

Social Inclusion

S e c t o r R e p o r t



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PREFACE

The Government of India (GoI) spends close to Rs. 14 lakh crores annually on development activities, through nearly 750 schemes implemented by Union Ministries. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public finance, and the quality of service-delivery to citizens, all schemes have been mandated to undergo third party evaluations, to provide an evidentiary foundation for scheme continuation from 2021-22 to 2025-26. In 2019, the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog was assigned the task of evaluating 28 Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes (UCSS), which are schemes/programmes funded jointly by the Centre and the States and implemented by the States. This historic exercise, undertaken between April 2019 and February 2021, evaluated 125 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), under 10 Sectors, together covering close to 30% of the GoI's development expenditure, amounting to approximately Rs. 3 lakh crore (USD 43 billion) per annum.

In order to fulfil this mandate to the highest standard possible, to optimize both the robustness and the uptake of the evidence generated, DMEO adopted a nationally representative mixed methods evaluation methodology and a consultative review process for the reports. Through qualitative and quantitative analysis of secondary literature, analysis was done at three levels: the sector, the umbrella CSS and the scheme itself. The studies thus produced then underwent a review process involving consultations with NITI Aayog subject matter divisions, concerned Ministries and Departments, and external experts.

The present report is an outcome of this evaluation study and presents an analysis of the Social Inclusion Sector based on primary and secondary data collection. In this Report, we seek to cover the Social Inclusion and allied sector in India, identifying the intended and actual contribution of GoI schemes to sector outcomes. This includes areas for more focused effort to achieve national priorities/SDGs. It also identifies opportunities for convergence of the schemes within the sector to other developmental programmes of the Central and the State Governments as well as with private sector, corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, international, multilateral and bilateral aid, etc.

We hope that this Report will further our understanding of the Social Inclusion Sector and help us move towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Development Agenda, to promote the well-being of all sovereign citizens of India.

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List of Abbreviations

ACDC	Awareness-cum-De-addiction Camps	MoMA	Ministry of Minority Affairs
AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Sciences	MoSJE	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
BE	Budget Estimate	MoSPI	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
BJRCY	Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana	NA	Notional Allocation
BPL	Below Poverty Line	NAPDDR	National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction
CAG	Comptroller and Auditor General	NBCFDC	National Backward Caste Finance and Development Corporation
CHCs	Community Health Centers	NCDAP	National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention
CMR	Centre for Market Research	NCRB	National Crime Record Bureau
CoC	Core of Core	NDDTC	National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre
CPR	Centre for Policy Research	NE	North East
CrPC	Code of Criminal Procedure	NFHS	National Family Health Survey
CSS	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
CS	Central Sector	NIC	National Informatics Centre
DAMS	Drug Abuse Monitoring System	NISD	National Institute for Social Defence
DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer	NOCs	No Objection Certificates
DLC	District Level Committees	NSFDC	National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation
DNT/S-NT or DNTs	De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes	NSFQ	National Skill Qualification Framework
EBC	Economically Backward Class	NSP	National Scholarship Portal
EWS	Economically Weaker Section	NSSO	National Sample Survey Office
FCC	Finance Commission Cycle	NYKS	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
FY	Financial Year	O&M	Operations and Maintenance
GER	Gross Enrollment Ratio	OBCs	Other Backward Classes
GIA	Grant in Aid	OBCFDCC	Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Co-operative Corporation
GoI	Government of India	ODF	Open Defecation Free
HH	Household	OVGs	Other Vulnerable Groups
IDUs	Injecting Drug Users	PAC	Project Approval Committee
IEDSS	Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage	PBA	Per Beneficiary Amount
IPC	Indian Penal Code	PFMS	Public Financial Management System
IRCAAs	Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts	PHCs	Primary Health Centers
KII	Key Informant Interviews	PLFS	Periodic Labour Force Survey
KPI	Key Performance Indicators		
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs		
MIS	Management Information System		
MoE	Ministry of Education		

PMJVK	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram
PMMY	Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
PMS	Post-Matric Scholarship
PMS-SC	Post Matric Scholarship for SC Students
PMU	Project Monitoring Unit
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRIs	Panchayati Raj Institutions
PwD	Person with Disability
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
R&D	Research and Development
RE	Revised Estimate
REESIE	Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Impact and Equity
RRTCs	Regional Resource and Training Centers
RTI	Right to Information
SC	Scheduled Castes
SCA	Special Central Assistance
SCA to SCSP	Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan
SCDC	Scheduled Castes Development Corporation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLL	Special and Local Laws
SLVMC	State Level Monitoring Vigilance Committee
ST	Scheduled Tribes
TSP	Tribal Sub Plan
TSU	Technical Support Unit
UCs	Utilization Certificates
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes
UR	Unemployment Rate
UTs	Union Territories
VO	Voluntary Organizations
WHO	World Health Organizations
WPP	Workplace Prevention Programme
WPR	Work Participation Rate
WPR	Whole Person Recovery

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Sector Analysis

1 Background of the Sector

This section aims to set the context for the evaluation study by providing a broad conceptual framework for defining and understanding ‘social inclusion’ as a sector in its multiple dimensions. It further attempts to provide a specific overview of the social inclusion sector in India in terms of identifying key socially excluded groups, their degree of social exclusion, highlighting issues and underlying factors for social exclusion and the role of key stakeholders and institutions, including state and non-state actors, which have shaped the sector’s evolution in India. Most importantly, the sector analysis aims to identify and analyse the gaps that still remain to be addressed for the various socially excluded groups in the country and provides key recommendations for strengthening this sector in the country. This analysis has been conducted utilizing the World Bank Inclusion Framework and using Markets, Spaces and Services as the guiding denominators, additionally it is informed by international and national literature review pertaining to social inclusion and exclusion, to provide a holistic perspective on the sector.

1.1. Background

Terms such as ‘inclusive growth’ or ‘social inclusion’ have now become part of the common lexicon of governments and other development agencies across the globe. This theme has gained currency in recent times owing to major socio-economic transitions and trends that the world has been witnessing in recent times. Several factors such as demographic shifts, economic volatility, climate change, food price shocks, armed conflict, civil protests, human migration and the recent COVID-19 pandemic are creating tremendous pressure on societies globally. These factors are disproportionately impacting socially disadvantaged groups by exacerbating existing marginalization and vulnerabilities, thus creating an urgent need to address the issue of social exclusion.

The United Nations Secretary-General, during the launch of a COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan on 23 March 2020 said, *“We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable – millions upon millions of people who are least able to protect themselves. This is a matter of basic human solidarity. It is also crucial for combating the virus. This is the moment to step up for the vulnerable.”*

Social Inclusion is integral to the vision for New India and it is a core theme of the Government of India’s development agenda. NITI Aayog, in its *Strategy for New India@75*, has clearly defined objectives for India to achieve by the year 2022-23, one of which is to build an inclusive society.² The COVID-19 crisis has further highlighted the need for strong social protection measures covering different vulnerable groups across the country.

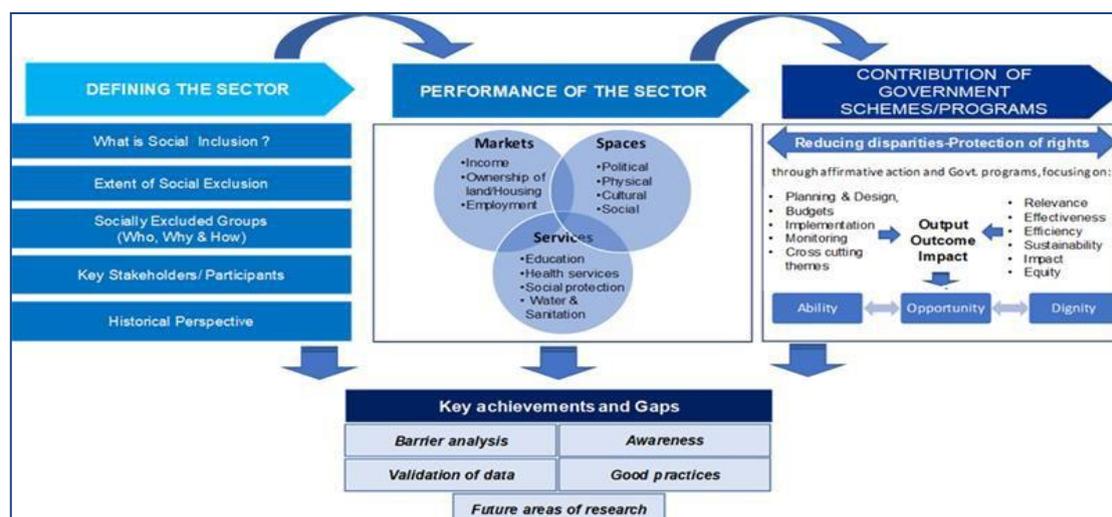
1.2. Framework for Sector Analysis

For social inclusion, different scholars have propounded different methodologies and approaches. Burchardt et al proposed an outcome-based approach for understanding social inclusion by studying the individual’s participation across five parameters (consumption, savings,

² NITI Aayog (2018), [Strategy for New India @ 75](#), Last accessed on 30th April 2020

production, political and social).³ Scholars such as Graham Room and Gore & Figueiredo propounded a rights-based approach to the issue of social exclusion, analyzing from the lens of enforcement of civil, political and social rights of citizenship.⁴ Graham Room shifted from the concept of poverty associated solely with income and expenditure towards a concept of social exclusion as a “multidimensional, dynamic and relational concept”, which further helped shed light on social and health inequalities.⁵ Experts such as Amartya Sen and Michael Mann adopted a relational perspective on the issue. Sen studied it as the disadvantage faced by socially excluded groups from being denied the shared opportunities enjoyed by other groups and Mann tried to understand it from an individual’s placement in the social network built on power dynamics.⁶ Naila Kabeer has advocated for inter-sectional analytical framework for social inclusion, examining it as “the product of institutional processes, group dynamics and social practices”.⁷ To ensure consistency of applicability, adoption, relativity and comparison, the evaluation team has referenced the literature on social inclusion widely and adapted the World Bank framework on social inclusion⁸ to present a coherent conceptual framework for sector analysis. The framework broadly covers the key aspects of social inclusion, in terms of defining it, analyzing its performance and progress (demand-side factors) and also capturing the contribution of the government’s affirmative actions and schemes in terms of improving the sector outcomes (supply-side factors) leading to conclusions in terms of achievements and remaining gaps. The schematic representation of the framework is presented in *Figure 2*.

Figure 2: Framework for Sector Analysis



Source: KPMG Analysis

³ Burchardt, Tania, Julian Le Grand, David Piachaud, (2002), [Social Exclusion in Britain 1991-1995](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

⁴ Janie Mathieson et al, (2008), Social Exclusion: Meaning, measurement and experience and links to health inequalities – A review of literature, Last accessed on 26th September 2020; Klasen, Stephen, (2002), [Social exclusion and children in OECD countries: some conceptual issues](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

⁵ Janie Mathieson et al, (2008), Social Exclusion: Meaning, measurement and experience and links to health inequalities – A review of literature, Last accessed on 26th September 2020

⁶ ibid

⁷ Naila Kabeer (2000), IDS Bulletin, [Social Exclusion, Poverty and Discrimination: Towards an Analytical Framework](#), Last accessed on 30th April 2020

⁸ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, The World Bank (2013), [Inclusion Matters: The foundation for shared prosperity](#), Last accessed on 30th April 2020

The sector analysis has been undertaken by applying the conceptual framework above and its key components are elaborated below:

Firstly, the sector has been defined based on what constitutes social exclusion, who the socially excluded or vulnerable groups are and why they have remained excluded. The key stakeholders including governments, private sector, NGOs/CSOs and other development agencies and their role in terms of addressing the issue has been highlighted. This section also presents a historical perspective on interventions made to reduce social exclusion or promote social inclusion in the country.

In the next step, the framework elucidates how social exclusion manifests into systematic deprivation of the vulnerable groups. It does this through analyzing the performance of marginalized groups on various socio-economic indicators in comparison with the general population across the domains of Markets, Services and Spaces to comment on the extent of social exclusion.

The next component on affirmative action/scheme analysis focuses on the outputs and outcomes of the government interventions and how they have contributed towards enhancing the ability, opportunity and dignity of the socially excluded population and led to the reduction of social exclusion in terms of one of two broad level sector outcomes: reducing disparities and protection of rights.

Finally, the concluding section of the analysis highlights the achievements and gaps to be further addressed. This section also focuses on barrier analysis, identification of future areas of research and identification of good practices, etc. to draw conclusions and takeaways for the evaluation.

1.3. Social Inclusion and Exclusion

The term 'social inclusion' traces its origin to several theoretical constructs of social welfare that straddle diverse disciplines of development economics, political science, sociology and philosophy. However, the term has come to assume a wide array of connotations globally for different stakeholder groups and across different geographical regions.

The World Bank Group defines social inclusion as "the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society". It involves "improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society".⁹ A fair society offers equal opportunities to all its members; however, various social groups continue to be excluded or are at a disadvantage owing to their identity which includes gender, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, geographical location, sexual orientation, economic or disability status, among others.

Social exclusion has a strong correlation to poverty as it creates interrelated, multidimensional and chronic deprivations. According to Silver, "Social exclusion is usually defined as a dynamic process of progressive multidimensional rupturing of the 'social bond' at the individual and

⁹ Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, World Bank (2019), [Social Inclusion](#). Last accessed on 12th April 2020

collective levels”.¹⁰ It encompasses various forms of social disadvantages including lack of access to quality education, health, and housing, in addition to material poverty. Social exclusion results from a failure of a society to grant equitable access and recognition to different spheres of life such as education, health, job opportunities and resources, etc.”.¹¹ Amartya Sen has aptly observed that “Social exclusion can, thus, be constitutively a part of capability deprivation as well as instrumentally a cause of diverse capability failures”.¹² De Haan also propounded that social exclusion depicts both the multidimensional outcomes as well as the processes of deprivation.¹³ According to various theorists, social exclusion is a process rather than an outcome and due to the multidimensional nature of this process, there is an interaction of multiple dimensions of disadvantage which may reinforce one another, thereby exacerbating the impact.

Exclusion from society in all its dimensions has adverse and debilitating effects on human capital development as it exacts substantial social, economic and political costs. Inequitable growth and rising inequality can threaten the social fabric of any society and provides drivers for social unrest and rising crime due to their self-reinforcing and cumulative impact. India’s widening inequalities in terms of income and access to basic services are further aggravating the historical divisions of class, caste, gender and other social identities.

Social exclusion may be erroneously interpreted to be the same as poverty and income inequality and, as an extension, social inclusion may be viewed as being limited only to financial inclusion. The term social inclusion, however, transcends the elimination of poverty and requires that the broader issue of social exclusion be addressed. It is important not only in terms of economic rights and opportunities but also in terms of voice and empowerment of all social groups.¹⁴ Social inclusion in many cases may not be about economic or income disparity at all, for instance discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) is practiced commonly even in many high-income developed societies against high-income individuals.

As per a World Bank Group publication,¹⁵ a sustainable path toward ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity would also involve creating an inclusive society, not only in terms of economic welfare but also in terms of the voice and empowerment of all groups. An inclusive society must have institutions, structures and processes that empower local communities, so they can hold their governments accountable. It also requires the participation of all groups in society, including traditionally marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities and indigenous populations, in decision-making processes.

Social inclusion perpetuates social justice, which is both a process and a goal.¹⁶ The aim of social justice is to ensure that each individual, irrespective of their caste, sex, race or other identity, has an equal opportunity to be a contributing member of society. It aims at ensuring equal access to

¹⁰ Silver, Hilary, (2007), [The Process of Social Exclusion: The Dynamics of an Evolving Concept](#), Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

¹¹ C.J. Sonowal, TISS, (2017), [Indian Tribes and Issue of Social Inclusion and Exclusion](#) Last accessed on 12th April 2020

¹² Sen, Amartya, Office of Environment and Social Development, Asian Development Bank, (2000), [Social Exclusion: Concept, Application and Scrutiny](#), Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

¹³ de Haan, Arjan, (1999), DFID London, Social Exclusion: Towards a Holistic Understanding of Deprivation, Last accessed on 26th September 2020

¹⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (2019), [Analyzing and Measuring Social Inclusion in a Global Context](#) Last accessed on 12th April 2020

¹⁵ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank (2013), [Inclusion Matters: The foundation for shared prosperity](#) Last accessed on 12th April 2020

¹⁶ Adams, M., Bell, L. A., & Griffin, P. (Eds.). (2007). [Teaching for diversity and social justice](#) (2nd ed.) New York, NY: Routledge, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

opportunities for all, thereby advancing their growth and development. It ensures access to quality resources such as education, healthcare and employment. Social justice is achieved when the limitations set by society no longer prevent an individual's success and growth.

A socially just environment is one in which the primary hindrances to growth are one's own lack of capabilities or potential to succeed, or uncontrollable events, as societal systems are conducive to development. The process of attaining social justice should also be one which is participatory, inclusive, and affirming of human agency and capacities for working collaboratively to create change.

1.4. Extent of Social Exclusion

Human societies across nations and cultures practice social discrimination and exclusion based on the identities of individuals or groups. Caste, ethnicity, religion, gender, age and disability status are the most common basis for such identity-based discrimination.

Socially excluded populations exist in one form or another in every country, big and small, developed or developing, and democratic or otherwise. For example, in a country like Vietnam, which has otherwise made considerable progress on poverty reduction, its indigenous people have a much lower likelihood of being covered under health programmes or receiving necessary vaccinations.¹⁷ During the financial crisis of 2008, African Americans in the United States were twice as likely to be unemployed as the white population.¹⁸ The ethnic minority of Quechua-speaking women in Bolivia were found to have a 28 percent lower chance to complete secondary school than Spanish-speaking Bolivian men.¹⁹

In countries across the world, excluded social groups are systemically denied or deprived of the benefits that accrue from development investments. For example, in Uganda where access to electricity among households is generally low, less than five percent of the minority Lugbara and Ngakaramajong populations reported having access to electricity as compared with almost 50 percent of the majority Buganda group who were surveyed.²⁰ A similar picture emerged when it came to the issue of access to clean water.

While over the decades, several indices have been developed to measure human development, welfare, happiness and wealth, effective measurement of the social, economic and political costs of social exclusion is still challenging. Despite methodological constraints, some attempts have been made. In this regard, some World Bank studies have found that occupational segregation can restrict free movement of talent and resources in an economy that can result in sizeable productivity losses to the entire economy.²¹ A study undertaken in Romania on the impact of exclusion of the ethnic minority Roma indicated a cost of 887 million euros in lost productivity annually. Similar studies in Bolivia showed that exclusion of ethnic minorities affected agricultural productivity by almost 36 percent. Other recent studies have indicated that disabled

¹⁷ Målqvist, Mats et al., [Ethnic minority health in Vietnam: a review exposing horizontal inequity](#), (2013), Global Health Action vol. 6 1-19, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

¹⁸ Andy Kroll, [The African American Jobs Crisis and the New Jim Crow](#), (2011), Race, Poverty & the Environment Vol. 18, No. 2

¹⁹Footnote 17, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

²⁰ Footnote 17

²¹ The World Bank, Policy Research Working Paper 8583, (2018), [Occupational Segregation and Declining Gender Wage Gap](#), Last accessed on 12th April 2020

children have a lower probability to start school than children without disabilities and have lower retention rates when compared.²²

1.5. Extent of Social Exclusion in India

In Indian society, the social classes are divided based on the caste system, wherein everyone is ascribed a caste based on the family they are born into.²³ This is known to be among the world's oldest and longest surviving form of social stratification and also of "human oppression, subjugation and degradation"²⁴. In India, some of the key segments which face social injustice and exclusion, based on their identity at birth, are the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST)²⁵ and Other Backward Classes (OBC). These groups of people are systemically denied rights and opportunities based on their caste at birth. According to the Census 2011,²⁶ these vulnerable groups together constituted about 70 percent of India's total population.

Over the decades, India has witnessed a major reduction in multi-dimensional poverty. According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2018 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), India has made noteworthy progress in reducing multidimensional poverty.²⁷ 271 million people moved out of poverty between 2005 and 2016 in India. The poor, as per the MPI, in India stood at approximately 640 million between 2005-2006 which accounted for 55.1 percent of the total population. This has reduced to 364 million people or 27.9 percent people living in poverty in 2015-2016.²⁸

Even though the traditionally disadvantaged groups across states, castes, religions and ages have experienced the maximum decrease in Multidimensional Poverty Index through the decade, indicating that they have been moving up, they continue to remain amongst the poorest strata of the society. A study analysing the India Human Development Survey (IHDS 2011) data showed that the annual income of SC and ST households are respectively at 80 percent and 70 percent of the average annual household income at an all India level. Furthermore, average income of OBC and Muslim households is comparatively better, at 90 percent of the overall average income. In contrast, forward castes (*Brahmins* and *Non-Brahmins*) have 1.4 times the average household income.²⁹ The same study also analysed the wealth/assets across the social groups, using the same data, and found that STs, SCs and Muslims had lower assets than the average household whereas forward castes had more assets compared to the average household showcasing significant disparities between the lower and upper castes, thus perpetuating caste-based disadvantage.

²² Footnote 20

²³ B. R. Suryawanshi, Nishikant Dhande, ResearchGate (2013), [Socio-Economic Development among Scheduled Castes: A Study of Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation in Select District of Maharashtra](#). Last accessed on 12th April 2020

²⁴ Yengde, Suraj, Penguin Random House India Private Limited, (2019), *Caste Matters*, last accessed on 19th September 2020

²⁵ C.J. Sonowal (2008), [Indian Tribes and Issue of Social Inclusion and Exclusion](#), *Studies of Tribes and Tribals*, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

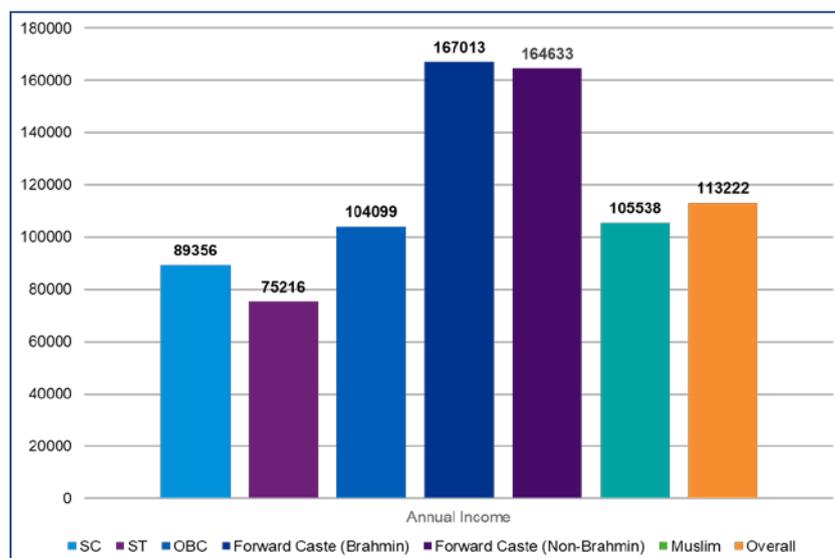
²⁶ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#). Last accessed on 19th February 2020

²⁷ Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, (2018), [Global MPI 2018](#). Last accessed on 12th April 2020

²⁸ UNDP (2018), [271 million fewer poor people in India](#). Last accessed on 31st Apr 2020

²⁹ Bharti, Nitin Kumar, (2018), [Wealth Inequality, Class and Caste in India, 1961-2012](#). Last accessed on 22nd Sep 2020

Figure 3: Comparison of income across social groups, in Indian Rupees



Source: Bharti, Nitin Kumar, (2018), *Wealth Inequality, Class and Caste in India, 1961-2012*

SCs, STs, OBCs, Safai Karamcharis, De-notified Tribes (DNTs), Notified Tribes (NTs) and Semi-notified Tribes (SNTs) belong to the poorest economic strata of Indian society and face severe economic and social exclusion, segregation in housing, denial, and restrictions of access to public and private services and employment.³⁰ They tend to constitute a substantial proportion of casual labour in the country. In a breakdown analysis of caste data in public and private sector, it was found that discrimination accounts for 19.4 percent and 31.7 percent lower wages for SC in the public and private sectors respectively when compared to the higher castes.³¹ This shows that unequal labour market outcomes are caused due to systemic inequalities in a caste-based society. Backward classes such as SCs face extreme exclusion from society in terms of access to education, healthcare, government services, markets, employment and use of land and water resources.³²

Although major progress has been made in reducing multidimensional poverty in India, acute deprivation is prevalent in nutrition, health, school education and sanitation for 364 million Indians. More than half of all multidimensionally poor individuals in India live in the four poorest states – Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.³³ These constitute 196 million multidimensionally poor people. There is, however, accelerated progress in many states. For instance, Jharkhand recorded the maximum strides among all states in reducing multidimensional poverty. Similarly, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Nagaland and Bihar have also made significant strides.³⁴ Poor nutrition is the main reason which contributes majorly towards the MPI across most of the states.³⁵ This is followed by no family member holding a minimum of six years of education as another contributing factor. There has been a reduction in

³⁰ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (2017), [National Commission for DNT and Semi-Nomadic Tribes. Idate Commission](#), Last accessed on 13th April 2020

³¹ Singhari, S., & Madheswaran, S., Working Paper 361, The Institute for Social and Economic Change (2016), [Social Exclusion And Caste Discrimination in Public and Private Sectors in India : A Decomposition Analysis](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

³² Pradeep. B Kadun, Ravindra Gadkar, ResearchGate (2014), [Social Exclusion –Its types and impact on Dalits in India](#), Last accessed on 12th April 2020

³³ UNDP (2019), [2019 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\)](#), Last accessed on 12th April 2020

³⁴ Footnote 32

³⁵ Footnote 32

the nutrition deprivation in India from 44.3 percent to 21.2 percent in 2005-06 and 2015-16 respectively. Besides this, there has been a decrease in the rate of child mortality from 4.5 percent in 2005-06 to 2.2 percent in 2015-16. There has also been a decrease of several challenges such as deprivation of cooking fuel, sanitation and safe drinking water. **Table 5** shows the reduction rate of several different parameters which contribute towards the concept of multidimensional poverty.

