.

### iii. Social Networking

A strengthening of caste based networks of scheduled could have been at play during this period. The caste based networks can often form quickly amongst the more disadvantaged groups in order to help them escape low-skill occupation traps. It is visible from the allotment of small contract to the 4 members of the same scheduled caste family. The reason for this is that the beneficiary family has 2 sons who are working in different part of the city or neighboring city have better connections at local administrative level.

### Conclusions

The empirical evidences presented in this paper contends that occupational distribution depending upon the caste is not the problem of past or the incidental force creating inequality, but an active agent in growing the gap between those at the top and those at the bottom of Indian Society.

The results confirm that considerable intergenerational occupational persistence—across all occupational categories, the father's category is the most likely one that a son could find himself. But they are not untouched by the waves of occupational

mobility. The shift of a small proportion of scheduled caste workers from agricultural sector to construction sector and service sector in the second and third generation (fig. 2 & 3) records the upward intergenerational occupational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani village of Sirathu block of Kaushambi District.

### Acknowledgement

The researcher expresses her sincere gratitude to University Grant Commission, New Delhi for giving the financial assistance to conduct this research work.

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