



## CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIOECONOMIC MOBILITY AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES

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### **Abstract**

In the midst of debates of reservations and their efficiency, the focus should also be centered on the avenues open for Scheduled Castes for acquiring socioeconomic mobility with respect to the Indian social structure. The factors responsible for social transformation of Scheduled Castes include social processes such as (Sanskritization, Westernization, and Industrialization) and the preferential treatment of weaker sections through reserved seats in government jobs, higher educational institutes and in constituent assembly. These channels of securing socioeconomic mobility by Scheduled Castes envisaged their development through amending their statuses and roles enforced under traditional caste order. The acquisition of political power, educational improvement and occupational change became the major assets for upward mobility of Scheduled Castes. But the process of social transformation through mobility is non-uniform at sub-caste level among Scheduled Castes. The non-uniformity in the extent of mobility attained by each sub-caste group is perceptible at their receiving ends.

**Key Words:** Mobility, Scheduled Caste, Education, Mobilisation

### **Introduction**

'Scheduled Castes' is a constitutional category comprising those groups of people notified as 'untouchables', 'panchamas', 'depressed or exterior classes' in pre-Vedic times. They embodied lowest place in socioeconomic, political and religious chain of command. Scheduled Castes constituted that section of people surrounded with limited opportunities in the demand structure of society. From past few years several attempts have been made by Scheduled Castes for improving their subjugated position either through 1) raised socio-political consciousness and awareness about their rights and 2) through processes like Sanskritization, Westernization, and Protective and Compensatory discriminatory measures stimulating mobility in socioeconomic and political sphere. The upward mobility of Scheduled Castes resulted in a kind of social change manifested in their respective positions. Mobility (at caste or at individual level) closely intersects with the degree of social change conveyed at different channels of one's life.

The aim of this article is to analyze the degree of trend and pattern of socioeconomic mobility probing the level of uniformity attained by various sub-caste groups among Scheduled Castes. The central argument of this chapter is systematically examining the impact and consequences of mobility on Scheduled Castes groups. It will further divide into several sections while focusing on the theoretical understanding of 'socioeconomic mobility' with specific reference to India. Second section will explain the interplay between the mobility and social change; through the studies focusing on change in status of scheduled caste groups, Third section will show the differential degree of trend and pattern of mobility in India among Scheduled Castes groups, Fourth