Table 5: Status of Deprivation in India

S. No	Category	Year 2005-06	Year 2015-16
1	Deprivation of nutrition	44.3 percent	21.2 percent
2	Child Mortality Rate	4.5 percent	2.2 percent
3	Deprivation of cooking fuel	52.9 percent	26.2 percent
4	Deprivation in sanitation	50.4 percent	24.6 percent
5	Deprivation of safe drinking water	16.6 percent	6.2 percent
6	Deprivation of electricity	29.1 percent	8.6 percent
7	Deprivation of housing	44.9 percent	23.6 percent
8	Deprivation of assets	37.6 percent	9.5 percent

Source: Global Multidimensional Poverty Index-2018 by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

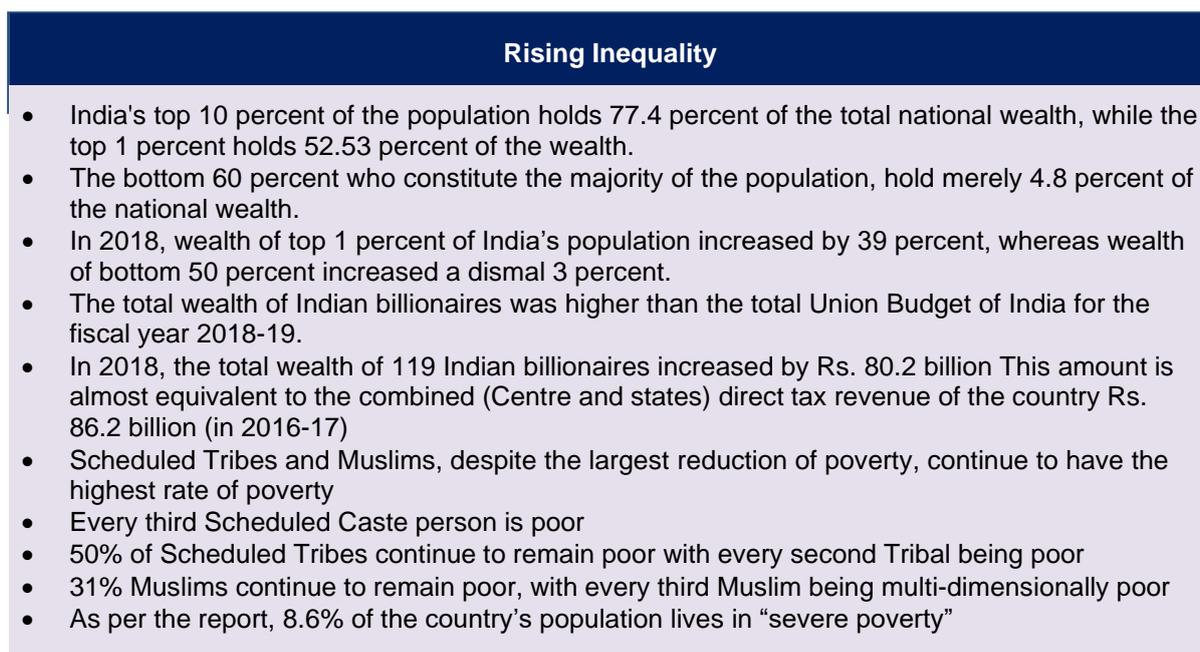
While multidimensional poverty has reduced in India significantly, inequality has been rising sharply. Chancel and Piketty's analysis of income inequality in India from 1922 to 2015 reveal that the accrual of national income by the top one percent earners is at its highest since 1922. According to their research, whilst the share of national income accrued by this group had reduced from 21 percent in late 1930s to 6 percent in early 1980s, it has risen to 22 percent in the recent period.³⁶ While the income growth has been considerably higher than previous decades, in the period post-2000, this is not translated in the growth of the bottom 50 percent of income earners, which grew at a significantly lower rate compared to the average growth, since the 1980s. The inequality is further reflected by the higher than average growth rate of top 10 percent and top 1 percent of income earners, during the same period.

The Inequality Report by Oxfam India³⁷ in 2019 projects a stark picture of the economic disparities in the country. The inequalities between different social groups has substantially increased in India. The Gini Wealth Coefficient (statistical measure of income or wealth inequality) of the country has moved up from 81.2 percent in 2008 to 85.4 percent 2018. Some of the other key findings of this report are summarized in **Figure 4**.

³⁶ Chancel, Lukas and Thomas Piketty (2017), "Indian income inequality, 1922–2015: From British Raj to Billionaire Raj? Last accessed on 2nd November 2020

³⁷ Oxfam (2019), [Public Good or Private Wealth? Oxfam Inequality Report the India Story](#). Last accessed on 23rd Feb 12th Apr 2020

Figure 4: Rising Inequality in India



Source: Oxfam (2019), [Public Good or Private Wealth? Oxfam Inequality Report the India Story](#); Global Multidimensional Poverty Index - 2018 by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1.6. Socially Excluded Classes – Scheduled Castes and Other Vulnerable Groups

Social exclusion takes various dimensions in India, including caste-based exclusion. It also includes vulnerable groups who face discrimination based on their religion (religious minorities), age (senior citizens, street children), economic status and occupation (economically weaker sections, homeless, manual scavengers), physical and mental ability (people with disabilities, mentally ill, victims of alcohol and substance abuse) and their gender identity (transgender people). This section elucidates the state of social inclusion of these socially disadvantaged groups to provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying vulnerabilities and issues resulting in the prevalent marginalization of these groups.

Table 6: Demographics of SCs and other vulnerable groups

Scheduled Castes	
Population	20.14 Cr persons (16.63% of India's population)
Groups	1263
Households engaged in begging, charity and alms belonging to SC	19.9%
Population of SCs below poverty line	31.5% (rural); 21.7% (urban)
Other Vulnerable Groups	
OBC	41.7% (NSSO 66 th Round, 2009-10)
DNT	Data not available
PwD	2.68 Cr persons (2.21%) (Census 2011)
Senior Citizens	10.36 Cr persons (8.56%) (MoSJE AR 2019-20)

Victims of substance abuse	6.50 Cr persons (MoSJE AR 2019-20)
Beggars/destitute	3.72 lakh persons (Census 2011)
Street children	~2 Crore

Source: NSSO 66th Round 2009-10, Census 2011, Annual Reports of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1.6.1. Scheduled Castes

Scheduled Castes (SC) are notified in the Constitution of India as per provisions in Clause 1 of Article 341. They include marginalized castes in India that have historically suffered from extreme social and economic backwardness and discrimination, arising from the age-old practices of untouchability and, therefore, require special efforts for safeguarding their interests and rights.³⁸

In the 1931 Census, the then government under the British Crown, for the first time, systematically categorized certain castes as ‘depressed classes. Subsequently, the Government of India Act 1935 provided for notification of socially disadvantaged castes as ‘Scheduled Castes’, and a list of such castes was accordingly notified in the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order 1936. The Indian Constitution, in 1950, inter-alia, abolished “untouchability” and provided several special safeguards for the ‘Scheduled Castes’, to ensure that they can attain equality with the other social groups in the shortest possible time.³⁹

Notwithstanding, ‘untouchability’ continues to persist in twenty-first century India with 27 percent of households having admitted to practicing this ‘abolished’ practice, according to an analysis of the Indian Human Development Survey 2011-12, in which 30 percent households belonged to rural areas and 27 percent to urban areas.⁴⁰ This is reflective of the deeply entrenched and pervasive nature of casteism that continues to rupture the social fabric of the country.

Demographic Profile of the Scheduled Castes

As per Census 2011,⁴¹ India’s Scheduled Castes (SC) population stood at 20.14 crore or 16.63 percent of the country’s total population as against 16.2 percent as per the 2001 Census. In terms of the rural-urban distribution, 76.4 percent of India’s SC population resided in rural areas, declining from 79.6 percent in 2001, whereas it increased to 23.6 percent in 2011 from 20.4 percent in 2001 in the case of urban areas. The SC population’s decadal growth rate during 2001-2011 in rural areas was low (15.7 percent), whereas it was much higher (41.3 percent) in urban areas, indicating a higher level of urbanization and migration from villages to towns and cities. Out of the total 6.54 crore population enumerated in the slum areas in the 2613 cities and towns in India during the 2011 Census, 1.34 crore or 20.4 percent were SC.⁴²

The Scheduled Castes population indicates a pattern in terms of their spread across states: over 60 percent of India’s SC population is concentrated in just six states including the states of Uttar Pradesh (4.14 crore), West Bengal (2.15 crore), Bihar (1.66 crore), Tamil Nadu (1.44 crore),

³⁸ GOI (1950), [Constitution of India](#). Last accessed on 12th April 2020

³⁹ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI (2018), [Annual Report 2017-18](#). Last accessed on 6th April 2020

⁴⁰ Thorat, Amit and Omkar Joshi, *Economic and Political Weekly*, (2020), *The Continuing Practice of Untouchability in India: Patterns and Mitigating Influences*, Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

⁴¹ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#). Last accessed on 26th March 2020

⁴² Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (2015), [Slums in India- A Statistical Compendium](#). Last accessed on 26th March 2020

Andhra Pradesh (1.38 crore) and Maharashtra (1.33 crore). The states with the highest proportion of SC in their population are Punjab (31.9 percent), Himachal Pradesh (25.2 percent), West Bengal (23.5 percent), Uttar Pradesh (20.7 percent) Haryana (20.2 percent) and Tamil Nadu (20.01 percent).⁴³

Overview of the legislative safeguards

The Constitution provides an elaborate mechanism for the protection, safeguarding and upliftment of SCs spanning Article 17, 46, 335, 15(4), 16(4A), 338, 330 and 332, as described in the previous section. In addition, major legislative provisions have been enforced across the years to uphold the constitutional mandate for safeguarding the interests of the SC community.

- Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 enacted in furtherance to Article 17 of the Indian Constitution is a punitive legal provision for checking the illegal practice of untouchability and is implemented nation-wide by the respective state governments and union territory administrations with assistance from the Central Government.
- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989 was brought into force on 30th January 1990 to provide a legal safeguard against any crimes and atrocities by the general population against SC/STs. An amendment of this Act namely, The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015, enforced on 26th January 2016, has increased the stringency of the principal Act. New categories of actions have been added to the list of offences including denial of access to public spaces; women have been provided safeguards against sexual assault and exploitation; rights of victims and witnesses have been added; and establishment of special courts and special public prosecutors are amongst the various amendments introduced to improve this important legislative safeguard for the marginalized community.

Status of Inclusion of Scheduled Castes

Scheduled castes have continuously lagged behind most other social groups in India, particularly other caste Hindus and religious minorities (except Muslims), on various social, economic and political indicators of development despite several constitutional safeguards and government policies and schemes for inclusive development.

Unequitable access to gains within the community

The problem is additionally compounded by the divisions that exist within caste themselves. Within SCs, the multiple divisions and sub-divisions of castes, i.e. sub-castes and other ethno-centric considerations, have stymied equal access to resources. The strain of conflict within the inner strata of marginalized groups was expounded on recently by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, wherein the court observed that despite the continuous implementation of affirmative action, the benefits, as envisaged by principles of reservation, have not trickled down. The more affluent amongst the marginalized, it said, tend to monopolize the resources and entitlements, leading to the severely marginalized being deprived of the potential benefits.⁴⁴ Caste, with all its purported

⁴³ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (2011), [State/UT-wise SCs population](#). Last accessed on 19th February 2020

⁴⁴ The Supreme Court of India, (2020), [Chebrolu Leela Prasad Rao vs. State of Andhra Pradesh](#). Last accessed on 12th April 2020

negative connotations and consequences, is also “used as social capital and a modern tool for upward mobility”,⁴⁵ an aspect often forgotten in the study of this issue.

“Within the scheduled castes also, the main challenge varies, and it depends on lots of internal divisions as every state has its own list of SCs and within them, there are one or two groups doing very well while the smaller groups are doing very badly. So, there is a whole debate on scheduled castes situations and demands from certain groups who have not benefited from reservation.”

- Social Sector Expert, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

High incidence of poverty in SC population

In terms of economic status, SCs continue to exhibit higher incidence of poverty as compared with the general population. As per a Planning Commission analysis of the change in poverty levels by social groups in rural and urban India between 2004-05 and 2011-12 (based on the Tendulkar Committee Methodology), the percentage of SC population below the poverty line in rural India reduced from 53.5 percent in 2004-05 to 31.5 percent in 2011-12.⁴⁶ However, the overall population below the poverty line in rural India declined from 41.8 percent to 25.7 percent during the same period. Similarly, percentage of SC population below the poverty line in urban India came down to 21.7 percent in 2011-12 from 40.6 percent in 2004-05, whereas the overall population below the poverty line in urban India declined to 13.7 percent from 25.7 percent during the same period.⁴⁷ Over time therefore, we see marked improvements across poverty levels and accessibility for SCs in both urban and rural areas, similar to the rate of decline in poverty between urban and rural areas.

Denial of equal access to shared assets and opportunities

SCs struggle to access good quality public services, which is reflected in low levels of education, employment opportunities and access to healthcare and other basic amenities. Poor access to improved livelihood options faced by SCs is reflected in terms of low asset ownership (land and property). These groups are mostly engaged in employment of poor quality (e.g. casual wage labourers), with low participation in regular salaried jobs, and especially in sunrise/growing sectors.

- Property and assets: SCs experience significant discrimination in the ownership of productive assets such as land and property and face unfavourable markets for the sale and purchase of goods and services. The “historical process of denial of right to property” for decades to SCs has resulted in their occupation as low paid casual wage labour, thus reinforcing their state of poverty.⁴⁸ They continue to live in segregated residential areas, usually slums, and are not able to fully participate in the local economies.
- Employment opportunities: They are engaged in employment of poor quality; a majority of them are working as casual wage labourers with very low and irregular incomes. Their

⁴⁵ Vaidyanathan, Prof. R, Westland Publications Private Limited, (2019), *Caste as Social Capital: The Complex Place of Caste in Indian Society*, Last accessed on 20th September 2020

⁴⁶ Planning Commission, GoI (2014), *Report of the Expert group to review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty*, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

⁴⁷ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (2018), [Handbook on Social Welfare Statistics](#), Last accessed on 10th March 2020

⁴⁸ Thorat, Sukhadeo and Motilal Mahamalik, (2007), [Chronic Poverty and Socially Disadvantaged Groups: Analysis and Remedies](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

access to regular salaried jobs is limited and while their share in public sector employment has improved, the rapid shrinkage of government jobs in the post-liberalization era has had an unfavourable effect on these marginalized groups. In-terms of representation in central government positions, at the position of Joint Secretary, out of 275 postings, 13 or 4.73 percent are SC and 19 or 6.91 percent are OBCs. Similarly, at Additional Secretary level, out of 93 postings, six or 6.45 percent are SC, with zero representation for OBCs. At the Secretary level, out of 89 postings, there is only one belonging to SC. ⁴⁹ On the other hand, despite a faster growth in private sector opportunities in recent years, it is still extremely limited. A large proportion of SCs are unable to partake of their share in the ‘shining’ sectors—those characterized by high growth and accounting for higher share of new job creation. ⁵⁰ Similarly, the ownership of non-farm enterprises among SCs is proportionately much lower as compared to that of other groups. ⁵¹ SCs are largely concentrated in a few enterprises such as manufacturing (leather and leather products, wood and wood products, repair services and textiles). Access to credit and markets is also a major problem that they face in running their enterprises.

“There is a lot of stigmatisation regarding the Dalit community in the private sector. Dalits are treated differently in the private sector. Most of them are not given jobs.”

- Social Sector Expert (Independent Consultant)

- Access to quality education: The high incidence of poverty among SCs is also significantly correlated with their comparatively low levels of education and skill training as compared to other social groups. A large proportion of SC children are dependent on government schools which are typically characterized by high levels of teacher absenteeism, poor capacities and performance standards, the quality of education in these schools has been deteriorating over the years along. ⁵² The drop-out rate tends to be much higher for SC children, when compared with the national average. ⁵³ There is also a significant under-representation of SC teachers in school education, which, in turn, creates a social distance between students and teachers. ⁵⁴ The children of SCs face various forms of discrimination in schools from both teachers and other students, which makes their experience painful and studies less attractive. ⁵⁵ Whereas caste, as a social institution, is symbolic of “ascriptive hierarchy” , ⁵⁶ meritocracy is viewed as a leveller and a democratizing force that removes the play of inherited social identities. However, the intimate interaction of caste and meritocracy results in a vicious cycle of access and inclusion. For instance, the play of caste and merit at premier educational institutes in India is reflected in mostly

⁴⁹ Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (2019), [Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2745](#)

⁵⁰ Singhari, S., & Madheswaran, S., Working Paper 361, The Institute for Social and Economic Change (2016), [Social Exclusion And Caste Discrimination in Public and Private Sectors in India : A Decomposition Analysis](#), Last accessed on 14th March 2020

⁵¹ Krishna, Vijesh V et al, (2019), [Does caste determine farmer access to quality information?](#), PloS One, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

⁵² Protiva Kundu (2019), [Deteriorating Quality of Education in Schools](#), Economic & Political Weekly, Last accessed on 12th April 2020

⁵³ National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, (2016), [U-DISE Flash Statistics 2016-17](#)

⁵⁴ Ministry of Human Resource Development, GoI, (2018), [AISHE 2017-18](#), Last accessed on 12th April 2020

⁵⁵ Ghosh, Antara., & Kundu, Chittaranjan., Development of SCs & STs in Globalized World: Legal issues and Livelihood Challenges (2019), [Health and Educational Status of SC & ST Community: Issues and Challenges](#), Last accessed on 26th March 2020

⁵⁶ Subramanian, Ajantha, Harvard University Press, (2019), *The Caste of Merit: Engineering Education in India*

upper caste section of society occupying these spaces.⁵⁷ According to the Ministry of Education, of the 6043 faculty positions in 23 Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) across India, 149 or less than 3 percent of the faculty members belong to SC.⁵⁸ A similar observation has been made in the case of Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), wherein only 11 faculty members belong to the SC/ST community across the 20 IIMs.⁵⁹ Of these, faculty members from the reserved categories are not represented in 12 IIMs. It becomes important to note that merit is merely an outcome of an individual's socio-economic and cultural capital which is leveraged by dominant classes as a justification for their unwillingness to challenge social inequalities.⁶⁰

- Access to basic healthcare: The general apathy of health service providers towards marginalized groups aggravates their plight. The incidence of malnutrition is highest among the SC households which are typically in the lowest income groups. The likelihood of SC children being malnourished is about 1.4 times higher than that of children belonging to other social groups even after controlling for education and the health of mothers.⁶¹ Most of the Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) in the mixed caste villages under ICDS are located in upper caste hamlets or upper caste houses, whereby SC children find it difficult to access the scheme.⁶² The SC localities are also neglected in terms of the delivery of nutritional support services by service providers. The differential access to various basic services under public healthcare for SCs has an adverse impact on their health outcomes which, in turn, has put them into a vicious circle of poverty. Studies from across the country have revealed unequal access to healthcare based on caste differences. Kerala has made substantial progress in achieving improved health outcomes and has lower inequalities in healthcare across social groups compared as to other states. Notwithstanding, evidence from the state reveals that inter-caste disparity is an underlying factor in the overall disparity exhibited by the state, with the per capita health expenditures reflecting the caste hierarchies in the state.⁶³ A study carried out to understand the class inequalities in household health expenditure in Kerala found that the issue of access to healthcare, in the context of inadequate public healthcare provisioning and absence of healthcare insurance, coupled with reliance on private care providers, was compounded for those with greater healthcare needs and chronic ailments.⁶⁴ Evidence from a study on out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) for institutional deliveries across India found that degree of distress financing for institutional deliveries was higher for mothers belonging to the SC/ST groups as compared to other groups.⁶⁵

⁵⁷ *ibid*

⁵⁸ Lok Sabha (2019), Government of India Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2480, Last accessed on 2nd November 2020

⁵⁹ Rajya Sabha (2019), Government of India Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 578, Last accessed on 2nd November 2020

⁶⁰ Yengde, Suraj, Penguin Random House India Private Limited, (2019), Caste Matters, last accessed on 19th September 2020

⁶¹ P.Mamgain, Rajendra; Oxfam India (2013), [Situating Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes in the Post-2015 Development Framework](#), Last accessed on 16th Mar 2020

⁶² Lopamudra Paul, Social Science Spectrum, (2018), [Unmet Need of Integrated Child Development Services \(ICDS\) among Economically Weaker Sections in Indian Society](#), Last accessed on 16th Mar 2020

⁶³ Mukherjee Subrata, Slim Haddad and Delampady Narayana., International Journal for Equity in Health, (2011), [Social class related inequalities in household health expenditure and economic burden: evidence from Kerala, south India. Int J Equity Health](#), Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

⁶⁴ *ibid*

⁶⁵ Mishra, Suyash and Sanjay K, Mohanty., International Journal for Equity in Health, (2019), [Out-of-pocket expenditure and distress financing on institutional delivery in India](#), Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

Another study from Andhra Pradesh on the impact of state health insurance on OOPE found that whilst it resulted in a significant reduction of OOPE for inpatient services, and to a lesser extent on outpatient services, the benefits for SC and ST households were not proportional to the rest of the population.⁶⁶

- Access to basic amenities: While there has been significant improvement in access to safe drinking water, still, nearly a fourth of the SC population does not have such access as per the 2011 Population Census, and there are no more recent studies available. Access to safe drinking water is critical as it prevents water-borne diseases and related morbidity. There is also evidence of discriminatory access to safe drinking water for SCs, particularly in the rural areas, as they may be allowed to fetch water only after the other caste households have taken their turn.⁶⁷ The location of such facilities in upper caste localities also affects the overall access to such facilities by the SC households. Similar access issues are also observed for safe sanitation and electricity, amongst other basic amenities.

“As you know as the data indicates, as the education level goes up, the drop-out rate increases, especially for children from SC/ST background. The only reason is economic poverty; only reason is poverty, income poverty.”

- Social Sector Expert, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

We need people from the local dalit communities to act as changemakers and get them suitably involved in policy making for these areas in order to understand the immediate local needs that need to be addressed.”

- Social Sector Expert, Dalit Women’s Movement

Prevalence of atrocities and discrimination against SCs

Incidents of atrocities and discrimination across various parts of the country are still common despite having a legislation in place for protection of civil rights and prevention of atrocities against this group. The crime rate against SCs has increased by an estimated 25 percent between 2001 and 2016, which is reflective of the alarming extent of discrimination.⁶⁸ The type of crimes vary from murder, rape, kidnapping/abduction, assault on women/children, to dacoity, robbery, arson and hurt by means of physical force. Exploitation and abuse at the hands of the upper classes continues to interrupt the progress of the lower classes.

Much of these issues can be attributed to the historical prejudices faced by these groups, and its associated notion of untouchability. This, in turn, has denied them numerous rights including the right to education, the right to choose a vocation for employment, the right to good habitation, the right to clean water and sanitation and the right to participate in political and cultural spheres.

⁶⁶ Fan, Victoria Y., Anup Karan and Ajay Mahal, [International Journal of Health Care Finance and Economics. \(2012\). State health insurance and out-of-pocket health expenditures in Andhra Pradesh](#), India, Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

⁶⁷ Jaiswal, Vaishali., & Joon, Vinod., Epidemiology International (2017), [Status of Trends in Provision of Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in India : Evidence from Census](#), Last accessed on 7th March 2020

⁶⁸ Mallapur, Chaitanya, Alison Saldanha., IndiaSpend (2018), [Over Decade, Crime Rate Against Dalits Up 25%, Cases Pending Investigation Up 99%](#), Last accessed on 18th September 2020

1.6.2. Other Vulnerable Groups

- **Other Backward Classes**

In the Constitution of India, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are described as ‘socially and educationally backward classes’ as so deemed under article 342A of the Constitution of India. The OBCs constitute such classes or citizens, other than the SCs and STs, not adequately represented in the government services or any local authority. In 1953, Kaka Kalelkar Commission⁶⁹ submitted a list of 2399 social groups as backward, identifying backwardness based on social hierarchy and castes.⁷⁰

Demographic profile of OBCs

Data availability on OBCs has been scarce due to the discontinuation of caste-wise census post the 1931 census. The Mandal Commission estimated the population of this group at 52 percent and the NSSO 66th Round estimated OBC population to be 41.7 percent of India’s population.⁷¹ On the basis of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey undertaken by NSSO, the population of OBCs below poverty line was estimated to be 22.6 percent in rural areas and 15.4 percent in urban areas.⁷²

Constitutional and Legislative Framework

The Constitution provides safeguards and protection to OBCs through Articles 15(Clause 4), 16(4), 340, 38(Clause 1) and 338 (Clause 10). In 1979, the Second Backward Classes Commission, known as Mandal Commission, was constituted under Article 340. This commission used social, economic and educational indicators to determine backwardness across castes, and recommended affirmative action in the form of reservation of 27 percent of jobs for the OBC castes.⁷³ OBC students are also entitled to 27 percent reservation in central educational institutions, as mandated by the amendment of Article 15 in January 2006 and the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act 2006.⁷⁴ More recently, the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 received the President’s assent granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, through the insertion of Article 338B in the Constitution. The Commission is primarily responsible for investigating and monitoring all matters relating to safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes, inquiring into specific complaints, and tendering advise on socio-economic development, welfare and safeguard measures.

Status of Inclusion of OBCs

The World Bank Report on ‘Poverty and Social Exclusion in India’ stated that OBCs fare poorly on certain indicators such as labour force and employment, health (OBC women in particular), education etc.⁷⁵ However, OBC category includes a diverse set of communities across different

⁶⁹ National Commission for Backward Classes, (1955), [Report of the Backward Classes Commission \(Kalelkar\)](#), Last accessed on 25th April 2020

⁷⁰ Centre for Development Economics, (2014), [How Backward are the Other Backward Classes? Changing Contours of Caste Disadvantage in India?](#), Last accessed on 17th April 2020

⁷¹ *ibid*

⁷² Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, (2015), [Fund Allocation for OBCs](#), Last accessed on 31st January 2020

⁷³ American International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Reservation system and Indian Constitution- Special reference to Mandal Commission, Last accessed on 6th April 2020

⁷⁴ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, (2020), [Annual Report 2019-2020](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

⁷⁵ World Bank, (2011), [Poverty and Social Exclusion in India](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

states. In some states, groups classified as OBCs are dominant landowning castes and, on the other hand, certain OBC groups exist which are truly backward. ⁷⁶ OBCs suffer due to poor access to opportunities which is evident in low literacy rates, low access to healthcare services, poor hostel facilities, skills training, etc. These essential services are key to general development of any population group and low availability of these among the OBCs indicates their relative disadvantaged position.

Low levels of educational progress

Educational support for OBCs is inadequate and position of women, in terms of literacy among OBCs is also another major concern. Majority of the OBC children do not go to schools in order to provide support to their parents in traditional occupations. ⁷⁷ OBC women rank lower compared to SC and ST women in terms of the percentage distribution of women under 15-49 years of age by number of years of schooling completed. ⁷⁸ The uptake of scholarships by OBC students under the scholarship schemes is low possibly due to very low income levels. Such factors lead to educational backwardness amongst OBCs.

Poor access to healthcare

According to NFHS 4, OBCs recorded a lower percentage than SCs and STs in terms of accessing healthcare services and, likewise, 23.7 percent of OBC women did not have access to health care services. Proportion of OBCs not availing any treatment are comparatively higher. ⁷⁹ In terms of nutritional status, OBC children record a higher percentage of stunted, wasted, undernourished growth as compared to SCs and STs. ⁸⁰ The proportion of anaemic women is higher amongst OBCs as compared to other vulnerable communities. Hence, the health status of OBCs, and women in particular, indicates social exclusion leading to poor health outcomes for this group. ⁸¹

Compounded disadvantage limiting access to better livelihood opportunities

In terms of Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), ⁸² OBCs score lower than SCs and STs. Male population under OBC recorded the lowest LFPR in rural areas. ⁸³ Educational level and the difficulties faced by men/women in finding employment outside agriculture is a major reason behind lower LFPR amongst men in rural areas. ⁸⁴ This indicates that limited opportunities are available for meaningful economic engagement of the OBCs. This points to a structural gap in terms of mainstreaming this population in economic activities.

⁷⁶ Centre for Development Economics, (2014), [How Backward are the Other Backward Classes? Changing Contours of Caste Disadvantage in India?](#), Last accessed on 17th April 2020

⁷⁷ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GoI, (2018), [Guideline for Pre-Matric Scholarship to OBCs for studies in India](#), Last accessed on 10th Apr 2020

⁷⁸ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, (2017), [NFHS 4, 2015-16](#), Last accessed on 7th April 2020

⁷⁹ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, (1999), [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS -II\), 1998-99](#), Last accessed on 14th January 2020

⁸⁰ Footnote 78

⁸¹ National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, (2019), [Outcome Analysis –Mind The Caste Gap](#), Last accessed on 13th February 2020

⁸² Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GoI, (2019), [Annual Report: Periodic Labour Force Survey \(2017-18\)](#), Last accessed on 6th March 2020

⁸³ Footnote 81

⁸⁴ Institute for Human Development, (2012), [Labour Force Participation in Rural Bihar: A Thirty-Year Perspective based on Village Surveys](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

OBCs are significantly lagging behind in terms of socio-economic and human development indicators, reflective of the socio-economic hierarchy and the extent of social exclusion of this group.

- **De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)**

During the British regime in India, the British Government passed the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871 declaring certain tribes as Criminal Tribes.⁸⁵ This was done under the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871, enacted by the British Government, essentially to control crime in British India. Through this, as well as subsequent versions of the Act (revisions in 1911 and 1924), the British branded nearly 150 communities as being criminal by birth. These communities were placed in settlements and were policed regularly. They were placed under constant surveillance and their movement regulated. This led to harassment, loss of livelihood and the denial of even the basic rights enshrined by law.

Over time, particularly after independence, numerous efforts have been made to raise their level of living. The CTA was replaced by the Criminal Tribes Laws (Repeal) Act, 1952 on the recommendations of the Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee. Thereafter, these communities were 'De-notified' and since then they are named and known as 'De-notified Tribes'. Nomadic tribes primarily comprise of people who are constantly on the move for earning their livelihood and, thus, are left with no place or shelter to settle down and the semi-nomadic groups tend to have a fixed abode for a particular season and remain itinerant for the rest of the period. Most DNTs are further categorized as SC/ST/OBC, though a few of the DNTs are not covered in any of these categories. The Idate Commission found that over 260 marginalised communities, which accounts for 35 percent of the DNT, 64 percent of the NT and one percent of SNT, have never been identified or included in the reserved categories.⁸⁶ This points to the lack of information on these communities and the alarming state of exclusion.

"As per the 2011 Census, the population of DNT community can be compared with that of Europe. There are presently 198 DNT communities which are further divided into 1500 sub-categories. However, till date there is no legal classification as de-notified, thus these communities have no legal or constitutional identity. Roughly 90% are considered as of SCs and rest 10% as STs or OBCs. 90% being considered SC, should get benefits of SC, but in the absence of any permanent settlements, these communities are unable to avail any certificate to prove their identity as SC and avail benefit of any scheme. Thus, the key issue here is the absence of legal status to the de-notified tribes (DNT is cultural classification)."

- Social Sector Expert (Independent Researcher and Consultant)

Status of inclusion of DNTs

The DNTs have been subjected to historical injustices and stand at the tail end of the human development index within the Indian context. The figures for their illiteracy, child mortality, food insecurity, indebtedness, non-profitable migration, non-access to credit, and lack of access to formal education and healthcare are uniformly higher than the overall national figures for these

⁸⁵ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (2014), [National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-nomadic Tribes. Press Brief](#), Last accessed on 6th February 2020

⁸⁶ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, (2017), [National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes Report](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

categories.⁸⁷ Some key aspects of deprivation among the DNTs consist of economic deprivation, deprivation in terms of access to services and low social standing.⁸⁸

“They (DNTs) were listed under the Criminal Tribes Act under the British Era. There are issues regarding their livelihood involved around markets, services and land rights. Different issues are present in different DNTs. But there are general issues which DNTs face like being completely excluded from education, social protection and no political say beyond the Gram Panchayat.”

- Social Sector Expert, Aarohan Madhya Pradesh

Wide variation in economic status

While many members are well-settled with their own houses, land or other economic assets, many others do not own land, livestock, homestead, a house or consumer durables. They live in tents, hutments, *kuccha* or semi-*pucca* houses. Mostly, they use government land, space near garbage dumps, along the road, railway, rivers, slums, etc. Many of them do not own land or have any regular job and, therefore, depend on casual wage labour or other modes of earning which is generally insufficient to meet their daily needs. While they practice their traditional occupations, many of these professions (e.g. snake charming, bear dancing) are not capable of providing for their daily subsistence and carry a low level of social acceptance.

Mutually reinforcing mechanisms aggravate exclusion

DNTs have poor health outcomes such as malnutrition, increased infant and maternal mortality and morbidity rates.⁸⁹ This reflects in their inadequate access to various public services available to general population. This is aggravated due to these groups being semi-nomadic and, therefore, not having a definite dwelling, etc., thus limiting them from accessing many services including health as well as denial of formal education to children and youth.

The very nature of their dwelling and livelihood practices, makes their social and economic condition comparatively worse-off than other most other social groups. Most belonging to this social group do not own land, livestock, homestead, a house or any kind of consumer durables, and rather live in tents, hutments, *kutch*a or semi-*pucca* houses, mostly on unoccupied land, street sides, railway sidings, slums, etc. Many of this group depend on casual wage labour or other modes of earning which is generally insufficient to meet their daily needs. All these factors together render this social group economically disadvantaged.

• **Victims of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse**

Victims of substance abuse are persons who are addicted to/dependent on alcohol, narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or any other addictive substances (other than tobacco). Despite the enormity of the problem in India, there had not been much systematic research undertaken to clearly document the combined social, economic, health and psychological impact of substance abuse in the country. The most recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2018 was the National Survey on the Extent and Pattern of Substance Abuse.

⁸⁷ N. Devy, Ganesh; Field Actions Science Report (2013), [Culture and Development, an Experiment with Empowerment](#), Last accessed on 14th February 2020

⁸⁸ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (2017), [National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Government of India](#), Last accessed on 13th February 2020

⁸⁹ Vijay Korra (2019), [Forgotten Communities of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh: A Story of De-notified Tribes](#)

As per the report, alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians, followed by cannabis and opioids.

Table 7: Extent of alcoholism and substance abuse in India

No. of persons consuming alcohol in India	16 Crore
Number of persons using cannabis products	3.1 Crore
Number of persons using opioids	2.26 Crore
Number of persons suffering from harmful alcohol use	<5.7 Crore
Number of persons suffering from dependent alcohol use	2.9 Crore
Number of persons suffering from cannabis dependency	~25 Lakh
Number of persons needing help for opiod use	~77Lakh
Number of persons dependent on opioids	28 Lakh

Source: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, (2019), Magnitude of Substance Use in India 2019

NFHS 2016 also provides information on the level of alcohol use in India. The report highlights that about 2.9 crore people within the age group of 10-75 years are either dependent or need support for de-addiction from alcohol use in India. In absolute numbers, about 6.7 crore people in the age group of 10-75 years need support with their addiction problem.

Constitutional and Legislative Framework

Article 47 under the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution mandates the State to improve the level of nutrition, public health and the overall standard of living. It states “The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health”.⁹⁰ The major legal provisions related to these issues are the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1985) and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1988) to control and regulate operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

India’s commitment to curb the issue of substance abuse is reflected in it being a signatory to three UN Conventions including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 and Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988.⁹¹

The government also released a National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotic Substances (NDPS) in 2012 to provide an overarching guideline to relevant central government agencies, state governments, NGOs and voluntary organizations, etc. The Policy also states the role of the government for treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug addicts.

MoSJE has formulated a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), for the period 2018-2025 with the objective of curbing the adverse consequences of drug abuse. It is

⁹⁰ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, (2020), [Annual Report 2019-2020](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

⁹¹ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, (2020), [Scheme of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

built on a multi-pronged approach involving awareness and education, de-addiction treatment and rehabilitation of affected persons and their families. The Plan has also included skill development, vocational training and livelihood support for the victims. The NAPDDR will be implemented by the National Institute of Social Defence at the national level and by respective state government and UT administration.

Status of Inclusion of Victims of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse

The National Crime Record Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs states that a total number of 874 and 750 people died in 2014 and 2015 respectively due to drug overdose.⁹² The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment published a report titled 'Magnitude of Substance Use in India, which is one of the most systematic and comprehensive attempts to gather data on the prevalence of alcohol and drug use in India to enable an evidence-based action plan or policy framework.'⁹³

Lack of cross-sectional research

There is lack of adequate research to identify the combined social, economic, health and psychological impact of substance abuse in the country, which also impacts appropriate policy interventions for such affected groups.

"There are hardly any research and data around to take informed decision on programme development and any further improvement."

- Social Sector Expert, Gujarat Kelavani Trust

High social stigma associated with addiction

The addiction problem results in social stigma and other social challenges, which makes these victims and their families hide their issues and prevents them from seeking solutions, making matters worse in terms of their social, economic and psychological well-being.

Alcohol and substance (drug) abuse is evidently a major public health concern for our country. The victims also suffer an impact on their personal and social relations and the deep stigma attached to use of such substances results in ostracization and social exclusion, further preventing them from seeking treatment and, thus, compounding the issue.

• Persons with Disabilities

As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016, 'Persons with disabilities' are individuals with long-term impairment, which is physical, mental, intellectual or sensory in nature, which when interacts with external environmental and social barriers creates hindrances in effective participation. These hindrances pose challenges for these individuals to participate equally with others in the society. This includes individuals where the disability has been defined in measurable terms and is certified by a competent authority.

India comprises of a 2.68 crore disabled population as per the Census 2011,⁹⁴ which constitutes 2.2. percent of the total population. Of this disabled population, 55.6 percent are males and 44.03

⁹² Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Lok Sabha (2019), [Starred question number 3870](#). Last accessed on 23rd February 2020

⁹³ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment NDDTC & AIMS (2019), [Magnitude of Substance Use in India](#). Last accessed on 26th March 2020

⁹⁴ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#). Last accessed on 25th April 2020

percent are females. Rural India is home to over two thirds of the disabled population, while one third of the population lives in urban areas. The percentage decadal change in disabled population in India between 2001 and 2011, at 22.4, has been higher than the percentage decadal change for the total population change, at 17.7.⁹⁵

Constitutional and Legislative Framework

Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution mandates the State to make provision for securing the right to work, education and unemployment in the case of disablement amongst other disadvantages. India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and ratified this convention in 2007.

Pursuant to this, India drafted and notified the RPwD Act in 2016 which laid down various principles for the empowerment of PwDs including non-discrimination, accessibility, full and effective participation in society, equality of opportunity, respect for and acceptance of PwDs within the larger society and, most importantly, “respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons”.⁹⁶ The Act is a transformative shift from a welfare-driven approach to a rights-based approach in addressing this challenge.

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006 to empower, rehabilitate and improve the participation and welfare of PwDs, recognizing this section of society as a valuable human resource.⁹⁷ It seeks to create equal opportunities for them to fully participate and also ensure safeguarding of their rights as per the constitutional provisions.

Status of inclusion of PwDs

PwDs are faced with a multitude of challenges including poor economic conditions, low access to services and social stigma.⁹⁸ They are subject to multiple deprivations and are more likely to be in low income groups.

High incidence of economic hardship

The disabled persons face multiple challenges including discrimination and limited access to opportunities, poor access to services and social stigma due to the existing environmental and social barriers. This renders their families poorer and more vulnerable, causing these households to face significant economic hardships.

Lack of a comprehensive system for addressing the health, social and economic needs

The absence of a comprehensive welfare system for PwDs, strong social stigma within the community, and low economic standing tends to make these persons and their families have low self-esteem and inhibits this group from seeking adequate benefits to improve their living conditions.

⁹⁵ Social Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, (2016), [Disabled Persons in India: A statistical profile 2016](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

⁹⁶ Government of India, (2016), [The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

⁹⁷ Social Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, (2016), [Disabled Persons in India: A statistical profile 2016](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

⁹⁸ People with Disabilities in India: From commitments to Outcomes, Philip O’Keefe, Lead Social Protection Specialist, World Bank, Last accessed on 10th January 2020

High financial burden

Financial stress and burden on disabled persons, their families and care givers is substantial due to the additional expenditure incurred on daily activities, healthcare, transportation, assistive devices, amongst others.

Lack of literacy, employment and the widespread taboos of the society lead to a more socially exclusive environment for PwDs. These persons also tend to have low awareness of rights and entitlements, thus reinforcing their poor socio-economic condition.

“The issue of intersectionality is also important. Caste, class, gender also cut across the issue of disability. The access issues with the lower castes, or class or women may be much more compared to otherwise.”

- Social Sector Expert, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago

• **Senior Citizens**

Those who have attained the age of 60 years or above are categorized as ‘Senior Citizens’. This is as per Section 2 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.⁹⁹ At 10.36 crores, senior citizens account for 8.56 percent of the country’s total population.¹⁰⁰ These figures are projected to go up to 12.4 percent by 2026, with a total projected senior citizen population of 17.32 crore, indicating a growing number of dependent elderly people in the economy.¹⁰¹ A fifth of India’s population is expected to be aged by 2050, requiring a systematic approach towards planning for this demographic transition.¹⁰² The senior citizen population is the highest in the state of Uttar Pradesh (1.54 crore), followed by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh at 1.11 crore and 0.83 crore respectively. Senior citizens living in rural areas are the highest in Himachal Pradesh (92.36 percent), followed by Bihar (89.11 percent). There is diffused responsibility between the government, individual families and communities for supporting the senior citizens in the country. Given a trend towards nuclear families, the traditional multi-generational families are not able to provide care and support for the senior members.

Status of inclusion of Senior Citizens

Senior citizens experience exclusion socially through situations such as alienation and rapid retirement which leads to their removal from the production process. This kind of exclusion decreases the number of opportunities available to them, thereby leading them towards poverty.

¹⁰³

Lack of adequate health care for the rising geriatric population in the country

High prevalence of chronic diseases can exacerbate dependency and lead to considerable expenditures. Current national health programmes cover all citizens, including seniors, but they

⁹⁹ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, (2007), [The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act](#), Last accessed on 7th February 2020

¹⁰⁰ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, (2018-19), [Annual Report](#), Last accessed on 6th February 2020

¹⁰¹ Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Central Statistics Office (2011), [Situation Analysis of The Elderly in India](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

¹⁰² United Nations Population Fund, (2017), [Caring for Our Elders: Early Responses’ - India Ageing Report - 2017](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

¹⁰³ Lambrini, K. (2016), [Social Exclusion of the Elderly](#), Last accessed on 14th January 2020

rarely focus on geriatric care as a specific area. A key need of this group is adequate health care, which seems to be lacking for the rising geriatric population in the country, many with chronic diseases that can exacerbate dependency and lead to considerable expenditure in old age. Current national health programmes cover all citizens, including seniors, but they rarely focus on geriatric care as a specific area.

Higher vulnerabilities faced by senior citizens

There is a diffused responsibility of the government versus family responsibility for supporting the senior citizens. Given a trend towards nuclear families, the traditional multi-generational families are not in a position to provide care and support for the senior members. This makes them vulnerable to multiple issues. Elderly women are more prone to the socio-economic, health and psychological vulnerabilities due to their comparatively higher life expectancy. The vulnerability is further exacerbated for aged widows with the absence of adequate income or a social safety net.¹⁰⁴

Low income security for the elderly population

Monthly old age pensions are paid to poor, widowed or single elders aged 60 and above lacking family support. These programmes are administered by states, wherein the support varies, depending on the extent of their welfare budgets and other priorities.

- **Manual Scavengers/Safai Karamchari**

The first legislative initiative to eradicate manual scavenging was taken with the enactment of Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act 1993, under which construction and maintenance of dry latrines and employment of persons to clean them was prohibited. This Act came into force from 26th January 1997. Despite the above initiative, the Census 2011 indicated that, more than 26 lakh insanitary latrines still existed in the country, including about seven lakh insanitary latrines serviced by humans. To address the issue, the Parliament enacted a more stringent legislation in 2013, namely, the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013.¹⁰⁵

As per the National Survey of Manual Scavengers undertaken in 170 districts in 18 states by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as many as 34,749 manual scavengers were identified up to 31st March 2019. In addition, about 14,505 manual scavengers were identified by 13 states as per the provisions of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013 (MS Act, 2013). Therefore, a total of 49,254 manual scavengers have been identified till 31st March 2019.¹⁰⁶ A national survey was also conducted during 2018-19 in view of the conversion of insanitary latrines to sanitary latrines under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and 48,687 manual scavengers were identified, thus taking the total identified manual scavengers to 63,246 until 31st March 2020.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Population Fund, (2017), [Caring for Our Elders: Early Responses' - India Ageing Report – 2017](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

¹⁰⁵ Ministry of Law & Justice, The Gazette of India (2013), [The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their rehabilitation Act, 2013](#), Last accessed on 14th January 2020

¹⁰⁶ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI (2019), [Annual Report 2018-19](#), Last accessed on 13th February 2020

¹⁰⁷ Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, (2020), [Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment 2019-20, Seventeenth Lok Sabha, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

Manual scavengers face social, political and economic discrimination and face challenges in attaining equal rights even at places of worship, amongst other basic services. The number of women engaged in manual scavenging is more than men.¹⁰⁸ In India, currently, there are more than 1700 reported deaths every year due to manual cleaning of sewer lines.¹⁰⁹

Status of inclusion of Manual Scavengers

Despite several initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, manual scavengers continue to face multiple barriers to growth.

Mutually reinforcing mechanisms of social exclusion

A study of manual scavengers conducted by the Research and Development Initiative in India recorded that only 21 percent of the beneficiaries surveyed reported themselves as literate.¹¹⁰ Most of the respondents were reported to be working as sanitation workers, followed by wage labourers and other work (e.g. sanitary workers in municipalities). The occupation is considered as degrading and does not offer enough remuneration. This community also lags in terms of access to services; low literacy levels reiterate the lack of opportunities as most of them have not attained educational qualifications above 10th grade, reinforcing the vicious cycle of lack of education leading to lack of awareness, forcing them to stay put in the current profession. Further, cases of discrimination faced by the children of identified manual scavengers in school leads to an unjust environment for their future generations which makes them feel excluded and, ultimately, lead to drop-outs among these children.¹¹¹

Deeply entrenched caste-based identity and discrimination

Manual scavenging has deep linkages with the caste system, with the lowest castes, who have been traditionally occupied in sweeping and scavenging, being associated with such work. For instance, a study carried out in the city of Angul, Odisha, revealed that traditional caste divisions attach social legitimacy to otherwise legally challenged, or even forbidden practices, thus allowing harmful practices such as manual scavenging to continue even in the wake of economic development.¹¹² Due to the indignity attached by other sections of society towards this community and the deeply entrenched caste dimensions, they face barriers in shifting away from manual scavenging towards other livelihood opportunities, thus creating a vicious cycle.

Alarming impact on health of manual scavengers

Health issues are also significant for them, especially since their task exposes them to noxious gases such as methane, ammonia, carbon monoxide and hydrogen disulphide which are severely injurious to health and respiratory system.¹¹³

¹⁰⁸ UNDP (2012), [Social Inclusion of Manual Scavengers](#). Last accessed on 12th March 2020

¹⁰⁹ Safai Karamchari Andolan (2020), [Manual Scavengers](#). Last accessed on 12th February 2020

¹¹⁰ Research and Development Initiative, (2017), [Report: Evaluation Study on SRMS](#). Last accessed on 24th January 2020

¹¹¹ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, The World Bank (2013), [Inclusion Matters. The foundation for shared prosperity](#), Last accessed on 19th February 2020

¹¹² Mohanty, Ranjita and Anju Dwivedi, The Wire, (2018), What Would Urban Sanitation Look Like Without Caste? Last accessed on 20th September 2020

¹¹³ Saveetha Institute of medical and technical sciences, (2018), [A Study on The Socio-Economic Status Of Manual Scavengers In India](#). Last accessed on 16th March 2020

- **Street Children**

The definition of street children, as introduced by the Inter-NGO Programme on Street Children (cited in UNCHS, 2000, p.73) and later adopted by UNICEF, termed them as “any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults”.¹¹⁴ These children were further categorized by “children on the street” who worked on the street but had a family; “children of the street”, who worked and lived on the street maintaining family links but without any functional family support; and “abandoned children” who lived on the street with no family links¹¹⁵.

As per the India Exclusion Report 2013-14, while it is officially reported that elementary school enrolment is nearing 100 percent, there are a sizeable number of children who are completely invisible to the State.¹¹⁶ There are few reliable estimates of these children, but a 2011 study conducted by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Save the Children India, found 50,000 street children in Delhi alone, of whom 20 percent were girls. About half of them were illiterate, and only about 20 percent had received some formal education. Child Rights and You (CRY) in India estimates that there were about 50 lakh children engaged in commercial sex work in the country, 71 percent of whom are illiterate. About 145,000 of the estimated 2.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in India in 2011 were children below the age of 15.¹¹⁷

Various Constitutional provisions safeguard the rights of children in India. The Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 are the key legal provisions pertinent to street children in India. In 2017, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) released the “Standard Operating Procedures for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations”, in collaboration with a leading child-rights organization, Save the Children, to provide a detailed framework for interventions related to the protection and welfare of street children in India.¹¹⁸

Status of inclusion of Street Children

Issue of access to basic amenities makes them extremely disadvantaged and extremely vulnerable to taking up crime and unlawful activities

Formal education remains the most neglected aspect among the street children owing to the circumstances before them. Absence of basic resources forces them to take up jobs at an early age. Exploitative jobs like casual labour, rag picking, domestic help, vending, etc. are often taken up by children which exploits them by forcing long shifts, providing no safety equipment, paying low wages, etc.¹¹⁹ Street children are also vulnerable to different kinds of harassment. Sexual

¹¹⁴ United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (2000), [Strategies to combat homelessness](#), Last accessed on 19th November 2020

¹¹⁵ United Nations General Assembly (2012), [Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street](#), Last accessed on 19th November 2020

¹¹⁶ India Committee of the Netherlands (2013-14), [India Exclusion Report](#), Last accessed on 24th January 2020

¹¹⁷ Books for Change (2014), [India Exclusion Report 2013-14](#), Last accessed on 19th February 2020

¹¹⁸ Save the Children, 2017, [Government released policy framework for street children](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

¹¹⁹ Chatterjee, R, CCS University (2012) [Issue of Street Children: Role of Government and NGOs & Coverage by Media](#), Last accessed on 16th March 2020

harassment on the streets and the workplace are often experienced. In addition, they are also subjected to violence by police, pimps, gangs etc.¹²⁰

High risk to serious health issues

Extreme poverty and food insecurity often result in malnourishment among the children causing various deficiencies and diseases. Continuous exposure and contact with unhygienic and hazardous environment make them vulnerable to serious medical complications and induce high mortality rate. Sleeping in unsanitary and unsafe spaces such as railway stations, garbage areas or streets also exposes them to unforeseen accidents and illness due to poor sanitation and water facilities. In addition, street children are more vulnerable to indulging in substance and drug abuse and criminal activities and are also prone to sexually transmitted diseases and mental disorders owing to their living conditions and environment.

Homelessness continues to be a problem experienced by street children in India. Majority of them are poverty struck, migrants, orphaned, abandoned by their families and do not have a home for themselves.¹²¹ Further, the needs and requirements of these children are not taken into consideration while planning cities. Lack of social protection for this group makes them subject to all forms of exploitation including engagement in casual labour, rag picking, domestic help, vending and commercial sex work.

• **Urban Homeless People with Mental Illness**

Homeless people are defined as individuals residing permanently in a roofless structure such as pavements, temples, platforms, etc. This phenomenon continues to be one of the biggest challenges spreading in India. As per Census 2011,¹²² 9.4 lakh individuals do not reside in homes, which was a 20 percent increase since 2001.¹²³ Mental illness among these individuals has been alarmingly increasing owing to multiple factors like poor economic capability, unaffordability, regular indulgence in alcohol and drugs, abandonment by institutions and asylums, etc.¹²⁴ As per the India Exclusion Report,¹²⁵ almost six lakh persons live with mental illness on the streets of Indian cities.

Homeless people even without mental illness are treated as non-citizens, without access to subsidized rations, drinking water and housing. They live in constant fear of incarceration or displacement from their current street-based living arrangements. They tend to find no refuge in the legal system to report violations on the streets, or at their place of employment, owing to the deemed illegality of their status. These effects are multi-fold in the case of homeless persons with mental health issues who suffer social exclusion, habitual abuse and distressing pathologies.

In March 2017, the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 was passed, revoking the earlier Mental Healthcare Act 1987, to recognize the rights of people with mental illness and facilitate affordable,

¹²⁰ Kumar, R, Sri Venkateswara University (2016) [A Study of Street Children in Andhra Pradesh](#). Last accessed on 17th April 2020

¹²¹ Chatterjee, R, CCS University (2012) [Issue of Street Children: Role of Government and NGOs & Coverage by Media](#). Last accessed on 31st January 2020

¹²² Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#). Last accessed on 7th February 2020

¹²³ Kumar, P. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, (2014) [Homelessness and Mental Health: Challenging Issue in An Indian Context](#). Last accessed on 6th March 2020

¹²⁴ Tata Trust Policy Brief (2019) [Exclusion in Urban Housing](#). Last accessed on 6th April 2020

¹²⁵ Digital Empowerment Foundation (2016), [India Exclusion Report](#). Last accessed on 14th January 2020

accessible and good quality care and treatment. The Act provides for free treatment for homeless persons.¹²⁶

Status of inclusion of urban homeless people with mental illness

Poverty among these people is the prime reason behind homelessness and mental instability

Economic deprivation, excessive debts, unemployment and inadequate housing result in homelessness. This develops tensions and stress, thereby impacting their mental health. Further, existing stigma and poor support system lead to social exclusion, trauma, violence, etc.¹²⁷

High risk of contracting serious health conditions including life threatening diseases

Poor self-management due to inadequate health care and support makes the homeless vulnerable to life threatening diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and other infections due to their unsanitary condition of living. In addition, consumption of drugs may aggravate their health conditions.¹²⁸ There exists a large gap in the treatment of mentally ill homeless people and the public health system has not been strong enough to support all such cases.¹²⁹

Lack of acceptance by the society tends to lead this group of people to face discrimination and getting stigmatized

Homeless people live on the edge: marginalized, discriminated against, and often criminalized. Reduced employability chances, disturbed mental condition, lack of accessibility to basic health services and constant exposure to poor living conditions, all contribute to their reduced life expectancy.¹³⁰

Poverty among these people is the prime reason behind homelessness and mental instability, which further gets accentuated due to economic deprivation, excessive debts, unemployment, etc. This develops tensions and stress, thereby impacting their mental health.

- **Transgender people**

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, genderqueers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as *Kinnar and Hijra*.

As per Census 2011,¹³¹ there exist 4.9 lakh transgender people in India; Uttar Pradesh constitutes the largest share of 28 percent followed by Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar.¹³²

Transgender people fall under the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) group and constitute a marginalized section of the society facing legal, social, and economic difficulties. They are a highly discriminated community in India. Everyday interactions of the community are highly

¹²⁶ Mishra, Abhisek, Abhiruchi Galhotra, International Journal Of Applied & Basic Medical Research Vol. 8,2 (2018), [Mental Healthcare Act 2017: Need to Wait and Watch](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

¹²⁷ Kumar, P. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, (2014) [Homelessness and Mental Health: Challenging Issue in An Indian Context](#), Last accessed on 13th February 2020

¹²⁸ Kumar, P. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, (2014) [Homelessness and Mental Health: Challenging Issue in An Indian Context](#), Last accessed on 12th March 2020

¹²⁹ Gopikumar, V. (2014) [Understanding the Mental Health Poverty Homelessness Nexus in India](#), Last accessed on 12th April 2020

¹³⁰ Footnote 126

¹³¹ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#), Last accessed on 24th February 2020

¹³² UNDP India, (2016) [Uptake of Social Protection Schemes by Transgender Population in India](#), Last accessed on 19th February 2020

influenced by the stigma around their nature and culture. ¹³³ Notions around their obvious association with sex work and HIV, distinguished body language and clothing, alcohol consumption, etc. has contributed in their social, political, and economic exclusion. ¹³⁴

There has been a landmark judgement ¹³⁵ made by the Supreme Court in 2014, which guarantees the transgender community entitlement to basic rights and illegalizes discrimination against them in any way. This was the first time that the government recognized the community as a third gender along with male and female. In addition, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 seeks to incorporate a mechanism for the empowerment of transgender people socially, economically and educationally. The Central Government has also constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons to tender advise on formulation of policies, programmes, legislation, etc.; monitor and assess the impact of policies and programmes in attaining the desired impacts in terms of participation and achievement of equality; coordinate the efforts of government and non-government stakeholders for promoting the inclusion of transgender persons; and redress grievances amongst other functions. ¹³⁶

Status of inclusion of Transgender People

Denial of access to education

Transgender people have been identified as a disadvantaged category under the Right to Education. Only 46 percent ¹³⁷ of this community is literate in India owing to poor access to educational institutions and harassment and violence against them in educational institutions. Compromised education renders them unfit for potential government and private sector jobs, thereby inducing poverty within the community. The community is, thereby, forced to make a living by begging, working as sex workers, etc. Limited livelihood choices double their vulnerability to harassment and discrimination. ¹³⁸

Absence of special healthcare services for Transgender people

Transgender people are highly vulnerable to incidence of violence, harassment, HIV contraction and mental illness. Basic health care for them is highly compromised upon as health care providers often refrain from treating them. Additionally, competency in terms of transgender health care is missing. Further, there also exists a bias in securing the community under health insurance. ¹³⁹

Lack of identity and social acceptance of transgenders

Lack of identity proof also creates difficulties among the transgender in availing the benefits of public services. Despite provisions in law and administrative orders, there is a long way for this community to be accepted by the Indian society in an unbiased manner. This lack of acceptance

¹³³ Human Rights Campaign, [Understanding the Transgender Community](#), Last accessed on 16th March 2020

¹³⁴ UNDP India, (2010) [Hijras/ Transgender Women in India: HIV, Human Rights and Social Inclusion](#), Last accessed on 17th April 2020

¹³⁵ IPPF(2014), [Respect and Acceptance of Transgender People in India ..](#) Last accessed on 25th April 2020

¹³⁶ Press Information Bureau, (2020), Central Government constitutes National Council for Transgender Persons, Last accessed on 26th September 2020

¹³⁷Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, (2011), [Census 2011](#), Last accessed on 31st January 2020

¹³⁸ Mitra, A, Department of Education, Integral University, (2017),[International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development](#) (2017) [Educational Inequality in India: A Review Paper for Transgender Population](#), Last accessed on 23rd March 2020

¹³⁹ Sethi, S, Sambalpur University (2018) [Transgender Health and their Rights in India](#), Last accessed on 26th March 2020

and disregard towards this community acts as a major inhibitor to their growth and progress as an equal member of the society.¹⁴⁰

Transgender people are faced with a set of challenges including lack of access to basic education and livelihood opportunities which compromises their economic development, and also lack of basic skills and access to financial resources for a better life. Limited livelihood choices double their vulnerability to harassment and discrimination.

- **Beggars**

Beggary has been observed as a “symptom of social disorganization”¹⁴¹ and is reflective of a complex socio-economic problem. This situation is caused due to a multitude of factors such as loss of income-earners in the household, disability, unemployment, under-employment, landlessness, natural calamity or famines and various other factors. These conditions deprive the households of any other earning opportunities and lead them to beggary.

Whilst India has achieved remarkable economic growth, the prevalence of poverty is visible through the magnitude of begging that exists in the country. As per Census 2011, 3.7 lakh persons were identified as beggars.¹⁴² Moreover, 20 percent of the beggars in India belong to the category of scheduled castes. West Bengal comprises 30 percent of the beggars in India, followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. These three states account for 47 percent of the total number of households engaged in begging in India.

Status of inclusion of Beggars

There are numerous factors which contribute to beggary, primary ones being religious, cultural and economic factors; the religious and cultural being the pull factors and the economic force being the push factor.¹⁴³

- Economic reasons for beggary are two-fold: first, this tends to be a consequence of adverse economic conditions or distress, and secondly, under certain situations beggary might be motivated by economic gain considerations (relevant in case of organized or exploitative beggary). Various causal factors such as unemployment, under-employment, landlessness, poverty, natural calamities and various other conditions of destitution are all variants of economic causes, and lead to beggary among households.
- Loss of agricultural employment in the villages is also a key cause of pushing landless workers deprived of subsistence from the land towards other areas. As all landless individuals cannot be absorbed in industrial employment, many of them are driven to work as casual labour (e.g. earth-diggers and road-menders), as domestic helps and coolies in the market. However, many others prefer beggary to work.¹⁴⁴
- Religious mendicancy is quite prevalent in India and is not only tolerated, but even supported on religious grounds. Alms-giving stemming from religious beliefs has been historically

¹⁴⁰ Press Information Bureau (2019), [Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Bill](#), Last accessed on 10th January 2020

¹⁴¹ Mukherjee, R. (1945). Causes of Beggary. In J. M. Kumarappa (Ed.), *Our Beggar Problem: How to Tackle It*. (Pp. 19-26). Bombay: Padma Publications Ltd., Last accessed on 22nd September 2020

¹⁴² Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#), Last accessed on 7th February 2020

¹⁴³ Iqbal, Rubina (2013), *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences*; [Beggary: A Growing Menace in India](#), Last accessed on 6th March 2020

¹⁴⁴ NSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GOI (2019), [Periodic Labour Force Survey](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

symbolic of benevolence or religious virtue. Religious sanction on begging and the population's faith and sentiment attached with alms-giving has led to proliferation of this practice on this pretext.

Punishing the underlying poverty of beggary

Due to the absence of a central Act on beggary, many states and UTs criminalized begging, building upon the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959. This legislation, which is "difficult to explain in a constitutional setting",¹⁴⁵ is based on the perception of begging as a nuisance and, thus, the need to eradicate it. It has been critiqued for criminalizing the underlying poverty instead of addressing the root cause, stemming from the punitive rather rehabilitative nature of dealing with beggars.¹⁴⁶ Moreover, the clauses pertaining to the physical appearance of beggars has resulted in the police detention of persons who looked like beggars, including poor migrants, street vendors, daily-wage labourers, etc.¹⁴⁷ In a landmark judgement in 2018, the Delhi High Court decriminalized begging and struck down various provisions of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, as unconstitutional.¹⁴⁸ The judgement has been viewed as an important step in the right direction because it iterates the need to view this issue from a human rights lens and that the violation of fundamental rights by denying the poor their right to life, livelihood and dignity is unacceptable in a society governed by the rule of law.

Denial of access to basic rights

This group is deprived of the most basic services related to shelter, education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, etc. due to their abject poverty, distress and lack of other respectable sources of livelihood.

No awareness of rights and poor social safety net

Weak or absent legal and social protection, including inadequate rehabilitative efforts, and poor awareness regarding protectionary measures is further worsening the state of beggars.

There is a lack of focused effort towards integration of this section within the larger social and political fabric of the country, thereby aggravating the isolation faced by these people.

¹⁴⁵ Usha Ramanathan, (2010), [A constitution amid dire straits](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

¹⁴⁶ Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, (2017), [RGICS Policy Watch Volume 6 Issue 5](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

¹⁴⁷ Hindustan Times, (2017), [You can be arrested for 'looking poor' in most Indian states, Union Territories](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

¹⁴⁸ Goel, Ashish The Wire, (2018), [Decriminalization of Begging Is a Rare Example of an Activist Court](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

2. Performance of sector

2.1. Historical Trends and Evolution of Social Inclusion Policies

2.1.1. Constitutional Provisions for Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Given the huge proportion of vulnerable groups in India, social justice and inclusion has been a priority for the Indian State. The Indian Constitution ensures its citizens the liberty of expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity. It further prescribes safeguards for advancing the social, economic and political status of backward classes in the society. The term Scheduled Castes is present in the Constitution and there are provisions for Other Backward Classes as well. The Constitution of India has prescribed, protection and safeguards for the SCs and other weaker and vulnerable sections, either specially or by way of insisting on their general rights as citizens with the object of promoting their educational and economic interests and removing social disabilities.¹⁴⁹

The Preamble to the Constitution assures all citizens social, economic and political justice. Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the Constitution advocate different parameters of social justice. Article 14 provides each individual equality before laws within the territory of India, while Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste or place of birth. Article 16 provides equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment. Article 16(4A) speaks of “*reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of SCs/STs, which are not adequately represented in the services under the State*”. Article 17 has helped do away with all manifestations of the concept of ‘untouchability’. All the above provisions work towards eliminating social exclusion in different forms. Article 46, with its provision of promoting the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the society, especially those of the scheduled castes, lies at the heart and soul of social justice. This Article protects them from all forms of exploitation and social injustice.

The Constitution provides for the preferential treatment of the backward classes for their upliftment in society. ¹⁵⁰ Article 330 and Article 332 of the Constitution respectively provide for reservation of seats in favour of the scheduled castes in the House of the People and in the legislative assemblies of the states. Under Part IX, relating to the *Panchayats*, and Part IXA of the Constitution, relating to the municipalities, reservation for scheduled castes in local bodies has been envisaged and provided. Article 335 provides that the claims of the members of the scheduled castes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a state. Article 338 provides for a National Commission for the Scheduled Castes with duties to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided for them, to inquire into specific complaints and to participate and advise on the planning process of their socio-economic development, etc.

¹⁴⁹ Khurshid, Salman (2019), [Governance, Constitution and Social Justice for Civil Services Examination](#), Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

¹⁵⁰ Galanter (1961), [Structure and Change in Indian Society](#), Last accessed on 14th Mar 2020

Figure 5: Relevant Constitutional Provisions for Backward Classes

Clause (4) of Article 15 of Constitution of India [“Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth”] permits the State to make special provision for the advancement of “any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens” including in admission to educational institutions.

Article 16 (4) [“Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment”] permits the State to make provision for reservation in appointments for “any backward class of citizens”.

Article 340 of the Constitution provides “that the President may by order appoint a Commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes”. As it was not envisaged to set-up an independent commission to investigate complaints made by OBCs, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been entrusted to investigate such complaints under Article 338 (10) of the Constitution.

Clause (1) of Article 38 of the Constitution makes it obligatory for the State to “strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order, in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life”. Art. 46 enjoins upon the States to “promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections”.

Clause (10) of Article 338 (National Commission for Scheduled Castes) mentions that for the purpose of that article, references to scheduled castes “shall be construed as including references to the Anglo-Indian community”.

2.1.2 Evolution of Social Inclusion Themes in Five Year Plans

In 1950, the Government of India established the Planning Commission as India’s apex planning body to create and execute India’s Five-Year Plans. India’s first Five Year Plan was tabled in Parliament in 1951 and for over the next six decades, Five Year Plans continued to be India’s model of development planning. Five Year Plans were developed up to the 12th plan period (2012-17). The Five-Year Plans in India evolved based on the needs of the times and focused on key development priorities. The focus of the initial plans (1st^t and 2nd) was broadly on economic development in areas such as agriculture, irrigation, power, transport and industrial development. However, from a social inclusion perspective, they also emphasized on provision of basic services such as water and sanitation and on women empowerment. During the 3rd, 4th and 5th plan periods, the focus of planning expanded to cover balanced regional development, rural welfare, poverty alleviation and social equality and justice. The 6th and 7th plans gave considerable emphasis on growth, reducing unemployment, self-reliance and social justice. Post-liberalization, in the early 1990s, the focus of the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans were on enabling accelerated economic development and bringing renewed emphasis on social objectives through affirmative action and by universalization of education and healthcare. The 10th, 11th and 12th plans strongly advocated inclusive growth principles, balancing economic growth together with improving the condition of vulnerable sections of the society such as women and children, backward classes through services such as health, education and employment generation. A summary of how the Five-Year Plans have focused on the social inclusion agenda over the years is provided below:

Table 8: Social development and inclusion focus under India’s Five-Year Plans

Plan and Period	Description
First Five-Year Plan (1951-56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadly focused on primary sector (e.g. agriculture, power, and transport), but also put considerable focus on social development areas • Water supply and sanitation were included in the national agenda and subsequently the first National Water Supply Programme was launched in 1954 as a part of the government's health plan
Second Five Year Plan (1956-61)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led to announcement in Industrial Policy in 1956 accepting the establishment of socialistic pattern of society as the goal of economic policy, with focus on production, investment, and employment • It emphasized that "social welfare is concerned with the wellbeing of entire community" • Introduced the concept of Mahila Mandals to act as focal points of development of women at the grass root level • Provided for welfare measures such as women should be protected against injurious work and should receive maternity benefits, and included crèches for children, and the principle of equal pay for equal work
Third Five Year Plan (1961-66)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan considered for the first time the aim of balanced regional growth • This gave special emphasis on women and children welfare. Most significant event was the establishment of Department of Social Welfare in the country in 1964 • In social welfare, the largest share was provided for expanding rural welfare services and condensed course of education • Laid down a set of 'national minimum' for standard of living focused on food, work, educational opportunity, health and sanitation facilities, housing and minimum level of income
Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This plan focused on growth with social justice and equality • Focus was on creating employment and for providing a 'national minimum' to people, and laid emphasis on weaker sections of the society • Family planning was touched upon for the first time during this plan. It also gave special attention to the need of the destitute children
Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan had major focus on poverty alleviation, leading to the 'Twenty-point Programme' of the government • Proposed to achieve two main objectives: removal of poverty (<i>Garibi Hatao</i>) and attainment of self-reliance • The price wage policy was initiated to mitigate the effect of high rate of inflation on wage earners • Promotion of high rate of growth, better distribution of income and significant growth in the domestic rate of savings were key instruments • Several new programmes were launched; important among them was Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) launched in 1975. There was also a National Policy on Children developed in 1974 and National Children Board was consequently set-up
Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan focused on decreasing poverty and unemployment. Schemes such as Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) that provided slack season unemployment were introduced • Poverty alleviation was given priority and Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Youth Employment Programme and Tribal Rural Youth for Self-Employment scheme were launched • Focus was on improving quality of life of people with special reference to economically and socially weaker sections, through a minimum needs programme

Plan and Period	Description
Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Programme for Women and Children (SPWC) launched in 1983 • Growth, modernization, self-reliance and social justice were the guiding principles for this plan • Decentralization of planning and public participation in development were emphasized. There was also focus on alleviation of poverty and reduction in interclass, inter regional and rural-urban disparities • The Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) was launched in 1989 with an aim to create wage employment for the rural poor • National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988
Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decentralization of planning happened, with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act bringing Panchayati Raj under the constitutional mandate • An increased thrust was on the social sector- education and healthcare • The plan created facilities for universalization of elementary education, health for all by the year 2000, mid-day meal programme was also launched in August 1995 • It attempted to accelerate economic growth and thereby improve the quality of life of the people • Mandal Commission recommended affirmative action of reservation for OBCs, which was introduced along with existing reservation for SC and ST groups
Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan focused on “Growth with Social Justice & Equality “ • There was a renewed emphasis on ‘social’ objectives and basic minimum services such as safe drinking water, primary health services, universalization of primary education, and nutrition support to certain groups
Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan set-up ‘monitorable targets’ for development, including reduction in gender gaps in literacy, wage rate, access to potable drinking water, etc. • State-wise break up of targets and growth was done to ensure balanced development of all states • National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was approved and implemented in the form of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) • Social and economic empowerment of women and gender justice was also focused.
Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan focused on several interrelated components such as rapid growth, reducing poverty, creating employment opportunities, access to essential services in health and education, extension of employment opportunities, environmental sustainability and reduction of gender inequality • The Right to Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 was also enacted and launched during this period
Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The broad aims of this plan were to achieve “Faster, Sustainable and more inclusive growth” • The plan aimed towards betterment of the conditions of SC, ST and OBC and minorities • Focused on generating at least 50 million employment opportunities for youth, eliminating gender and social gaps through welfare measures • The 14th Finance commission set-up in 2015 recommended devolution of higher share of taxes from centre to states, thereby enabling the states to play a greater role in development at local levels based on their needs • The United Nations adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and set-up targets to be achieved by the countries by 2030. The country also subscribed to these goals and directed its schemes for achieving the targeted outcomes

Source: Various¹⁵¹

The focus of this report is on scheduled castes and other vulnerable groups including OBCs, DNTs, victims of alcoholism and substance abuse, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, manual scavengers, street children, urban homeless persons, transgenders and beggars. The subsequent sections provide a comprehensive analysis of the status of these socially disadvantaged groups and the extent of social exclusion faced by them, identify key issues and gaps, and finally propose recommendations for the upliftment and inclusion of these marginalized groups.

2.2 Sector outcomes

While Section 3.2 identifies all the vulnerable groups in the country which are socially excluded and discusses their key issues and the factors underlying them, the objective of this section is to analyse data and provide an inter-comparison between select social groups (SC, Women and PwD-led households) with respect to their performance on select development indicators. The performance analysis framework looks at three intersecting and interrelated domains of Markets, Services and Spaces in which individuals and groups participate and engage. These domains represent the barriers as well as opportunities for inclusion.¹⁵² For the purpose of this section, the Markets domain includes economic elements such as income levels, land and asset ownership; Services focuses on provision of enabling services such as education and healthcare; and Spaces looks at the political, physical, cultural and social spaces.

2.2.1. Markets

The Markets components of income, land and housing ownership and other asset ownership are the indicators of economic power, which eventually influence political capital and representation in decision-making, which, in turn, influences the allocation of public expenditure.¹⁵³

- **Income and incidence of poverty**

Numerous studies¹⁵⁴ by the erstwhile Planning Commission and, more recently, by NITI Aayog indicate that incidence of poverty has significantly reduced over the decades across all social groups in rural as well as urban parts of the country. However, the incidence of poverty is still relatively higher among the weaker sections of the country. The reasons for such elevated levels of poverty rates could be attributed to low levels of educational attainments, poor living conditions, high malnutrition rates among these social groups, isolation by the society and occupational subjugation. Historically schemes intended for the benefit of the targeted groups have failed to reach them and uplift their social and economic status, landing them into a vicious cycle over generations.

¹⁵¹ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, (2011), [Chapter V. Statistical Year Book](#); INFLIBNET Centre, (2009), [Evolution of Objectives of Different Five Year Plans of India - A Case For Basic Needs](#); Dr. Amrinder Kaur, International Journal of Advanced Educational Research, (2018), [Women empowerment through five year plans in India](#); Ramesh Singh (2015), [Indian Economy](#); UNDP, (2018), [How inclusive is the eleventh five year plan a sectoral review](#); NITI Aayog (2018), [Strategy for New India @75](#), Last accessed on 25th April 2020

¹⁵² International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, The World Bank (2013), [Inclusion Matters: The foundation for shared prosperity](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

¹⁵³ Public Sector Governance and Accountability Series, The World Bank (2005), [Public Expenditure Analysis](#), Last accessed on 26th April 2020

¹⁵⁴ NITI Aayog (2018), [Strategy for New India @75](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

Table 9: Incidence of Poverty across Social Groups

Social Group	Rural (%)			Urban (%)		
	2004-15	2009-10	2011-12	2004-10	2009-10	2011-12
SCs	53.53	42.26	31.5	40.56	34.11	21.7
OBCs	39.8	31.9	22.6	30.6	24.3	15.4
Others	41.79	33.8	15.5	25.68	20.09	8.1

Source: NITI Aayog (2018), Strategy for New India @75

The percentage of those affected by poverty has reduced variably for different social groups. While the drop in rural poor has been maximum for other vulnerable groups, it has been maximum for the scheduled castes in the urban areas. OBCs living in rural areas have progressed more than those living in urban areas. India experienced a rapid economy boost between the two intervening decades of 1983 to 2004-05.

As per the census data from 1981 to 2011, there has been a significant growth across various development indicators for various social groups in India. However, the status of level of education, livelihood opportunities, provision of basic services for SCs, OBCs and other vulnerable groups continue to be lower than the national average, leading to significant inequality among these groups.

The Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) ¹⁵⁵ undertaken as part of the 2011 Census of India and was a significant step towards measuring the levels of deprivation across different caste groups in India. Since the 1931 Census of India, the SECC 2011 was India's first caste-based census ever. In 2017, the SECC was accepted by the Government of India as the main reference point to identify beneficiaries and transfer funds for social schemes in rural areas in place of the 'poverty line' indicator, which was used as the basis earlier. The SECC data is used across all key programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as MGNREGA, National Food Security Act and the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Some of the key findings of the SECC 2011 with respect to the vulnerable groups on their income deprivation were as follows:¹⁵⁶

- 73 percent (17.97 crores) of India's 24.49 crore households live in villages. 60 percent (10.74 crores) of these rural households are deprived. SC categories constitute 18.45 percent (3.32 crores) of the rural families.
- Monthly income of 74.5 percent (13.40 crores) of rural households is up to Rs. 5000 for their highest earner.
- 38.6 percent (6.8 crores) rural households obtain a major share of their income from manual labour and are landless.
- The percentage of urban households that qualify as poor stands at 35 percent.
- Manual scavenging engages 1,80,657 households to their livelihood. Maharashtra has 63,713 manual scavenger households, which ranks it the highest amongst states, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Karnataka.
- 1.49 percent of the total population are PwDs.

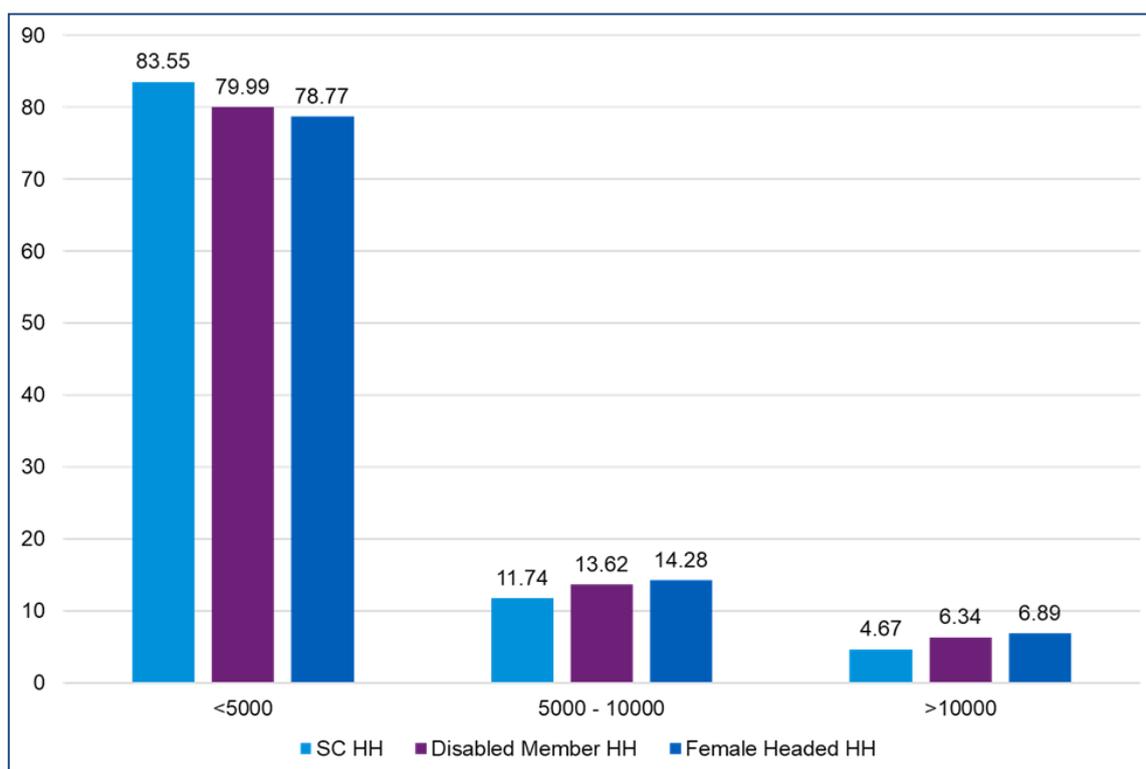
¹⁵⁵Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#). Last accessed on 25th April 2020

¹⁵⁶Footnote 172

The SECC 2011 throws significant light on the economic status of SC, women, and PwD-led households. The following analysis provides a comparative assessment of these households with the average rural households on several parameters such as land ownership, income levels, employment, and asset ownership.

Monthly Income

Figure 6: Comparison of groups across different levels of monthly income of highest earning household member



Source: Census 2011

Households with monthly income of highest earning member < Rs. 5000

74.52 percent of rural India households had a monthly income of highest earning member less than Rs. 5000. When it came to percentage of households which had monthly income of highest earning member less than Rs. 5000, all social groups faced a challenge. The gap was highest for SC 83.55 percent of SC Households followed by 80 percent of PwD households. There are multiple reasons contributing to the significantly high percentage of SC earning lesser than Rs. 5000 in a month. In addition to land ownership patterns, labour markets are a critical area for social exclusion. Low income earning capacity of SC is largely due to historical inequities that have led to social and occupational stratification. Landlessness, coupled with other deprivations, relegates them mostly to manual casual labour. Extremely low-income levels tend to put such households into a debt trap. For instance, many landless agricultural labourers end up obtaining credit through exploitative arrangements such as bonded labour in return for advance payments of wages from their property owners or against loans at exorbitant interest rates.

Households with monthly income of highest earning member between Rs. 5000 - Rs 10,000

In the higher monthly income slab of Rs. 5000-10000, the challenge for SC widens even further. SCs face a tougher challenge than female-headed households or households with a disabled member. Only 11.74 percent of SC households and 8.95 percent of ST households have monthly income of highest earning household member between Rs. 5000 and Rs.10000, whereas the average for rural households in India earning in that income bracket is 17.18 percent.

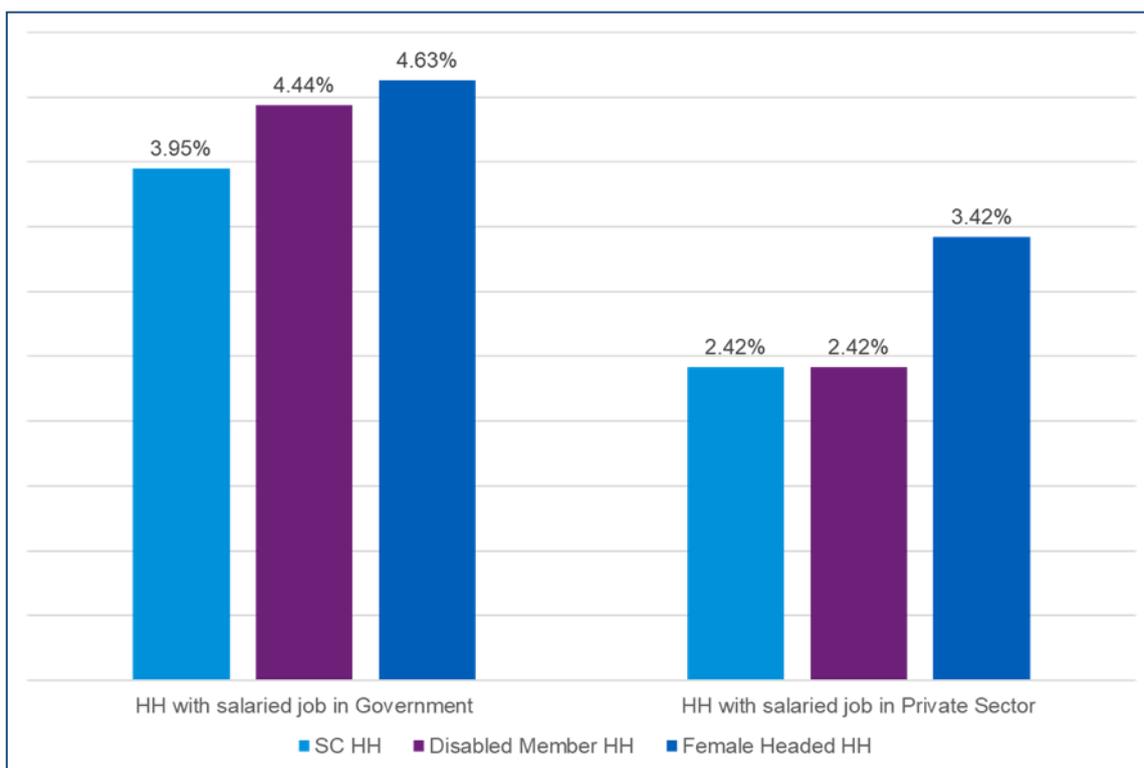
Households with monthly income of highest earning member > Rs 10,000

The statistics for households which had monthly income of highest earning household member greater than Rs 10,000 also highlight major gaps for SC and ST. Only 4.67 percent of SC households and 4.48 percent of ST households have monthly income of highest earning household member greater than Rs 10,000, whereas the average for rural households in India is 8.25 percent.

- **Economic activity/ employment**

Salaried Jobs/ Employment

Figure 7: Comparison of households with salaried job in government and private sector



Source: Census 2011

Government Jobs

89.54 lakh (4.98 percent) rural households were in salaried jobs with government. All social groups experienced gaps when compared to the average rural household, especially SC households, when it came to percentage of households is salaried jobs in government.

Private Sector Jobs

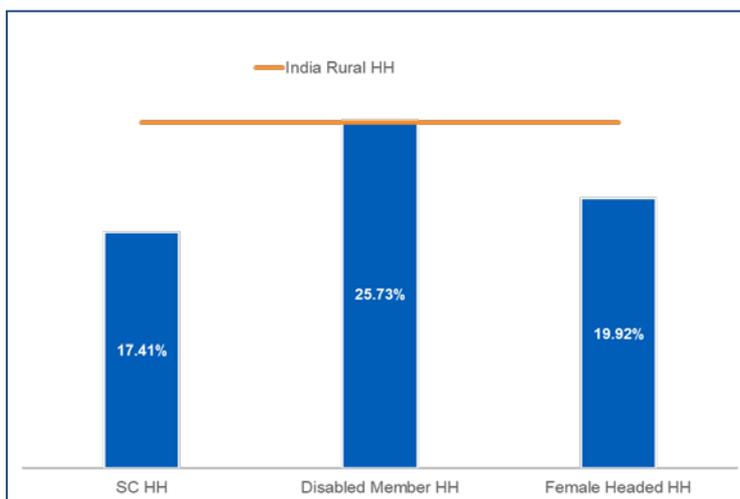
63.93 lakh (3.56 percent) rural households were in salaried jobs in private sector. Almost all social groups experienced significant gaps when compared to the average rural household. SC

households experienced the highest gap among all, followed by PwD households. The proportion of SC and PwD households engaged in salaried private sector jobs was alarmingly low in comparison to the general population. These groups had a lower than average representation in organized sector jobs and continued to be in low paying roles or positions. This lack of equal access to salaried jobs for SC reinforces their weak economic and social status.

- **Land and asset ownership**

Ownership of Irrigated Land

Figure 8: Total households owning irrigated land



Source: Census 2011

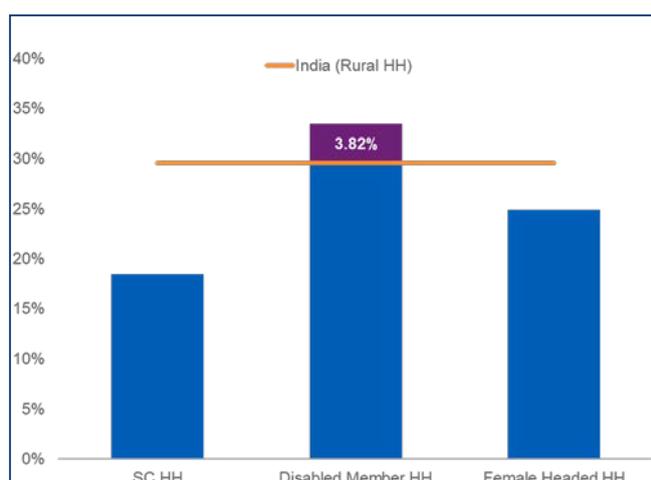
Ownership of irrigated land is an indicator of a household’s potential to generate income and livelihoods from agricultural activities. While 25.52 percent of rural households did not own irrigated land, the proportion of the same was much lower with SC households and female-headed households. Less number of SC and female-headed households owning irrigated land is an indicator of the lack of equal access and ownership rights among these groups. The lack of such access promotes income deprivation and encourages social exclusion which leads to creating further disparities between different social groups.¹⁵⁷

Ownership of Unirrigated Land

Unirrigated land ownership is an indicator of a household’s potential to generate non-farm activity-related income and livelihoods. Whereas, the national rural household average for holding of unirrigated land was 29.6 percent; a significantly lower number of SC households held unirrigated land.

¹⁵⁷ Thorat, Sukhadeo., PACS India, [Caste, Social Exclusion and Poverty Linkages – Concept, Measurement](#), Last accessed on 6th March 2020

Figure 9: Total households owning unirrigated land

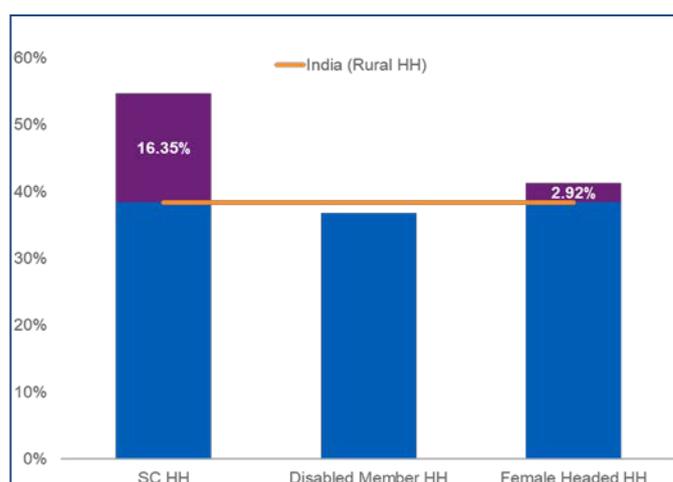


Source: Census 2011

Landlessness and Income from Manual Casual Labour

As per the SECC 2011, 6.8 crores (38.36 percent) of rural households were landless households deriving a major part of their income from manual labour. In comparison, 54.71 percent of SC households and 41.28 percent of female-led households were landless households and deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour. Historically, land has been a key driver of social exclusion in India. For instance, poor entitlement to land among SCs reflects poor enforceability of their property and other rights. Key resultant of this is the unequal access to housing, with spiralling effects in other areas. Conversely, owning land can give households a sense of status and security.¹⁵⁸

Figure 10: Landless households depending on manual casual labour for a major part of their income

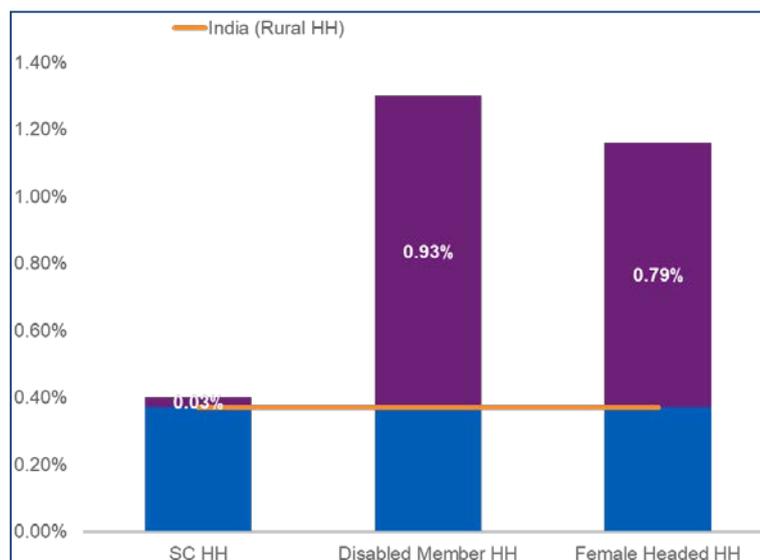


Source: Census 2011

¹⁵⁸ Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay (2002), [Law, property rights, and social exclusion: A capabilities and entitlements approach](#). Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020

Households with Destitute/Living on alms

Figure 11: Households with destitute/living on alms

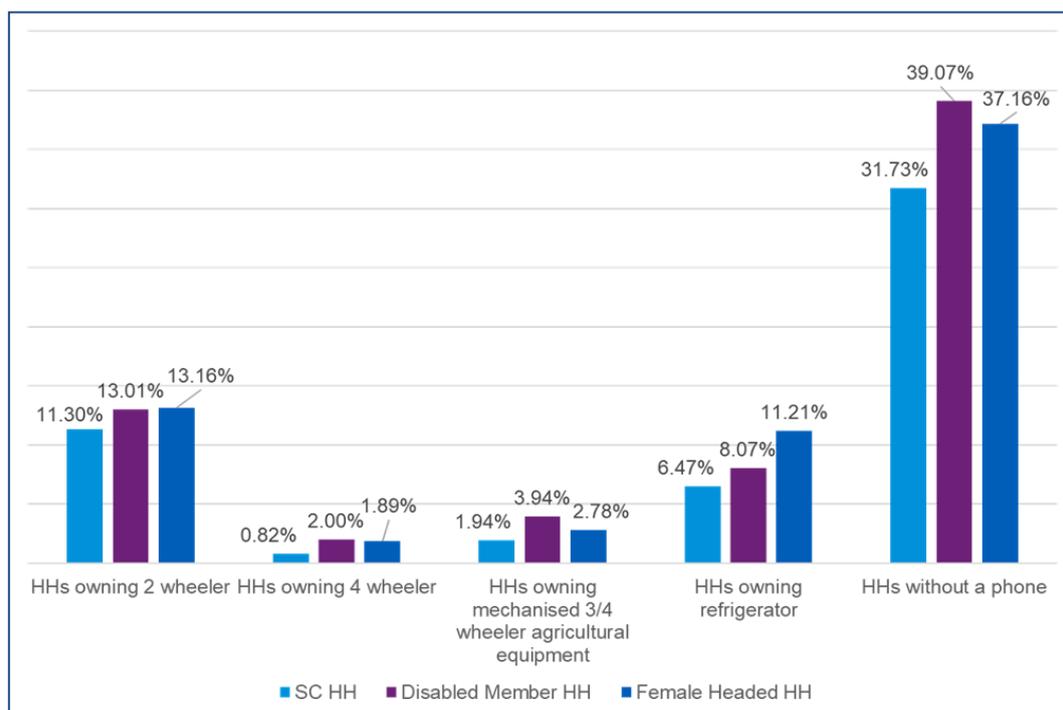


Source: Census 2011

As per SECC 2011, 6.69 lakh (0.37 percent) rural households were destitute/living on alms. The statistics for households with destitute/living on alms are alarmingly high for households with PwD members (1.3 percent) and households headed by female (1.16 percent).

Asset Ownership

Figure 12: Comparison of households based on asset ownership



Source: Census 2011 and Handbook of Social Welfare Statistics 2018

Two-Wheeler Ownership

Penetration of two-wheeler ownership for ST and SC has the highest gap. When compared to the national rural household average of 17.46 percent, only 11.3 percent of SC households have access to two-wheelers.

Four-Wheeler Ownership

While 2.45 percent of the rural households reported ownership of a four-wheeler, the penetration of four-wheelers is the least for SC households among the mentioned social groups, at 0.82 percent. While the ownership of four-wheelers is extremely low amongst SC households, they have better access to two-wheelers. This ownership trend corresponds with the finding that SC households have a much lower share of salaried jobs and lower proportion of monthly income earners in the above Rs. 10,000 category.

Mechanized three/four-wheeler agricultural equipment

Approximately four percent of the rural households reported ownership of some form of mechanized three/four-wheeler agricultural equipment. Comparatively, only 1.94 percent of SC households owned the same. This low ownership trend is an outcome of exceptionally low irrigated land ownership among these vulnerable social groups, as borne out in one of the earlier findings. The ownership among female-headed households was relatively better at 2.78 percent, but still lower than the average rural household.

Refrigerator ownership

While 11 percent rural households reported owning a refrigerator, there is a gap within the SC and PwD member households with respect to ownership of a refrigerator. However, households headed by a female have a higher penetration of refrigerator ownership than the average rural household. Such low ownership of essential household consumer goods is a result of majority of the SC/ PwD households being in the lowest income strata.¹⁵⁹

Households without a phone

28.01 percent rural households did not own a phone (landline or mobile), whereas the percentage for PwD and female-headed households lacking access is comparatively higher. However, with the proliferation of cheaper mobile technology, increased coverage of mobile networks and lower calling rates over the last decade, this gap is expected to have closed significantly among various social groups.

2.2.2. Services

Equitable access to services is critical to achieving social inclusion. Education and health services play a critical role in enhancing human development potential. Access to transport services drives mobility, promoting access to opportunities. Access to clean water, sanitation and energy are key to maintaining a basic quality of life.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁹ Joseph, T Mary & Celinkutty, Mathew (2003), [Consumption Expenditure Pattern of Scheduled Castes](#), Last accessed on 25th April 2020

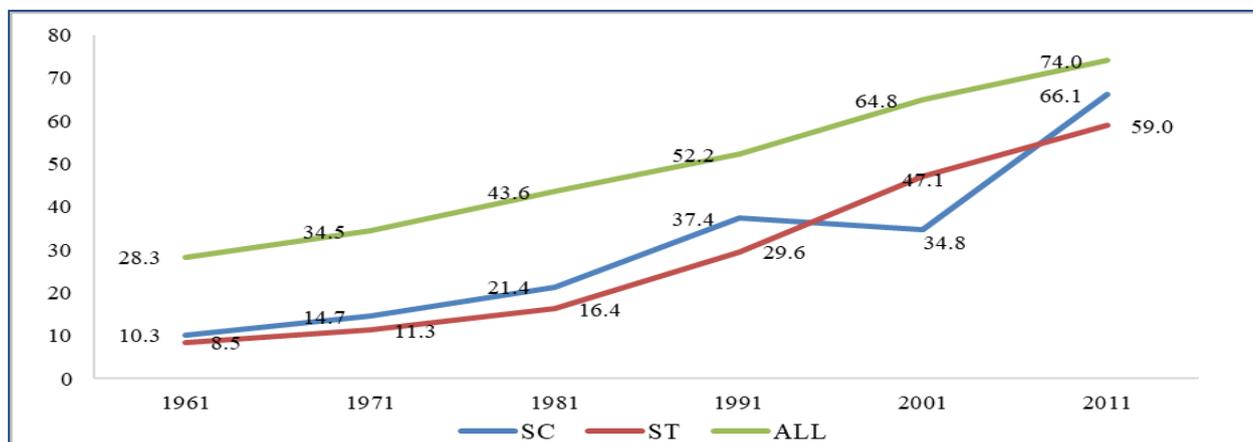
¹⁶⁰ Statistics Division, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GOI (2013), [Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India, 2013](#), Last accessed on 6th March 2020

- **Educational Status**

Education is considered to an incomparable agent of social change as education levels calibrate access to opportunities and economic power and confidence within society and within households.

Literacy

Figure 13: Literacy rate of SCs, STs and national average

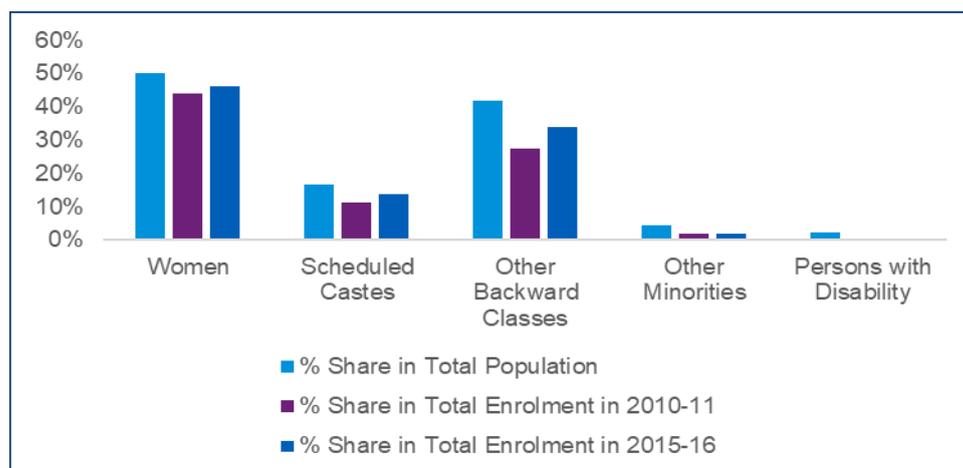


Source: Handbook of Social Welfare Statistics 2018

There is a marked improvement in the literacy rate of SCs in India over the decade between 2001 and 2011. The literacy rate of SCs living in most states in India is lower than the average literacy rate of the local state population. For example, literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh in 2001 was 56.3 percent, while for the SC population it was 46.3 percent. Similarly, the literacy rate in Bihar was 47.0 percent for the total population while that for the SCs was 28.5 percent, which is over half of the total. The social and educational backwardness of such a large part of the population has inhibited their participation in social, economic and human development.

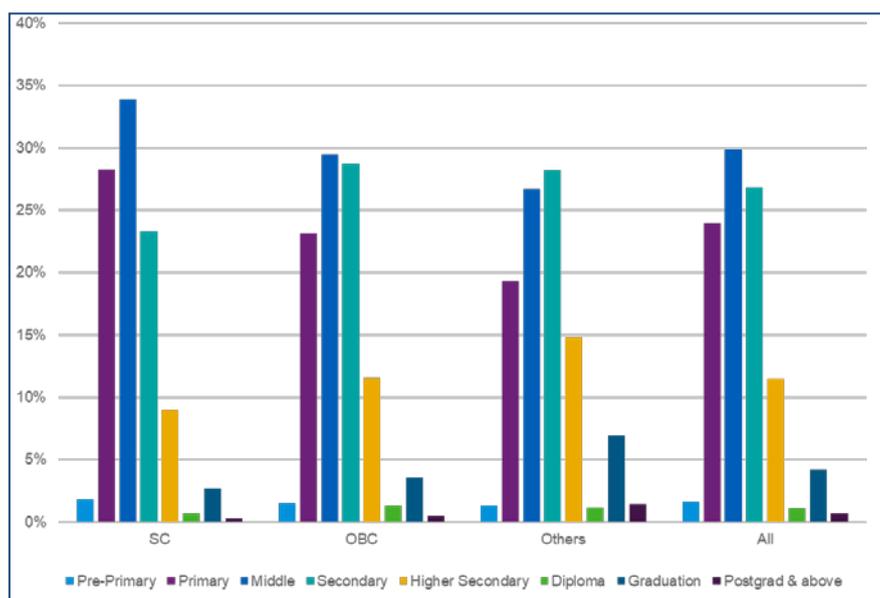
Enrolment in Higher Education

Figure 14: Percentage Share in Total Enrolment of Various Social Groups, 2010-11 to 2015-16



Source: Handbook of Social Welfare Statistics 2018

Figure 15: Dropout rates by Category and Stages of Education (All India, Males), Ages 5-29, NSSO (2007-08)



Source: Handbook of Social Welfare Statistics 2018

The children belonging to families from SC/OBC backgrounds have a higher chance of dropping-out from schools with drop-out rates of children of illiterate parents being four times higher than that of literate parents¹⁶¹. This is mainly due to the impact of parental characteristics in determining school education. The lack of employment opportunities for such parents leads to students being pulled out of school and being forced to work in order to help their parents make ends meet. SC children make a sizeable share of the total number of drop-outs even today.¹⁶² There has only been a marginal increase in the enrolment of students belonging to disadvantaged social groups between 2010 and 2015. For instance, the percentage increase in the enrolment rate for students notified as SCs between these two years was only three per cent, followed by six per cent for OBCs.

A trend of maximum number of dropouts during middle school is observed across most groups. Children living in rural areas tend to drop-out of school earlier than those who live in urban areas.¹⁶³ Considering the proportion of SCs residing in rural areas, this reiterates the high level of drop-outs for these social groups during the different stages of education.¹⁶⁴ The second highest stage at which students are observed to be dropping-out of school is at secondary levels. This is due to various factors¹⁶⁵ attributing towards high drop-out rates, including poor quality of schools in both rural and urban areas, thereby making lack of access to quality education a major reason. Other reasons include, but are not limited to, the lack of equipment and facilities in

¹⁶¹ Planning Commission (2006), [A Study Of The Extent And Causes Of Drop Outs In Primary School In Rural Maharashtra With Special Reference To Girl Drop Outs](#). Last accessed on 6th March 2020

¹⁶² Planning Commission (2013), [Special Central Assistance \(SCA\) to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan \(SCSP\) and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan](#). Last accessed on 26th March 2020

¹⁶³ JMRB (2014), [National Survey of Estimation of out-of-school children in age 6-13 in India](#). Last accessed on 17th March 2020

¹⁶⁴ SECC (2001), [Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes](#). Last accessed on 19th March 2020

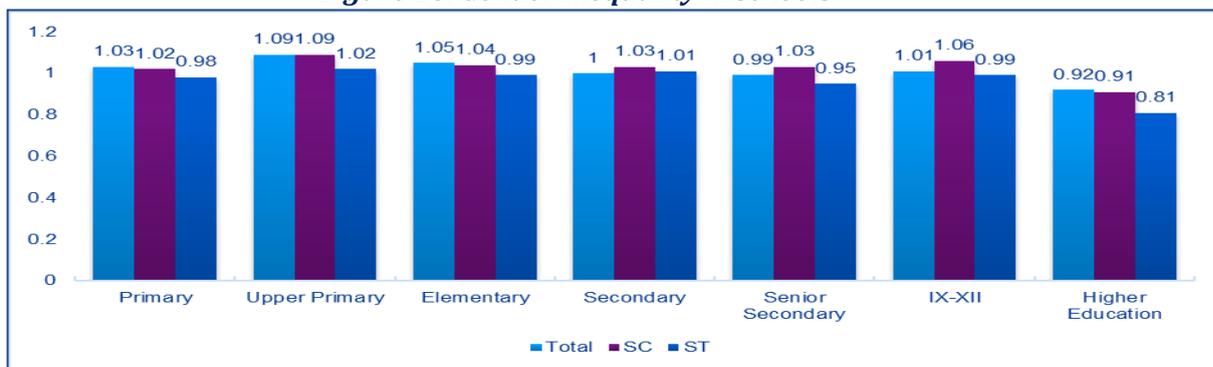
¹⁶⁵Footnote 181

schools, lack of support from parents of students and lack of flexibility in making the schools more culturally adaptive.

Gender Inequality

The drop-out rate for SC /OBC females in primary years of education is higher than the total number. Besides the nuances of socio-economic conditions, gender disparity also acts as a contributory factor towards high drop-out rates during the secondary stage of education. Female drop-out rates are higher due to expectations of domesticity from girls, their safety issues, and other infrastructure barriers. Families consider the cost of education to be both monetary and psychological due to the major gender gap that exists in India. They look at education as an investment which has lesser returns for women in comparison to men, due to which they feel less motivated to educate their girls. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for primary to elementary school level is lower for SCs in comparison to the total across these levels. GPI of one refers to parity between girls and boys,¹⁶⁶ value lower than one indicates a disparity in favour of boys and greater than one signifies a disparity in favour of girls. The GPI for SCs being lower than the total 1.03 for primary school depicts that the number of girls is lesser than boys at this stage. Similarly, the GPI being higher than one at the secondary school level indicates lesser number of boys in secondary school. This ratio is an evidence of the persisting gender gap in the society at various levels of education. Even though the disparity rate seems marginally lower or greater than the total, the level of unequal distribution of boys and girls in schools is a major issue of concern. Maintaining the gender equilibrium is an essential indicator of gender equality, which is key to a socially just environment and an indicator of the socio-economic progress of the country.¹⁶⁷ The GPI for SCs being lower than the total reiterates the presence of the multi-fold challenges faced by these groups which makes it harder for girls to attend school at the primary level. The social status of these groups is supremely affected by existing disparities pertaining to gender norms being followed.

Figure 16: Gender Inequality in schools



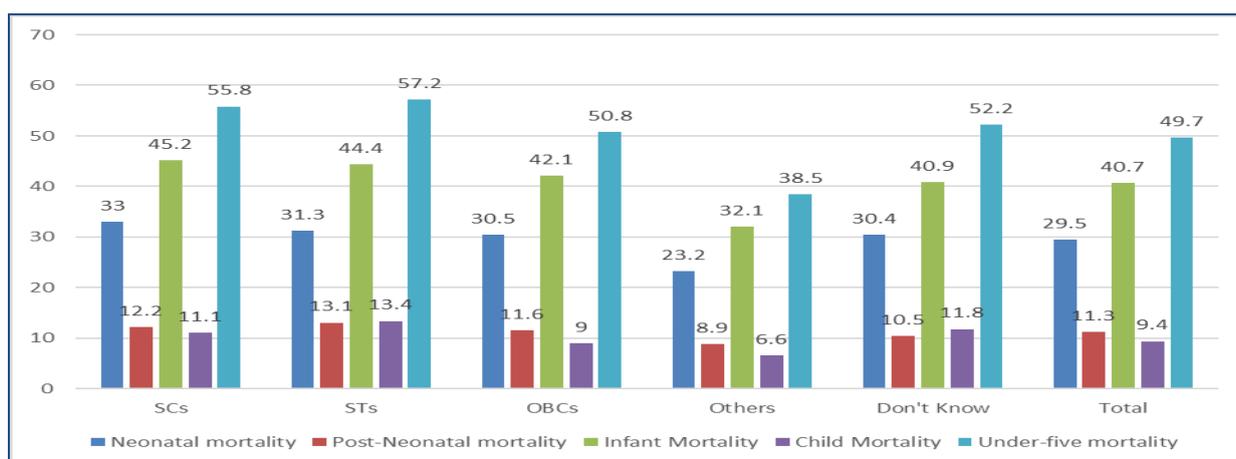
Source: Handbook of Social Welfare Statistics 2018

¹⁶⁶ UNESCO, *Gender Parity Index*, <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/gender-parity-index-gpi>. Last accessed on 7th Apr 2020
¹⁶⁷ UN Women (2014), *Gender Equality and Sustainable Development*, Last accessed on 19th Apr 2020

- **Health and Nutritional Status**

India has the highest under-five mortality rate in the world.¹⁶⁸ Infant and child mortality rates are significantly higher for these groups than for the general category. As the chart above suggests,¹⁶⁹ most of the social groups categorized as vulnerable groups such as SCs and OBCs have a much higher under-five mortality rates of 55.8 and 50.8 respectively, compared with the average rate of 49.7 for India. A study by UNICEF¹⁷⁰ also identified this trend of SC children having higher levels of under-five mortality than all the other social groups across all time periods. Neonatal mortality rates in SC and OBC are also higher than the Indian average.

Figure 17: Early Childhood Mortality Rates (ECMR) per 1000 live births during 2015-16 by social groups in India



Source: Handbook of Social Welfare Statistics 2018

The number of total still births in India are the highest globally. The overall rate of still births in India was 10 per 1000 total births. The increase in the number of still births was positively associated to socio-economic deprivation indicators. These indicators include female illiteracy and prevalence of the caste system. Approximately nine percent women reported that they chewed tobacco, which was causally related to an increase in the number of still births. Despite India turning into an emerging market which is experiencing a rapid transition in the health sector, the disparity in risk of still births continues to persist, depending upon the socio economic status of women.¹⁷¹ SCs are the highest contributors to the prenatal mortality rate, and together with the OBCs, contribute to a major proportion of the total number of early neonatal deaths in India.

The highest perinatal mortality rates¹⁷² are for the states of Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Chhattisgarh,¹⁷³ with a PMR of 56.4, 48.7 and 48.2 respectively. The states with the lowest PMR include Kerala, Mizoram and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. It also suggests that belonging to the SC

¹⁶⁸ World Bank, [Estimates Developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation \(UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN DESA Population Division\)](#), Last accessed on 7th April 2020

¹⁶⁹ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, [Handbook on Social Welfare Statistics \(2018\)](#), Last accessed on 9th April 2020

¹⁷⁰ NIMS, ICMR, and UNICEF(2012), [Infant and Child Mortality in India, Levels, Trends and Determinants](#), Last accessed on 31st April 2020

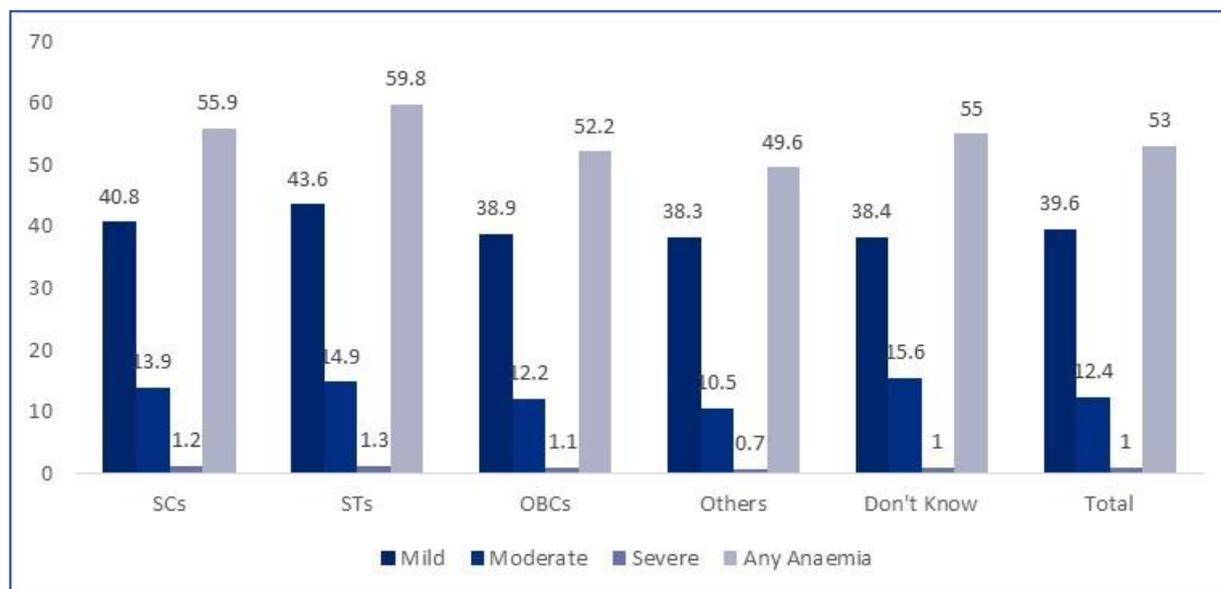
¹⁷¹ Bmj Open (2018), [Stillbirth among women in nine states in India: rate and risk factors in study of 886,505 women from the annual health survey](#), Last accessed on 6th April 2020

¹⁷² Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (2015-16), [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-4\)](#), Last accessed on 26th April 2020

¹⁷³ Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (2011), [Socio Economic and Caste Census](#), Last accessed on 10th April 2020

category poses 13 percent higher risk of neonatal and post-neonatal mortality in comparison to the other social groups. Since 1978, children born in SC families have a significantly higher risk of dying in comparison to others through each of the five-year periods. The social, economic and environmental factors mediate the rate of mortality for these social groups.

Figure 18: Percentage Prevalence of Anaemia in Women by Social Groups in India-2015-16



Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-16, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

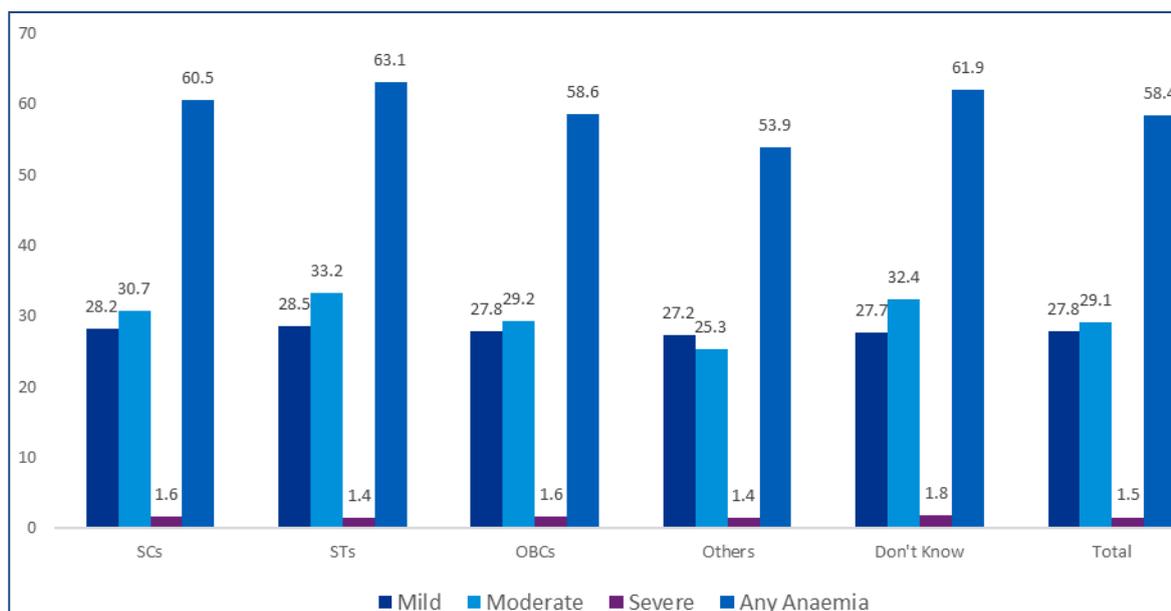
The prevalence of anaemia in women belonging to SCs is highest across all types of anaemia ranging from mild to severe, across social groups. The reasons for this range from lack of access to adequate nutrition and health care services to simply the lack of awareness of the consequences of being anaemic. A similar trend is noticed in the prevalence of anaemia in children aged 6-59 months. It is highest for SCs followed by OBCs at 60.5 percent and 58.6 percent ¹⁷⁴ respectively. There is a directly proportionate consistency noticed in the prevalence of anaemia across age groups and social groups. This is a clear indicator of the impact of the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable groups that leads to this degree of exclusion, wherein most of the cases of any type of anaemia include an individual from the SC or OBC background. The situation is worse ¹⁷⁵ for individuals who belong to underserved groups and historically underprivileged social groups. The prevalence of anaemia among women has been socially patterned, and has been parallel to the wealth status, education status and social status. Socio-economic inequalities ¹⁷⁶ continue to impact the anaemia rate in a persistent manner.

¹⁷⁴World Health Organization (2018), [The burden of iron-deficiency anemia among women in India: how have iron and folic acid interventions fared?](#), Last accessed on 10th March 2020

¹⁷⁵Footnote 194

¹⁷⁶Balarajan YS, Fawzi WW, Subramanian SV; BMJ OPEN (2013), [Changing patterns of social inequalities in anemia among women in India: cross-sectional study using nationally representative data.](#), Last accessed on 26th March 2020

Figure 19: Percentage Prevalence of Anaemia in Children Aged 6-59 months by Social Groups in India-2015-16



Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-16, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Occurrence of anaemia in children belonging to SC community aged between six months and five years is higher than the total percentage of the country at 58.4 percent.¹⁷⁷ The probability of being underweight, stunted, wasted and anaemic amongst children is associated directly to income of the households of these children. The mother's anaemic status is significantly associated with the prevalence of anaemia among children. The vicious cycle of poverty perpetuates the same socio-economic conditions for the children. Research evidence suggests that after accounting for various household covariates including adult education and household wealth, SC children face higher risk of having anaemia.¹⁷⁸ A high degree of inequity between social groups leads to worsening health conditions of the children living there.

- **Access to basic amenities**

Access to basic amenities is influenced by dimensions of caste, class and gender, and simultaneously builds into the overall well-being of these communities. The Census 2011 provides disaggregated data for SCs in terms of access to drinking water, sanitation and lighting which provide a brief overview of the living conditions for this community.

While 35 percent of rural population had access to water within the premises, only 28 percent of SCs had the same access.¹⁷⁹ The census data on the access to sanitation paints a dismal picture, with 66.1 percent of SC households not having a toilet within the premises, with an alarming 77.2 percent in rural areas and 34.1 percent in urban areas. However, these figures may have undergone significant revision with the implementation of SBM across urban and rural areas of India to eradicate open defecation and provide access to household and community toilets.

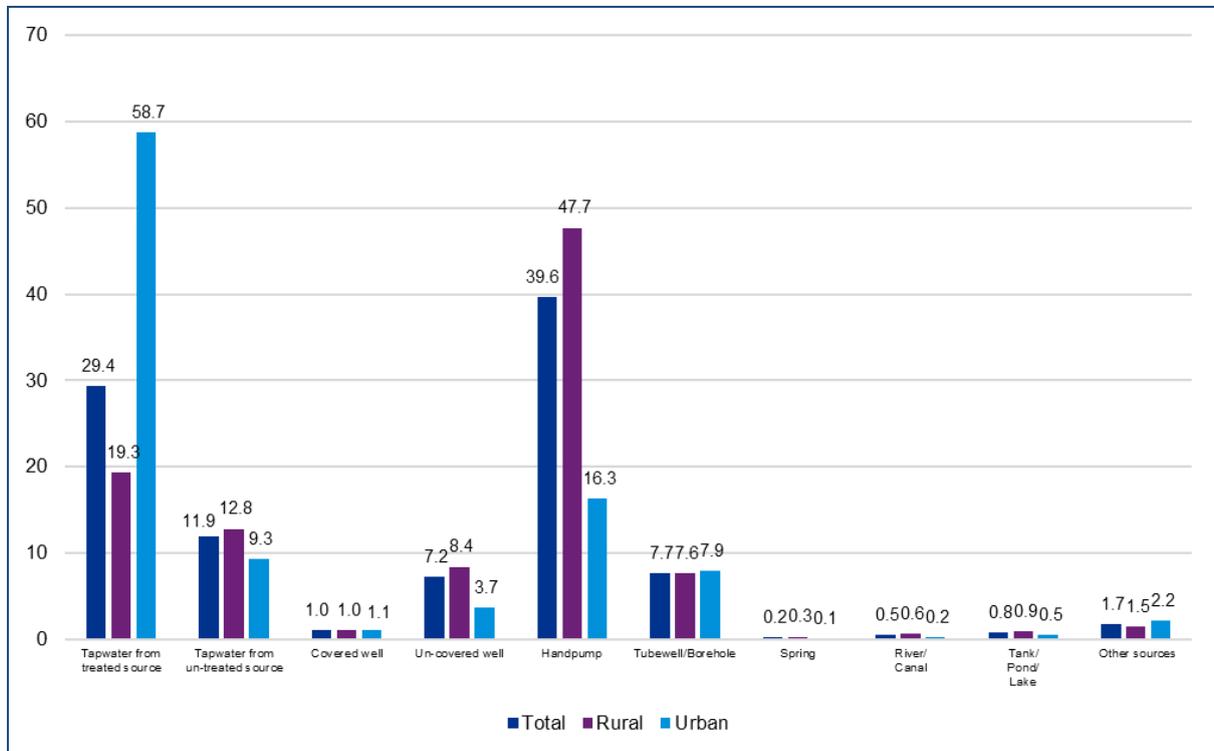
¹⁷⁷Footnote 196

¹⁷⁸ Vart, P., Jaglan, A., & Shafique, K, BMC Public Health, (2015), [Caste-based social inequalities and childhood anemia in India: results from the National Family Health Survey \(NFHS\) 2005-2006](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

¹⁷⁹ Kaul, Kanika, (2015), [Social Exclusion in the Context of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan](#), last accessed on 20th September 2020

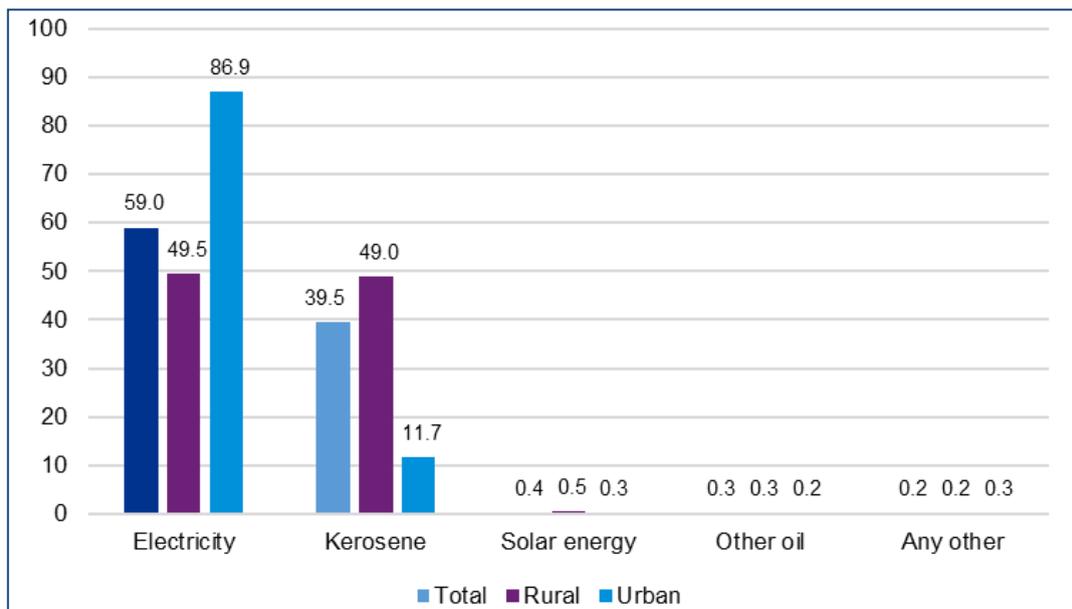
The data highlights the issues of equity and weak social inclusion measures that result in indecent living conditions of this community. It is also important to further study the specific social and cultural barriers that limit or deny the access of marginalized and vulnerable groups to basic amenities.

Figure 20: Percentage of SC households to Total households, Main Source of Drinking Water



Source: Census 2011

Figure 21: Percentage of SC households to Total households, Main Source of Lighting



Source: Census 2011

2.2.3. Spaces

Social exclusion typically manifests in the form of denial of rights to access, represent or participate in physical, social, cultural and political spaces, and this discrimination further reinforces the processes of exclusion through denial of dignity and basic human rights.

- **Physical**

In terms of physical spaces, historically for a long time in India, the SCs and OBCs were not permitted equitable access to use civic infrastructure or public facilities such as temples, village wells, ponds, temples, hostels, schools, hospitals, etc. There is evidence that *Dalits* in India are still often barred from entering temples and other physical spaces that are considered “pure” by the upper caste groups.¹⁸⁰

These socially marginalized groups, on account of being denied access to land ownership and decent housing, started occupying outskirts of cities and villages. Even today, many such communities are segregated spatially and continue to live in slum dwellings. Residential segregation based on caste has been a persistent phenomenon over the years. An analysis of Census 2001 and 2011 data has thrown light on the worsening of this phenomenon in 60 percent of cities in the study’s all India sample.¹⁸¹ The analysis further sheds light on the extent of segregation based on size of the cities, with small cities (population 20,000 – 49,999) experiencing an aggravated trend as compared to larger cities (100,000 – 999,999) between 2001 and 2011.

- **Social and cultural**

These social groups suffer social exclusion in their day to day lives as they are still referred with derogatory terms such as ‘*Dalits*’, ‘manual scavengers’, etc. denoting untouchability. They are expected by the upper caste groups to continue in occupations which were regarded as inferior such as sweeping, scavenging, curing hides, removing human waste, tanning, leather works shoemaking, carrying the carcasses of dead animals, etc.

An Action Aid’s all India study in 2005 found that the discrimination in labour markets operates through exclusion in hiring and lower wages. In about 36 percent of the villages, SCs were denied casual employment in agriculture. In about 25 percent villages, the SCs faced discrimination in terms of wage payments which were lower to the market wage rate being paid to non-SC workers.¹⁸² Belief in the concept of “purity” also comes into effect in hiring of SC labour in house construction. In about one third of the villages, the SCs were excluded from employment in construction of houses. The study also observed discriminatory treatment of SC persons in access to irrigation water, public and private services. In little more than one third of the villages, the SCs were denied access to irrigation water for agriculture. In the case of access to the common property resources like grazing land, fishing pond and other resource, the SCs faced exclusion in about one fifth of the sample villages.

¹⁸⁰Thorat, Amit., India Human Development Survey (2015), [The Continuing Practice of Untouchability of India](#), Last accessed on 19th February 2020

¹⁸¹ Singh, Gayatri, Trina Vithayathil, Kanhu Charan Pradhan., SAGE Environment and Urbanization (2019) [Recasting Inequality: Residential Segregation by Caste over Time in Urban India](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

¹⁸²Thorat, Sukhadeo., PACS India, [Caste, Social Exclusion and Poverty Linkages – Concept, Measurement](#), Last accessed on 25th March 2020

- **Political**

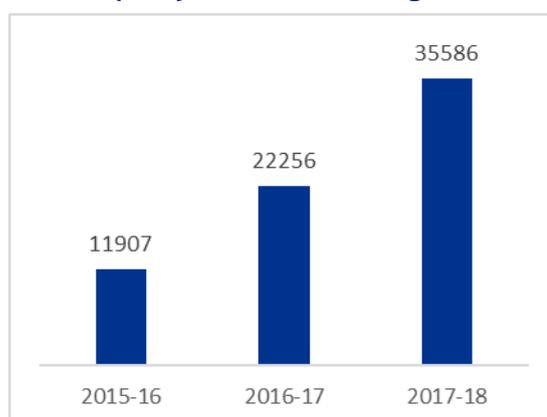
In terms of political space, while the Constitution gives equal political representation rights to SCs and OBCs, their representation in administration and governance is extremely low. Although the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 recognize equal rights for these communities, their political representation still remains poor and disproportionate. There is also a lack of official data on the political representation of vulnerable groups. Even the low representation of women in Parliament and Legislatures in general, is an example of political exclusion. Even though 30 percent seats in the local self-governing institutions have been reserved for women, reports from different parts of the country bring out clearly the dominant role of patriarchy in decision-making.¹⁸³

- **Atrocities against Scheduled Castes**

The crime rate against SCs has increased considerably from 2001 to 2016. According to a recent analysis, this increase is estimated at 25 percent between 2006 and 2016, with 16.3 crimes per 100,000 SCs reported in 2006 to 20.3 crimes reported in 2016.¹⁸⁴ In the same time frame, the rate of cases pending police investigation has almost doubled and there has been an estimated 50 percent increase in crimes against SCs pending trial in courts.¹⁸⁵

Of a total 42793 crimes/atrocities against SCs in 2018 (states and UTs), Uttar Pradesh had the maximum number of cases, followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.¹⁸⁶ A crime rate of 21.3

Figure 22: Central Assistance released under the CSS for implementation of PCR Act, 1955 and the SCs and the STs (POA) Act, 1989, During 2015-16 To 2017-18



Source: MOSJE

percent was reported under crimes/atrocities committed against SCs in 2018.¹⁸⁷ Type of crimes vary from murder, rape, kidnapping/abduction, assault on women/children, to dacoity, robbery, arson and hurt by means of physical force. Exploitation and abuse at the hands of the upper classes continues to interrupt the progress of the lower classes. Further analysis and research on these figures will assist in identifying the precise cause of this upsurge.

¹⁸³Kishwar, Madhu., Economic and Political Weekly (1996), [Women and Politics Beyond Quotas](#), Last accessed on 24th March 2020

¹⁸⁴ Mallapur, Chaitanya, Alison Saldanha., IndiaSpand (2018), [Over Decade, Crime Rate Against Dalits Up 25%, Cases Pending Investigation Up 99%](#), Last accessed on 18th September 2020

¹⁸⁵ *ibid*

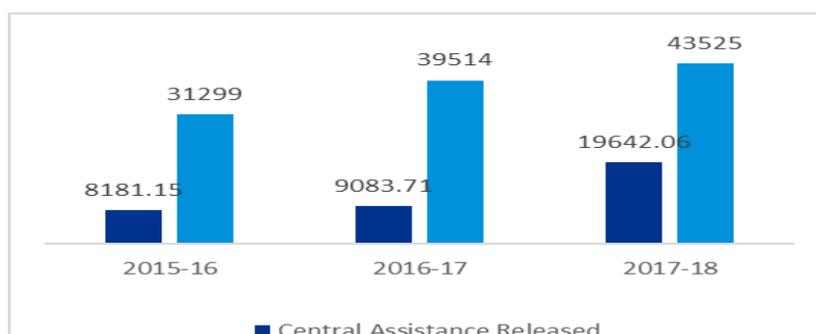
¹⁸⁶ National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (2018), [Crime in India 2018](#), Last accessed on 18th September 2020

¹⁸⁷ *ibid*

- **Atrocities against other vulnerable groups**

NCRB database also highlights that crimes against senior citizens have also been rising, from a recorded 21410 cases in 2016 to 24349 cases in 2018 (states and UTs). Maharashtra recorded the highest number of state-wise cases, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The rate of crime against senior citizens stood at 23.4 percent in 2018 as compared to 21.9 percent in 2017¹⁸⁸ and 20.6 percent in 2016.¹⁸⁹

Figure 23: State/UT Wise Central Assistance Released (For Relief to Atrocity Victims during 2015-16 to 2017-18) (As On 31.03.2018)



Source: MOSJE

These disparities between the marginalized groups and the general population within states and union territories validate the need for reform more than ever. The presence of widespread prejudices and discrimination on the grounds of castes are a threat to social stability and peace. The deeply embedded caste system of India makes it difficult for smooth and successful implementation of the schemes aiming to eradicate social injustices. The presence of several schemes in the system does not guarantee the efficient implementation of the same. While these schemes have created a massively distributive bureaucracy, a phenomenal amount of resources are wasted, de-stabilizing public finances, harming economic development and burdening future generations. The sense of urgency associated with achieving an equitable social status across all groups of the society emphasizes the need and rationale of this study.

3. Issues and Challenges

The quantum and category of interventions being implemented or executed by different stakeholders vary considerably, as domain-specific and/or large-scale social initiatives are usually undertaken by the state with private participation through NGOs, multi-laterals, etc., participating financially and/or technically assist certain initiatives. The following sections highlight key sector level issues, identification of interventions, and a gap map synthesis to better understand the outstanding gaps analysis focuses on sector-level issues.

3.1. Gap Analysis of Sectoral Issues

The social inclusion sector in the country has made considerable progress in last few decades and the disaggregated data also indicates that there has been significant progress in terms of key

¹⁸⁸ National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (2017), [Crime in India 2017](#), Last accessed on 18th September 2020

¹⁸⁹ National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (2016), [Crime in India 2016](#), Last accessed on 18th September 2020

development indicators for the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections, but there is much more to be done to be able to bring them at par with the rest of the social groups. Some key issues identified within the social inclusion sector are:

3.1.1. Lack of an integrated approach that focused on holistic development of vulnerable groups

While different marginalised groups have varied disadvantages and requirements for their development, the interventions by various state and private actors do not necessarily address these requirements in a holistic manner. There are a multitude of independent schemes and interventions focusing on a specific need area in a silo, without considering a holistic household view of the beneficiaries, in terms of coverage, saturation and exclusions. Even government schemes across ministries that target beneficiaries for specific services, do not have an integrated view of coverage of the beneficiary household in terms of other public or private schemes. These targeted interventions, rather than being based on any scientific need gap assessment of the vulnerable groups or reliable baseline studies, tend to focus on the relative preferences of the agencies. For example, in case of CSR-based interventions, it can be seen that these activities by majority of the organizations tend to centre around their geographical presence, with the idea being to develop associated regions through specially marked funds and initiatives. At a macro-level (across all agencies), it can be seen that the interventions are disproportionately focused on markets-related aspects (e.g. livelihood, employment, education & skill training etc.), with lower focus on services (health, social insurance, nutrition) and spaces-related aspects. This disproportionate focus in some areas of development while neglecting other areas, fails to effectively meet the all-round development needs of the vulnerable groups.

3.1.2. Inadequate coordination and convergence across different agencies working in the sector

Whilst the sector is benefitting from coordinated efforts between the nodal ministry, other central ministries and state governments, the need of the hour is to institutionalize convergence and enhance coordination across these implementation agencies. This requires the development of a comprehensive framework to streamline and synthesize planning, implementation and monitoring efforts of the various agencies to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions targeted at vulnerable and marginalized communities. This will also allow for an improved understanding of macro and micro issues and promote cross-learning by leveraging consultative and monitoring platforms across implementation levels. Improved coordination, particularly between central and state level actors, will result in quicker redressal of issues and challenges across implementation, funding, technical capacity, etc.

Apart from the government agencies, there are a host of other agencies, ranging from donors, private sector and voluntary sector/NGOs, who are also playing their part in the development of these vulnerable groups based on their interventions. However, there is lack of an overall system to bring about convergence among these stakeholders and their interventions for the vulnerable groups.

The key ministry (MoSJE) and associated departments focused on development and well-being of vulnerable groups have limited technical capacities required for developing a comprehensive framework and system to enable convergence and coordination across stakeholders for overall planning, implementation delivery of benefits, concurrent monitoring and impact assessment of their interventions. This is required for the ministries to have a sectoral outlook and be able to

assess need gaps of the different vulnerable groups and relative focus based on different interventions being undertaken by all key implementing agencies.

3.1.3. Need for partnership and co-opting of multiple agencies based on their relative strengths

There are multiple agencies involved in design and implementation of interventions for the vulnerable groups, and across the different types of agencies there are relative strengths for undertaking various functions/categories of interventions. However, in practice, these relative strengths of the different agencies does not seem to be utilized well; e.g. the voluntary sector (NGO, CBO) tend to have better community outreach, as they have, over time, built a level of trust and good appreciation of community systems to be able to implement community level interventions with better community involvement. Similarly, the private sector (Trusts, CSR), can bring better efficiency and systemic approach into field implementation of programmes. The government sector (national ministries/state departments), for their programmes/ schemes depending on the nature and specific design of the scheme, may do well to co-opt these agencies depending on their relative strengths, but on the contrary, it is seen that that CSOs/NGOs are often viewed with mistrust by the government institutions and not viewed as allies for furthering national development objectives, which alienates them completely from the government. There is high potential for cross-leveraging, learning and expertise, as well as promoting innovation and convergence, in implementation across these stakeholders by creating an enabling ecosystem for collaboration and partnerships in this sector.

3.1.4. Lack of assured set of services across different vulnerable groups and some groups being left out from the services coverage

Based on the review of interventions across different vulnerable groups, it becomes noticeably clear that some groups such as SCs, OBCs and street children have dedicated interventions by government and other agencies. However, there are, on the other hand, a set of vulnerable groups such as urban homeless, beggars, DNTs, transgender people, etc., who have no schemes or very limited focused interventions (majorly by government). Across the different implementing agencies, there is considerably high focus on some target groups or intervention areas, while some groups are not being covered adequately, resulting in exclusions. Similarly, due to the reliance on old data to assess beneficiary numbers for various schemes, proportions of the target population are left out of the ambit of inclusionary interventions. For instance, while the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 15 percent of the population is disabled, the Ministry's scheme for disabled population only serves two percent of the population, based on the Census 2011 data.¹⁹⁰ This situation is not very favourable for overall development across the social inclusion sector and may require a deeper enquiry into the causes and identification of possible solutions for giving adequate focus across all socially disadvantaged groups.

3.1.5. Lack of awareness of government schemes and policies

— Various studies and ground-level reports point to the lack of awareness amongst the target social groups regarding schemes, programmes and policies resulting in weak implementation, poor participation of intended beneficiaries and thus weakened impact in attaining social

¹⁹⁰ PRS Legislative Research, (2019), [Demand for Grants 2018-19 Analysis: Social Justice and Empowerment](#), Last accessed on 19th September 2020

inclusion. The latest Parliamentary Standing Committee report on Social Justice and Empowerment also highlighted the weak promotion of schemes by the implementation agencies as a reflection of the extremely weak performance of schemes targeting SC population, senior citizens, etc..¹⁹¹ Similarly, various other vulnerable groups such as PwDs, DNTs, etc. also lack awareness of their entitlements in terms of scheme and programmes.

3.2. Intervention Gaps at Sectoral Level

Intervention gaps have been analyzed through review of key schemes and interventions by different Government, Private and Voluntary sector agencies and the remaining gaps despite of these interventions.

3.2.1. Interventions by Nodal Ministry

Post-Independence, the welfare activities for the disadvantaged groups in India were undertaken by the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare.¹⁹² In the year 1985-86, it was bifurcated into the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Welfare. Simultaneously, the Scheduled Castes Development Division, Tribal Development Division and the Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Division were moved from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Waqf Division from the Ministry of Law to form the then Ministry of Welfare. In 1998, the name of the Ministry was changed to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Given the importance of awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities and participation of Central Government in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2012, a separate Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was carved out in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.¹⁹³

In India, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry entrusted with the empowerment of marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society. The mandate of the Ministry includes formulation of overall policy and planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory framework and development programmes for the benefit of the various groups.

¹⁹¹ Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, (2020), [Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment 2019-20, Seventeenth Lok Sabha, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment](#), Last accessed on 20th September 2020

¹⁹² Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, (2007), [Annual Report](#), Last accessed on 14th January 2020

¹⁹³ PIB, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI (2012), [Year End Review 2018: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities \(DEPwD\) under M/O Social Justice & Empowerment](#), Last accessed on 13th February 2020

Figure 24: Nodal Ministry for SC and other vulnerable groups

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	
Organization structure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samajik Nyaya and Adhikarita Vibhag) ▪ Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) 	
Beneficiary Groups	
Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Senior Citizens, Victims of Substance Abuse, Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), Beggars, Transgenders and Persons with Disabilities (PwD)	
Key Schemes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pre/Post-Matric Scholarships for SC, Backward Classes, Unclean Occupation and Economically Backward Classes ▪ Hostels for SC and BC students ▪ Development of DNTs ▪ Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse ▪ National Action Plans for Senior Citizens and Drug Demand Reduction ▪ Special Sectoral Assistance for SC ▪ SC /BC/Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporations ▪ Implementation of PCR, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 ▪ Model Village Schemes 	

Source: KPMG Analysis

MoSJE has further formed various commissions, corporations, national institutes and foundations for review of the current schemes, mobilizing funds and resources for the schemes and to highlight the various interventions required for empowerment of these social groups.

- Commissions include National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and the National Commission for *Safai Karamcharis*. These commissions are constitutional bodies established to safeguard the different vulnerable groups against exploitation and to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests. The primary objective of NCSC and NCBC commissions is to investigate and monitor any matters relating to constitutional, legislative or legal safeguards of the respective social groups and ensure the proper functioning of these safeguards. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is to tender advise to the Central Government regarding specific programmes and strategies for eliminating inequalities towards this social group, investigate grievances pertaining to schemes, policies, decisions and guidelines targeted at *Safai Karamcharis*, and the proper functioning of constitutional and legal safeguards.¹⁹⁴ The National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted in 2014 for a period of three years and the commission had recommended the setting-up of a permanent commission specifically for these communities. However, since the NCSC, NCST and NCBC cover most of the population under this social group, the Government decided to set-up a Development and Welfare Board for the De-

¹⁹⁴ National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, (2020), [About NCSK](#). Last accessed on 26th September 2020

notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs). This body is responsible for formulating and implementing specific programmes for the development and welfare of this social group, evaluating gaps in existing schemes and entitlements and monitoring the progress of schemes targeting this social group.¹⁹⁵

- Corporations include the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC). These corporations act as a non-profit company under the respective ministry for financing, facilitating, and mobilizing funds for the economic empowerment of the disadvantaged groups.¹⁹⁶
- The National Institute of Social Defence, an autonomous body of the Ministry, is the nodal training and research institute focusing on social defence issues.¹⁹⁷ As an advisory body to the Ministry, it works towards developing policies, programmes and tools incorporating preventive, curative and rehabilitative approaches for human resource development in the areas of prevention of drug abuse and beggary, welfare of senior citizens, transgender, amongst other social defence issues.

Moreover, other central ministries have also developed specific programmes for welfare of socially disadvantaged groups. The National SC-ST Hub was set-up by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in 2016 to create an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurs belonging to the SC and ST communities by providing professional guidance and assistance for effectively participating in public procurement.¹⁹⁸

- **Budgetary Allocation**

The nodal ministry has its own budget for implementation of various schemes, programmes, and initiatives. As per annual reports of MoSJE, the average BE for all the 27 CSS under evaluation was Rs. 12,500 crores per annum. The budgetary allocation for social justice (SC, OBC, PwD, etc.) is observed to be increasing over years. The growth rate in overall allocation for the five-year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 is, however, slightly higher than the growth rate from 2015-16 to 2019-20. Allocations to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment increased by 38 percent in the first period (2010-11 to 2014-15) while it increased by 36 percent in the second period (2015-16 to 2019-20).

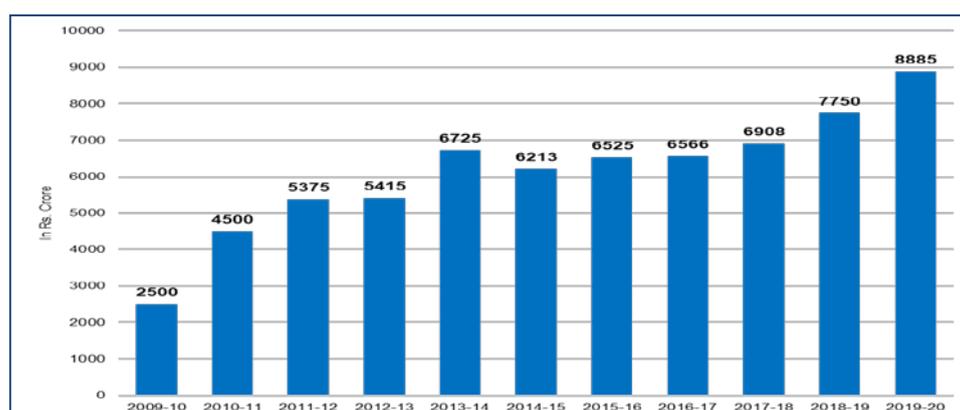
¹⁹⁵ Press Information Bureau Delhi, (2019), Cabinet approves proposal for Constitution of Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities, Last accessed on 26th September 2020

¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI, (2019), [Associated Organizations](#), Last accessed on 12th March 2020

¹⁹⁷ National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI, (2015), Last accessed on 18th September 2020

¹⁹⁸ National Small Industries Corporation, Government of India, (2020), [National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Hub](#), Last accessed on 26th September 2020

Figure 25: Budget allocation for MoSJE from 2009-10 to 2019-20



Source: KPMG Analysis; Annual Reports of MoSJE

3.2.2. Interventions by other Central Ministries, State Governments

Apart from the above three central ministries, there are many other ministries which, through their various schemes and interventions, focus on these vulnerable groups. The interventions have been highlighted in the subsequent sections. Detailed interventions by other central ministries is given in **Annexure 1** and detailed interventions by state governments is given in **Annexure 2**.

3.2.3. Interventions by Donors, Multi-lateral/Bi-lateral Organizations

Among the multi-lateral and bi-lateral organizations (hereinafter referred to as donors), the interventions range from financial assistance for running focused programmes (to Central and state(s) governments), technical assistance, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation and improving governance of the programmes and schemes.

Donor(s), however, are consistently seen as influences through which government programmes, or those supported by the donors, can be effectively implemented while incorporating principles of good governance and technical expertise in the focus areas. Primarily, the interventions seek to address existing socio-economic gaps through targeted programmes focused on the vulnerable population groups. Detailed interventions by donors and multi-lateral/bi-lateral organisations is given in **Annexure 3**.

3.2.4. Interventions by Private and Public sector (including CSR)

Corporate sector has varying perspectives on how well they are promoting the diversity and inclusion agenda. As per a recent report, Status of Corporate Responsibility,¹⁹⁹ over 70 percent of the businesses in India have less than one percent employees who are persons with disabilities. The study covers 300 randomly selected private and public sector companies from the top 500 BSE listed companies and came to these conclusions after analysing the Business Responsibility Reports of 253 private companies and 47 public sector companies.²⁰⁰ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, mandates every government undertaking to appoint not less than four

¹⁹⁹ Praxis, (2019), [Status of Corporate Responsibility in India](#), Last accessed on 7th February 2020

²⁰⁰ Praxis, (2017), [Status of Corporate Responsibility in India, 2017](#), Last accessed on 25th April 2020

percent of PwDs. However, only three out of the 47 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) surveyed had three percent or more of employees with disabilities.

According to the latest industry data provided by NASSCOM, a leading industry body focused on catalysing/developing the IT/ITES sector in India, PwDs constitute only one percent of the total IT/ ITES sector workforce in India.

In India's private sector, a key catalyst for promoting the economic interest of marginalized caste groups have been organizations like the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI). DICCI²⁰¹ was established in 2005 and has 18 state chapters and seven international chapters. The Chamber operates with a three-fold mandate: Bring together all *Dalit* entrepreneurs under one umbrella; become a one-stop resource centre for existing and aspiring *Dalit* entrepreneurs; and promote entrepreneurship among *Dalits* as a solution to their socio-economic problems. DICCI has helped create the New Public Procurement Policy in Government of India, which mandates four percent procurement by all central government ministries/departments/PSUs from SC/ST entrepreneurs. resulting in Rs. 24000 crores worth of assured incremental market opportunities for SC/ST entrepreneurs. DICCI's efforts have also fructified in launching the Rs. 200 crores Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes (CEGSSC) in 2015, and the Rs 100 crores Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana introduced by the Government of India.

The Private Sector in India also contributes in a major way to social development through CSR spending. As per KPMG's annual India's CSR Reporting Survey 2018,²⁰² CSR spending by India's largest firms (top 100 listed companies) in 2018 was Rs. 7,536.30 crores (around USD one billion).

CSR spending in 2018 was focused on education and healthcare sectors, which received 50 percent of all CSR spends at Rs. 3,893 crores and these sectors accounted for 60 percent of projects commissioned. Rural and environment-related projects were the next most preferred. Education, health, and rural development alone accounted for 65 percent of the total CSR spend in 2017-18 on all Schedule VII activities. The expenditure on reducing inequality, which relates to promoting gender equity, setting-up homes and hostels for women, orphans and elderly and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups, accounted for Rs. 525 crores or seven percent of all Schedule VII activities. During 2017-18, the CSR contribution to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund or any other fund set-up by the Central Government for socio-economic development and relief welfare of the SC, ST, OBC, minorities and women rose to Rs. 71 crores from only Rs. 2 crores in 2016-17. 96 percent of this total expenditure for welfare funds has been made by PSUs.

Detailed interventions by private/CSR entities is given in Annexure 3.

3.2.5. Interventions by NGOs, Voluntary Organizations and Other Charitable Institutions

The role of NGOs or third sector organizations in India has gained greater significance in recent decades with respect to socially excluded groups. These NGOs are providing a wide gamut of development services, working closely with the government and the private sector in implementing various programmes around advocacy and awareness building, literacy and

²⁰¹ Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), (2019), Dicci.org Last accessed on 31st January 2020

²⁰² KPMG India (2018), India's CSR Reporting Survey Last accessed on 6th January 2020

education, livelihoods generation, community development and capacity building. The NGOs, over the decades, have supported the creation of a vast social infrastructure for the economically weaker sections, women, children, and marginalized groups such as *Dalits* and tribal. Most NGOs in the country have largely focused on developmental activities at the grass root level and, in many cases, have also tried to fill in the gap where government institutions and departments have failed in reaching highly marginalized groups with essential services like education and healthcare. Some of the key NGOs and research organizations in India that are creating impact specifically for the upliftment of socially marginalized groups include:

- Jan Sahas Social Development Society:²⁰³ It was founded in 2000 to promote the development and protect the rights of socially excluded communities such as *Dalit* with special focus on girls and women through abolishing all kind of exclusion, slavery, violence and discrimination based on caste, class and gender. It focuses specifically on eradication of all forms of bondage including manual scavenging and caste based prostitution; empowerment of adolescent girls and women to end violence and ensure gender justice; skill development for dignified livelihoods and social entrepreneurship; legal aid for access to justice and reform in criminal justice system; support in education; food and nutrition security; land rights and agriculture development; promotion of basic rights and entitlements; and empowerment of communities through capacity and organization building. Through a fellowship programme, networking and campaign initiative Jan Sahas has its presence in the rural and urban areas of other 48 districts of five states (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra) of India. Jan Sahas is also involved in national level policy initiatives with the government and UN agencies.
- National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR):²⁰⁴ It is a coalition of *Dalit* human rights activists and academics founded in 1998 with the aim of putting an end to caste-based discrimination. It has offices in 14 states and has the objective to spread awareness about *Dalit* issues and rights.
- National Confederation of Dalit and Adivasi Organizations (NACDAOR):²⁰⁵ It is the national platform for more than 2200 *Dalit Adivasi* organizations spread across 23 states of India. Centre for Alternative Dalit Media (CADAM) acts as the secretariat of this national platform. NACDAOR, presently, has a nationwide network of committed volunteers working for the empowerment of the *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and other socially excluded communities. Being a vibrant movement of the *Dalits*, NACDAOR has acquired a prominent place in the contemporary social movements of India. NACDAOR has been the founder of the World Dignity Forum and an active promoter and supporter of the World Social Forum in India. Its chairperson is the global coordinator of the Social Exclusion Task Force of Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP) and has been a member of the steering committee in the National Planning Commission related to SCs. NACDAOR has promoted, created and strengthened various campaigns for SC rights such as National Campaign on Nutrition for Dignity, Fair Share Campaign, Fair Budget Campaign, Rashtriya Dalit Mahila Andolan, Dalit Adivasi Land Rights Campaign, etc.

²⁰³ Jan Sahas, (2019), [About us](#) Last accessed on 17th May 2020

²⁰⁴ National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), (2018), [Who we are and What we do for Dalit Rights?](#) Last accessed on 31st May 2020

²⁰⁵ National Confederation of Dalit & Adivasi Organizations (NACDAOR), (2019), [About us](#). Last accessed on 6th March 2020

- Dalit Foundation: ²⁰⁶ It is a non-governmental organization, which is the first grant-making institution in south Asia working for the empowerment of *Dalit* communities. Established in June 2003, the Foundation's mission, vision and programme objectives focus exclusively on empowerment of *Dalit* communities. It is committed to support individuals, community-based organizations and networks that work to secure social change and protect the rights of *Dalits*. Dalit Foundation provides group scholarships to individuals working among all the marginalized communities, including *Dalits*, in India. The fellows organize youth and women across castes to ensure that such organization can combat caste and gender prejudices and practices. The fellows also work with the children of all poor communities to ensure quality education.
- Safai Karamachari Andolan: ²⁰⁷ Founded in 1993, it is a movement that aims to completely eradicate manual scavenging from India. The movement began with the efforts of the youth from the community, led by Bezwada Wilson, who was born into a family of manual scavengers and had seen the injustices meted out to them all his life. In 2003, SKA filed a PIL in the Supreme Court asking it to ensure the eradication of dry latrines and to recognize that manual scavenging violates the fundamental rights of the people doing such work. In 2014, the apex court gave the final judgement recognizing that manual scavenging still exists. The Safai Karamachari Andolan continues to expand, both in its geographical reach and its initiatives which include rehabilitation of liberated manual scavengers, education of their children, building of the Sewerage Workers' Platform and women SHGs across India.
- OXFAM India: It is a leading international NGO implementing a programme 'By the People', which is a four-year long project supported by the European Union (EU) and aims to address challenges that the marginalized communities majorly face, such as lack of access to basic rights like food, health, education, forest rights, etc. OXFAM India supports 56 marginalized community-led organizations which are majorly run by *Dalit* and other marginalized communities across six states of India to fight against socio-economic exclusion.²⁰⁸
- The Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS):²⁰⁹ It is an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) recognized institution. It was set-up in 2003 by academicians and civil society activists to understand the problems of marginalized groups, identify the causes of their marginalization and suggest policies for their empowerment. Since its inception, the Institute has carried out extensive research on the development concerns of the marginalized groups of the Indian society. Recognized as a 'Centre with Potential for Excellence' by the Economic and Social Research Council, UK, it is supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Education. The Institute has been commissioned to influence policy interventions in social inclusion and empowerment in collaboration with ActionAid, UNICEF, UNDP, etc.
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) 'Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies': It is a centre that came into existence in 2007 with an aim to implement intellectual activities by teaching courses in social exclusion and social justice, maintain databases by collecting information on social exclusion, publishing research findings on social exclusion

²⁰⁶ Dalit Foundation, (2019), [About us](#) Last accessed on 16th March 2020

²⁰⁷ Safai Karmachari Andolan, (2019), [Movement](#) Last accessed on 23rd February 2020

²⁰⁸ Oxfam, (2016) [By The People: Civil society organizations led by members of marginalized communities influencing governance processes for inclusive development](#) Last accessed on 13th February 2020

²⁰⁹ Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, (2019), [About us](#) Last accessed on 14th January 2020

and social justice. UGC has now collaborated with this initiative and such centres are being created across various universities and colleges in India.²¹⁰

The prevalence of non-profit interventions in the sphere of empowerment of different kinds and degrees remains substantial. Through different approaches, the non-profit organizations have steadfastly worked in parallel with governments and the civil society to address pressing issues. Detailed interventions by NGOs/voluntary organizations are given in Annexure 3.

3.2.6 Institution wise interventions at a glance

Different stakeholders holding differently powered positions, adopt varying approaches to social problems and their redressal. Apart from the nodal ministry, other central ministries, state governments, donors, private/CSR and NGOs/voluntary organizations intervene to enable empowerment, change and redressal for different vulnerable groups. These interventions have been presented below. The detailed interventions are given in Annexure 1 to 3. The list of interventions is illustrative and not exhaustive. For analysis and classification, interventions were grouped under three categories of Markets, Services and Spaces following the World Bank Inclusion Framework:

- a) **Markets:** Within the segment of markets, interventions pertain to chiefly land, housing, labor and credit availability.
- b) **Services:** Services should be taken to mean those essential, often sovereign-in-nature functions dispensed by authorities that are essential for a sustainable, safe existence. Such as Health, Water, Transport, Electricity along with ancillaries such a social protection, education, and information.
- c) **Spaces:** Spaces refers to both physical and abstract spaces. In-terms of physical spaces, tracts of land (be it residential or otherwise) and in abstract terms, social, political and cultural engagement and dilation that is permitted to individuals and communities to assert their identities and standing in society in a multi-dimensional manner.

For a more granular analysis, the selected interventions have been classified into three categories of empowerment, improving access and creating opportunities.

- **Empowerment:** Interventions that align themselves with promoting the enablement of disadvantaged individuals and/or communities, with the objective of promoting holistic socio-economic inclusion and equity have been classified as ones that fall within empowerment. These could be programmes and/or projects that multi-laterally instil social and economic confidence through area development, identity assertion and so on.
- **Improving Access:** Interventions that target individuals and communities to refine, improve and facilitate greater access to existing social and/or physical infrastructural aspects, thereby increasing the accessibility of the disadvantaged persons and communities have been classified as ones that fall within improving access. One telling example of improving access

²¹⁰ TISS (2007), [Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies](#). Last accessed on 7th Feb 2020

would be micro-finance institutions, the mechanism of financing has existed for decades, but the accessibility has been always limited.

- **Creating Opportunities:** Interventions cultivating platforms and socio-economic devices that allow impoverished, marginalized communities to develop themselves produces more lasting, sustainable change. These initiatives can be in a variety of domains from housing to employment.

The identified interventions are as follows:

a) Markets

Markets, owing to its area of developmental operations such as land, labour, employment and credit, remains a key focus across ministries, state governments and donors. Particularly, the donor interventions range from financial and/or technical assistance, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation and so on.

- **Empowerment**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Empowerment				
<p>Min. of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Intervention: Short-term skill development trainings through affiliated partners Group: SC, OBC Outcome: Greater employability</p> <p>Min. of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare</p>	<p>Dept. of Civil Aviation (Punjab)</p> <p>Intervention: Facilitated upliftment of SCs through the financial assistance to the SC youth for CPL (Commercial Pilot License) scheme Group: SC Outcome: Increased SC representation in commercial pilots</p> <p>Dept. of Employment (Punjab)</p> <p>Intervention: Targets unemployed/unemployable marginalized youth for imparting pre-selection training for joining the armed forces</p>		<p>Indian Oil Corporation</p> <p>Intervention: Supported Multi-Skill Development Institute in Digboi, focussing on marginalized, population Group: SC, OBC Outcome: Employment generation and opportunities for the marginalized</p> <p>Spark Minda Foundation, run by Minda Corp.</p> <p>Intervention: The foundation operates Aakarshan Vocational Training Programme⁷³² in five locations in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and</p>	<p>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</p> <p>Intervention: Partnership for Women's Empowerment and Rights (PoWER) initiative sought to target marginalized women farmers and families to increase their income and create market linkages Group: SC, OBC Outcome: Greater access and participation of farmer families to markets, economic upliftment</p>

<p>Intervention: Cooperatives operationalized by vulnerable sections Group: SC, OBC, etc. Outcome: Improved financial inclusion</p> <p>Min. of Textiles</p> <p>Intervention: Upgradation of skills in value chain of the textile sector for livelihood Ministry of Textiles Group: SC, OBC, etc. Outcome: Greater participation; economic mobility</p> <p>National Mineral Development Corporation</p> <p>Intervention: Training minorities, SC, OBC individuals in skills such as industrial</p>	<p>Group: SC, OBC, etc. Outcome: Guidance, coaching and skill development for marginalized</p>	<p>Uttarakhand. The trainings are meant to facilitate long-term sustainable livelihood through computer skills, literacy, beauty culture as well as industrial training (cutting, tailoring) for marginalized women who require occupational opportunities with urgency.</p> <p>Group: Women from marginalized backgrounds</p> <p>Outcome: Since its inception in 2014, the initiative has benefitted 3,701 individuals and has placed 225 women across different export houses through industrial training.</p>	<p>American India Foundation</p> <p>Intervention¹: AIF's Ability Based Livelihood Empowerment (ABLE) Programme runs across multiple states and targets PwDs to accord them with relevant, dignified livelihood through industrial collaboration and tailored training and skill development to ensure bilateral benefits across the stakeholders.</p> <p>Group: Person with disabilities</p> <p>Outcome: The programme has created employment opportunities for over 9,000 PwDs and trained over 15,000 PwDs for socio-economic empowerment.</p>
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¹ American India Foundation, (2015), [ABLE](#), Last accessed on 25th Mar 2020

garmenting, shuttering carpentry, plumbing, electrician as well as programmes to develop dairy farming, tailoring, cutting, etc.

Group: , SC, OBC, minorities

Outcome: Increased employability, livelihoods, skill & development

- **Improving Access**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Improving Access				
<p>Min. of Rural Development</p> <p>Intervention: Under (PMAY-G), focus on providing houses to rural families with 60% funding for marginalized</p> <p>Group: SC</p> <p>Outcome: Holistic development of villages with SC population</p> <p>Min. of Electronics and Information Technology</p> <p>Intervention: IT for Masses initiative to promote computer and ICT literacy among marginalized</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC</p> <p>Outcome: Increase in computer literacy and skill upgradation of marginalized</p> <p>PM Mudra Yojana</p> <p>Intervention: Credit provision to small business (from marginalized groups) under PM Mudra Yojana</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC, etc.</p> <p>Outcome: Increase in ability to access credit, greater economic participation</p>	<p>Govt. of MP</p> <p>Intervention: Surajdhara Yojna targets small and marginal farmers to provide them with high-yielding seeds</p> <p>Group: SC</p> <p>Outcome: Greater agricultural productivity owing to better yields</p> <p>Govt. of Gujarat</p> <p>Intervention: Pandit Din Dayal Upadhyay Awas Yojana provides and promotes housing for the marginalized through financial assistance</p> <p>Group: SC</p> <p>Outcome: Housing for the marginalized at reduced cost</p>	<p>Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Intervention: Supporting access to microfinance for rural women in states like Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, etc., through MFI institutions</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC, etc.</p> <p>Outcome: Greater participation of women in the economic workforce, better access to credit and reducing gender inequalities</p> <p>World Bank</p> <p>Intervention: Integrated irrigation and agricultural transformation project in Andhra Pradesh to uplift marginalized farmers and make them climate resilient by promoting sustainable practices and establishing green infrastructure</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC, Outcome: Enhanced income, socio-economic participation and reducing gender inequalities</p>	<p>Power Finance Corporation</p> <p>Intervention²: Through a multi-faceted CSR approach, Power Finance Corporation intervened in Bhupalpally (Telangana) to upgrade Integrated Disease Diagnostic Facilities to target tribal healthcare through nutritional rehabilitation centers and day care to aid tribal women.</p> <p>Outcome: In Ferozepur (Punjab), 200 Aanganwadi centers were constructed through district programme office</p>	

² Power Finance Corporation, (2019), CSR, Last accessed on 17th Apr 2020

			to engender awareness, health and nutrition amongst the inhabitants.	
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- **Creating Opportunities**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Creating Opportunities				
<p>Min. of Development of North-East Region</p> <p>Intervention: Supported North-East Venture Fund for stimulating development and growth of enterprises of marginalized persons</p> <p>Groups: SC</p> <p>Outcome: Economic development of hilly states and promoting entrepreneurships</p> <p>Min. of Rural Development</p> <p>Intervention: Through DDUGKY train youth population across domains for livelihood and employment opportunities</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC</p> <p>Outcome: Skill development and employment for marginalized persons</p>		<p>Department for International Development</p> <p>Intervention: Supported GROW Bihar to create better investment climate for industrial, economic and social growth</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC</p> <p>Outcome: Greater economic development of minorities and other marginalized groups owing to enhanced opportunities</p>		

b) Services

Services should be taken to mean those essential, often sovereign in nature, functions dispensed by authorities that are essential for a sustainable, safe existence such as health, water, transport, electricity, along with ancillaries such social protection, education and information. In this area, along with National Ministries and State Government Department, Donors and NGOs remain highly involved as the quality of services being provided may often determine the socio-economic developmental trajectory of individuals and communities.

- **Empowerment**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Empowerment				
<p>Min. of Social Justice and Empowerment</p> <p>Intervention: Under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (YVR), focuses on providing senior citizens suffering from age-related infirmities and belonging to BPL backgrounds with aid and assisted living devices</p> <p>Group: Senior Citizens</p> <p>Outcome: Improved quality of life for marginalized senior citizens experiencing age-related infirmities</p>	<p>Govt. of Maharashtra</p> <p>Intervention: Under Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Merit Scholarship, promotes competitive spirit amongst DNTs by providing monthly scholarships to high-scoring students (above 75% in matriculation examination)</p> <p>Group: DNTs</p> <p>Outcome: Supporting and providing bright students with economic assistance for improving participation and enhanced mobility</p>			

- **Improving Access**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Improving Access				
	<p>Govt of Odisha</p> <p>Intervention: Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana aims to provide healthcare coverage to the economically vulnerable groups by offering them annual health coverage of Rs.</p>	<p>Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Intervention: Urban services improvement project – clean piped water supply to households in Madhya Pradesh</p> <p>Group: SC</p>	<p>Mahindra Trust</p> <p>Intervention: Nanhi Kali initiative to ensure girls from marginalized backgrounds are provided with 10 years of formal schooling</p>	<p>HelpAge India Mobile</p> <p>Intervention: Healthcare Unit (MHU) operates across all states, to provide the elderly (from marginalized communities) with primary healthcare facilities</p>

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Improving Access				
	<p>5 lakhs (Rs. 7 lakhs for women members of the family) Group: SC/OBC, etc. Outcome: Generous health coverage for economically weak persons</p> <p>Govt of Maharashtra Intervention: Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, focuses on economically backward families to facilitate coverage up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs per family Group: SC, OBC, etc. Outcome: Health coverage for economically weak persons</p>	<p>Outcome: Better health and well-being, access to clean drinking water and WASH promotion</p> <p>UN Population Fund</p> <p>Intervention: Samriddhi project in Madhya Pradesh seeks to impart educational, leadership and gender perspectives to promote safety, hygiene, sexual well-being, livelihood among marginalized adolescent girls Group: SC, ST, OBC, Minority Outcome: Reducing gender inequalities, greater access to social assertion for girls</p>	<p>Group: SC, OBC, Outcome: Reducing gender inequalities, improving access to formal schooling and promoting inclusivity</p>	<p>Group: Senior Citizens Outcome: Enhanced access to primary health care for persons living in rural/under-developed areas</p> <p>Save the Children Intervention: Operates Mobile Learning Centre (MLC) in Mumbai, to target out-of-school children, street children from marginalized communities Group: SC, OBC Outcome: Promoting learning for out-of-school children and improving enrolment of marginalized children in formal schooling</p>

- **Creating Opportunities**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Empowerment				
Min. of Human Resource Development	<p>Govt. of Bihar Intervention: Through the Prak Pariksha Prashikshan, provides target students</p>			<p>Katha Lab Schools Intervention: Focuses to elevate marginalized youth and women by providing them with training of</p>

<p>Intervention: Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBV) cover Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) with low female rural literacy, specifically targeting girls from marginalized backgrounds Group: SC, OBC,</p> <p>Outcome: Improving female literacy in rural areas, reducing gender inequalities and promoting inclusion</p>	<p>through exam preparation belonging to the backward castes through dedicated training centres</p> <p>Group: OBC</p> <p>Outcome: Assisting marginalized students in preparation and promoting inclusion</p>			<p>skills and ideas to promote livelihood and employment generation</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC</p> <p>Outcome: High quality education for marginalized individuals, community development through engagements and pioneering pedagogical methods leading to better educational outcomes</p>
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c) Spaces

In the spaces category, the primary involvement is by non-profits and, at times, state governments owing to their proximity to the domestic issues. By implication, every intervention by Central/state government affects the abstract spaces framework, however, the schemes/interventions are often not specifically targeted towards these.

- **Empowerment**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Empowerment				
	<p>Govt. of Odisha Intervention: Bhima Bhoi Bhinnakshyama Samarthyaa Abhiyan in Odisha is a comprehensive scheme for PwDs that seeks to organize</p>	<p>UN Development Programme Intervention: Through Access to Justice Project, seeks to cultivate</p>	<p>ITC Limited Intervention: Women Empowerment Programme targets marginalized women living in extreme poverty by facilitating economic mobility</p>	<p>Butterflies India Intervention: The Children's Development Khazana (CDK) programme targets street children and children from underprivileged/impooverished</p>

	<p>Samrthya Sibirs for providing an integrated platform with a range of services such as issuance of certificates, selection for skill training, fitting of disability aids and appliances, etc., formation of SHGs</p> <p>Group: PwD Outcome: Holistic social support to persons with disabilities</p> <p>Govt of Kerala Intervention: Sayamprabha Home scheme, facilitates elderly care by providing day care facilities in collaboration with local self- government institutions</p> <p>Group: Senior Citizens Outcome: Elderly care and support with community involvement to promote better quality of life for the senior citizens</p>	<p>literacy regarding laws, rights and entitlements across marginalized sections of the society</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC, Outcome: Improved legal literacy, improvement of marginalized representation in the paralegal field, enhanced awareness of legal rights and entitlements</p>	<p>through micro-financing and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Group: SC Outcome: Improved economic capacity of extremely marginalized women and households</p>	<p>backgrounds to help develop themselves as entrepreneurs by learning the fundamentals of accountancy, banking and management and knowledge of social and financial management.</p> <p>Group: SC, OBC Outcome: Development of discipline, knowledge and basic financial literacy/skills in children, promoting formal schooling and economic participation</p>
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- **Improving access**

Central Ministries	State Governments/Departments	Donors	Private/ CSR	NGO/Voluntary Sector
Improving access				
	<p>Govt. of Punjab and Govt. of Delhi Intervention: Punjab and Delhi governments, through the concessional/ free bus travel facility for women, also target female senior citizen members and facilitate mobility Group: SC, OBC Outcome: Greater participation of women in various activities, reducing gender inequalities</p>			<p>Oxfam India Intervention: ‘By the People’ initiative, targeted vulnerable, marginalized individuals across states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, etc. to position them as advocates of change via CBOs Group: SC Outcome: Enhanced representation of marginalized in leadership positions, greater participation of community, enhancement of aspirations and promotion of inter-sectional development</p> <p>The Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch Intervention: Dedicated organization that focuses on DNTs for their upliftment and socio-economic inclusion Group: DNTs Outcome: Various initiative across health, finance, basic services, development to uplift and promote inclusion of marginalized tribal persons</p>

3.3. Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes Institution wise interventions at a glance

A synthesis of sector level objectives, key issues, schemes and interventions and their relative performance areas and next steps has been attempted below to identify the outstanding gaps and required interventions.

Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes					
Objectives of the Sector	Major Issues	Schemes Addressing the Issue	Scheme Components Intended to Address the Issue	Component Performance	Way Forward Recommendations
Enhancement of Educational Outcomes	Low educational levels and skill development	Scholarship Schemes (SC, OBC, DNT, Unclean Occupation, EBC); Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (SC, BC), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, IT for Masses Initiative	Supporting multi-level education, hostel facilities	The schemes require robust monitoring frameworks and units to meet the challenges of procedural delays and beneficiary mapping.	Scholarship recommendations as provided in the evaluation may be considered
Improved Health and Wellness Services for SC	Malnutrition, anaemia, lack of access to basic healthcare	Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (Senior citizens, BPL households); NBCFDC - Health Camps for Transgenders; Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances,	Providing healthcare and nutrition support	Health and nutrition indicators across all socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups remain dismal and they lag behind the general population	Specific plan and associated schemes/ interventions for addressing health and nutrition support required by each of the groups

Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes					
Objectives of the Sector	Major Issues	Schemes Addressing the Issue	Scheme Components Intended to Address the Issue	Component Performance	Way Forward Recommendations
		POSHAN Abhiyaan (women, children); Integrated Child Development Services, Ayushman Bharat (SC, senior citizens, PwDs, beggars)			
Improved Access to markets and finance	High unemployment, low income security, informal occupations, low access to credit	Self-Employment Scheme for Manual Scavengers; NBCFDC - Skill Development Programmes (OBC, DNT, EBC, Senior Citizens, Transgenders, Beggars, Victims of Substance Abuse); NISD - Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Transgenders; Incentive Scheme For Providing Employment To Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector, Pradhan	Economic participation through development of skills, inclusion into formal sector through credit access and capacity building	Participation in formal employment remains low, social stigma and lack of access to education/skill development further aggravates exclusion	Increasing participation in public office participation through affirmative action, tax incentives and benefits may be considered to increase private stakeholders' interest and engagement, awareness creation regarding existing schemes focused on self-employment and enterprise development to promote participation, developing target group specific skill development schemes by leveraging a participatory

Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes

Objectives of the Sector	Major Issues	Schemes Addressing the Issue	Scheme Components Intended to Address the Issue	Component Performance	Way Forward Recommendations
		<p>Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (SC, OBC, EBC, PwD, Women, Senior Citizens, Manual Scavengers), Stand-Up India Scheme (SCs, women); Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (SC, OBC, women); Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Support to Training And Employment Programme For Women (SC, PwD, OBC), DAY-NULM Scheme (people with disabilities, homeless, street children, beggars), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (SC, OBC, PwD, Women, victims of trafficking, manual scavengers, trans-genders), National</p>			<p>approach for greater uptake and effectiveness</p>

Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes

Objectives of the Sector	Major Issues	Schemes Addressing the Issue	Scheme Components Intended to Address the Issue	Component Performance	Way Forward Recommendations
		Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Hub (SC)			
Better infrastructure	Poor access to basic infrastructure, lack of services and facilities	Accessible India Campaign (PwD), DAY-NULM Scheme (people with disabilities, homeless, street children, beggars), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (SCs, homeless, PwDs), MoJS National Rural Drinking Water Programme (SC, OBC, Women, BPL Households), Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SC, PwD, Widow/ Old Age Pensioner, Women-headed households)	Promoting access to basic amenities (water, sanitation, housing, etc.)	Equal access to basic amenities still an impediment to social inclusion of these groups, lack of disaggregated data to monitor effectiveness and identify gaps	Collection of disaggregated data for understanding barriers to equal access to basic amenities, awareness campaigns to reduce discrimination and stigmatization of socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups

Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes

Objectives of the Sector	Major Issues	Schemes Addressing the Issue	Scheme Components Intended to Address the Issue	Component Performance	Way Forward Recommendations
<p>Enhancing awareness, promoting rights and empowerment of vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Social stigma, identity-based discrimination, crime and violence</p>	<p>Implementation of PCR, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse; National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction; Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens; National Action Plan for Senior Citizens; Scheme of Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars; Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (special provisions for SC Women and PwDs); Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with</p>	<p>Strengthening the machinery for supporting the members of SC, OBC, EBC, DNT, EBC and OVGs with regards to social empowerment and social defence</p>	<p>The schemes have received low attention both from states and centre and require robust monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p>Recommendations as provided in the evaluation with regards to formulation of scheme guidelines, budget allocations and efficient monitoring can be considered</p>

Gap Map Synthesis of Sector and CSS Schemes

Objectives of the Sector	Major Issues	Schemes Addressing the Issue	Scheme Components Intended to Address the Issue	Component Performance	Way Forward Recommendations
		<p>Disabilities Act, 2016, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (children belonging to SC and OBC, child beggars, child drug/substance abusers, street children)</p>			

3.4. Diagrammatic representation of gap map synthesis

Infographic attempts at organization and broad assessment of the spectrum of interventions through a color-coded gap matrix. It should be noted that the analysis is not exhaustive, as, given the number of interventions, a comprehensive assessment would always be limited by time and resources. However, the matrix provides a macro overview of areas that require additional consideration and areas that are functioning as intended by overarching policies.

Interventions Gap Map at Sector Level					
Objectives of the sector	Major issues	CS	CSS	State Schemes	Other interventions (e.g. multi-lateral, non-governmental organizations, policy, law, etc.)
Enhancement of Educational Outcomes	Low educational levels and skill development				
Improved Health and Wellness Services for SC	Malnutrition, anaemia, lack of access to basic healthcare				
Improved Access to markets and finance	High unemployment, low income security, informal occupations, low access to credit				
Better infrastructure	Poor access to basic infrastructure, lack of services and facilities				
Enhancing awareness, promoting rights and empowerment of vulnerable groups	Social stigma, identity-based discrimination, crime and violence				

Performance Infographics   Satisfactory  Average  Needs Improvement

4. Key recommendations

4.1 Overall recommendations at the sectoral level

4.1.1. Life cycle/sector-wide approach and holistic view of target household (corresponding to Issue no 1)

A review of key interventions for socially vulnerable groups by different agencies - central ministries, state governments, multilateral and bilateral donors, private entities (CSR, trusts), and NGOs/voluntary sector - indicates that these interventions display a pattern in terms of their focus, with most interventions chiefly directed on markets-related areas (employment, livelihoods, skill training), and lesser on services (including housing, health, water, transport, insurance, etc.), which would enable these vulnerable groups to be better capacitated; and the least are in the area of spaces, which enable their full participation in the society (e.g. social, political, cultural, etc.).

It is proposed to have a sector-wide approach, wherein the nodal ministries have a view of all interventions being directed towards different vulnerable groups, depending on the focus of the respective ministry. The ministry could then ensure that within and across these interventions, fair importance and representation is given to all three broad focus areas (markets, services and spaces). This way, it will be ensured that a holistic approach for social inclusion and protection is developed for all key vulnerable groups.

It is further suggested to track the entire life cycle of required interventions for the different vulnerable groups and to identify the stages at which different areas of support are required and ensure that interventions/schemes are designed to cater to these different stages. There is also requirement for a needs-assessment on the requirements as per the life cycle of support for any vulnerable group and to design and deploy the interventions for the vulnerable group accordingly. For example, if the vulnerable communities primarily face malnutrition problems, access to nutritious food and healthcare access for their children should become a primary focus. It could be recommended to first map out interventions being rolled out by different departments and agencies for the target population, and based on the gaps identified, appropriate interventions may be designed, and appropriate agencies selected to implement these.

Another area of opportunity for government and other key players involved in this sector is to make use of the Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM); JAM trinity has provided immense opportunities to effectively target and provide benefits to the households. Jan-Dhan will facilitate Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary's bank account, Aadhaar will assist in identification and enable development of a household level overview and leveraging mobile penetration will help create awareness amongst beneficiaries as well as track them subsequent to service delivery. The increased use of direct benefits transfers, which have grown in a short time since its inception in 2013 to cover 426 schemes across 56 ministries amounting to more than Rs. 3891 billion of funds being transferred through DBT involving 27.45 billion transactions expected in 2020-21. However, with such rapid progress and underlying enablers for DBT, it would be pertinent to be able to track benefits arriving under different schemes at a household level.

To have an integrated view of social benefits delivery at the household level, apart from building a common digital interface which can report on converged KPIs, there is also a strong need to

rapidly map, and assess these schemes at the level of target beneficiary identification, scheme operations and implementation, financial management, and scheme monitoring to identify the potential linkages and interlocks in these schemes.

This will enable the government to focus on a set of benefits across the lifecycle of needs for a vulnerable household and ensure that interventions/ schemes are designed to cater to these different needs and stages (e.g. affordable housing, nutrition related support for maternal and early child, provision of food and cooking fuel, healthcare protection for the entire family, education/ higher studies/ skill education for children, linkages to livelihood opportunities/ entrepreneurship support for working population, and old age pensions and social insurance for senior citizens).

The Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity, which is being used for most of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes, provides immense opportunities to be able to track benefits arriving under different schemes at a household level.

- This will help in providing disaggregated data by households for benefits being realized
- It will help in assessing the eligibility and resulting uptake of benefits by the households
- Identify any pattern in uptake of such scheme benefits by social groups/ geographical areas (villages, etc.).
- Based on the above data, there could be identification of issues being faced by eligible beneficiaries/ households due to different reasons (non-functional accounts, lack of available services, etc.)
- In the long term it would provide inputs for redesign of the schemes in case the beneficiaries are not able to avail of the scheme benefits, and to help to identify the areas for revision in the scheme guidelines.
- Also based on need/ identified gaps, newer schemes could be designed to be able to comprehensively provide required benefits to the targeted beneficiaries.

Overall, this approach will enable to saturate the benefits at a household level, identify missing beneficiaries and to identify new areas of convergence and innovation to optimize administrative and financial resources required to reach the beneficiaries. Most importantly, economic, and social wellbeing can be more effectively and holistically measured.

4.1.2 Shift towards a results-driven approach to accelerate the pace of social inclusion of excluded and vulnerable groups (corresponding to issue no. 1)

The nature of social exclusion faced by the vulnerable and marginalized groups is of a multidimensional and multi-layered nature, spread across social, educational, economic, political and spatial spectrums. It becomes critical to evaluate the policy landscape and identify enabling factors that drive social inclusion within the changing socio-political and economic dynamics, and to gather robust empirical evidence to understand the impact of existing programmes in successfully controlling the factors that contribute to social exclusion. Thus, it is recommended to develop a comprehensive and dynamic monitoring and evaluation framework, which also identifies and incorporates new dimensions and parameters of social inclusion, to accurately and effectively assess the status of social inclusion across the country on an annual basis. It is required to develop and adopt the social inclusion policies in a manner that is rooted in the canvas of the Indian social history, changing socio-political dynamics and emerging financial instruments.

Furthermore, it is recommended to develop an outcome-driven approach for the implementation of schemes and programmes to better inform policy and institutional mandates and allow for

greater transparency and accountability. This approach can also allow for innovative financing mechanisms such as the Pay-for-results model, thus resulting in ensuring fiscal efficiency and impact creation. A new transparent and accountable system of development governance can be put in place for achieving pre-determined and measurable outcomes. The new system of development governance should focus on promoting social business models. A new India Social Inclusion Index can be developed to portray the progress that has been made in social inclusion sector.

4.1.3. Strong technical capacity for implementation support and monitoring (corresponding to issues no 2 and 3)

An overall system is required for effective coordination and convergence between the gamut of stakeholders to achieve financial and implementation capacity optimization by leveraging existing channels for better reach and efficacy. Stakeholders would be jointly able to identify the groups that are not being targeted through any intervention, as well as identify the geographic spread of these interventions by states/districts/ blocks, etc. Such a system at the central ministry level will help the nodal ministries to have a macro picture and be able to either direct the agencies, state or private NGOs/CSOs to re-orient their focus on particular vulnerable groups, intervention areas and also geographic focus; or else based on the gaps identified, be able to design specific intervention by the ministry to focus on the gap areas.

Due to the limited technical capacities of key ministry (MoSJE) and associated departments required for developing such a framework and associated systems and processes, it is suggested that these ministries may engage a technical support agency to support for undertaking the following functions:

- Develop an operating manual for designing, planning, monitoring and impact assessment of interventions being undertaken by the Ministry, focused on social inclusion and social protection, and defining the roles of different stakeholders including state government, district administration and other agencies.
- Disseminate the operating manual, including orientation of different stakeholders on their roles, identify capacity development requirements for these stakeholders and prepare capacity building strategy and oversee its implementation.
- Develop appraisal system and conduct appraisal of state level plans to ensure they meet the programme requirements in terms of coverage, clear focus, systems focus and results orientation.
- Support in development of innovative ICT tools for field level data collection, monitoring, feedback and course correction systems, improved community outreach and communication approaches.
- Support in better use of technology (e.g. in case of DBT) and ensure that this works in a seamless manner and identify issues related to accessing of benefits by the target groups and suggest measures for overcoming these.
- Develop districts and upward level systems for identification of all agencies working in social inclusion and protection space and their relative interventions, so that an overall landscape is available with these ministries in terms of intervention-wise focus of different agencies, and, thereby, identify any vacant areas so that adequate focus can be accorded by either government, non-government or private sector towards these gap areas

- Develop real-time knowledge management system for social inclusion and social protection programmes, which enables sharing of innovative approaches, cross-learning by agencies/states, learning from international good practices and strengthening internal documentation and dissemination

Further, there is also a pressing need for trained young professionals to support social inclusion and social protection interventions at all levels. The ministry could identify reputed institutions and provide required support (through sponsoring courses/chairs), in areas of learning under social welfare and protection, covering all key aspects such as: social justice; social assistance; and social insurance.

These could be in the form of short online and offline courses, which will enable experienced social workers/management graduates/other post-graduates to specialize in the above areas and be able to contribute towards further strengthening of this sector in terms of planning, design implementation and monitoring of these interventions.

Additionally, young skilled professionals may be leveraged for providing support to the state governments for on-ground implementation and monitoring through institutionalization of a Young Professional Programme aimed at early career social workers/development studies graduates/management graduates/relevant post-graduates. This will not only support strengthening of current interventions but also build a cadre of highly-skilled professionals in the field of social protection/welfare to further the social inclusion agenda of the country. The programme must ensure equal representation of diverse social groups.

4.1.4. Develop sustainable partnerships and systems for coordination with other stakeholders for better implementation and monitoring (corresponding to issues no 2,3 and 5)

Effective implementation and monitoring of the social welfare schemes is a challenge for governments due to capacity constraints and due to lack of effective feedback loops with the community. Despite significant budgetary allocations (amounting to thousands of crores for each ministry), the government is unable to build enough trust and social capital with the communities they serve because of absence of a direct relationship with community leaders and champions.

There is a need for the government to work closely with respectable CSOs/NGOs that have established track record and credentials in working closely with communities. Discussions with CSOs/NGOs suggests that CSOs/NGOs are viewed with mistrust by the government and are seen as activists/adversaries, thereby leading to alienation between government and these CBOs/NGOs. There is a need to build platforms to engage and involve/integrate these CSOs effectively in the implementation of schemes that are targeted at the most poor, vulnerable and excluded. This will reduce friction, build trust and synergies and give the government greater room to innovate and expand the reach of its programmes. The strong network of these organizations may significantly be leveraged to create awareness regarding various schemes of the Ministry.

Such partnerships should also extend to for-profit social businesses, where relevant. A social enterprise specializing in supply chain and logistics would be best placed to work on strengthening the logistics for last mile collection of forest produce gathered by the tribal communities, and provide linkage with processing centres; similarly an online handicrafts marketing enterprise company would be better placed to provide market linkages and

distribution channels for the finished products, and ensure these have optimal demand in the national and International markets.

Such focused interventions, also utilizing the strength areas of the implementing agencies, would help to utilize professional skill sets available and deploy these for improving the outputs from the interventions designed and implemented for these vulnerable groups.

There is enough evidence from the development world that involvement and funding of local stakeholders is more effective, efficient, and sustainable as it enables services and benefits reach the last mile. There is therefore a need for the Government to engage and work with them more closely. The key to building the resilience of communities to economic and social shocks is building the leadership capacity of community-based organisations.

4.1.5. Basic minimal set of services for vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as dedicated schemes for groups which are left out (corresponding to issue no 4)

There is further needed to identify and include newer vulnerable groups as these emerge/get identified and be able to take long-term view for their social protection so that there is resilience and adequate social safeguards for these groups to overcome the shocks of any sudden crises. The case in point is the current migrant labour crisis in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, which has exposed how vulnerable informal workers and casual labourers are in our country. Our sector analysis shows that a very high proportion of SC households belong to the bottom of the pyramid, earn meagre incomes and rely on casual labour, informal occupations. Since independence, this segment of informal workers (including migrant workers) have had no meaningful scheme to protect them or provide them sustenance in the scenario of job loss/unemployment.

One of the key institutional frameworks available is the Inter State Migrant Worker Act (ISMWA) of 1979. The Act seeks to prevent the exploitation of inter-state migrant workmen by contractors, and to ensure fair and decent conditions of employment. The present migrant workers' crises have made it clear that the actual implementation of the Act in the right earnest is yet to be fulfilled. The Act is forward-seeking in terms of preventing the exploitation of inter-state migrant workmen by contractors, and to ensure fair and decent conditions of employment. The present crises provide the basis to investigate the provisions of the Act and make its implementation more effective.

Other aspects to focus could be in form of affordable homes for migrant labourers in urban areas, basic healthcare needs and its greater coverage through existing (PMJAY) or other schemes (e.g. for healthcare need which do not involve hospitalization), educational facilities for children and old age pension/social security measures for migrant workers.

A comprehensive approach is, therefore, required to identify the set of vulnerable communities which are still not adequately covered under social inclusion and social protection schemes and be able to develop adequate interventions for providing support to these groups.

4.2. Specific issues and recommendations pertaining to the vulnerable groups

This section provides an overview of specific issues identified for each of the socially disadvantaged groups and proposes appropriate recommendations.

Issues	Recommendations
<p>— <i>Limited upward mobility due to poor agriculture and non-agriculture economic opportunities for SCs</i></p> <p>— SCs are majorly dependent on agriculture (self-employed and casual labour) as a source of income. Notwithstanding, the ownership of irrigated land by SC households is much lower than the rural average and similarly unirrigated land ownership is also low for SC households. Moreover, the percentage of households with monthly income more than Rs 5000 is alarmingly low. This points to the need for improvement in access to agricultural land, technical and technological assistance and higher agricultural wages.</p> <p>— While non-farm employment has expanded, the participation of SCs in government and private salaried jobs is amongst the lowest across social groups further debilitating this community's upward mobility. Scheduled Castes community has suffered for decades from lack of access to economic opportunities, especially in the new/emerging information and knowledge-based economy due to lack of access to quality educational institutions and teachers.</p>	<p>— Development of schemes to support SCs secure greater access to irrigated land and focused technical and technological assistance for enhancing agriculture output</p> <p>— Awareness creation regarding existing schemes focused on self-employment and enterprise development to promote participation</p> <p>— Develop a mentorship programme where achievers from all walks of life – business, music, arts, sports, will inspire SC youth and work closely with them and help them set higher aspirations and instill confidence in them by honing their life and business skills such as English Speaking, entrepreneurship, Marketing, Digital and Social Media Literacy. An incubation/mentorship model for the promotion of entrepreneurship/ business skills among SC community would create a huge impact through a multiplier effect, where SCs who have acquired these skills would mentor/train or employ more SCs. This will empower and enable them to leverage modern day platforms to take up highly skilled/ self-employment opportunities.</p>
<p><i>High incidence of atrocities against SCs and the continuing societal discrimination result in further exclusion of this group</i></p> <p>The general population in the country has limited or no awareness about the rampant discrimination that SCs face in Indian society. Traditional education has very low emphasis on civic education that promotes social inclusion and equity. There is a need to educate, involve and sensitize the country's youth to understand the social structure dynamics of this country and the constitutional rights and benefits for SCs and play their role in creating a society.</p>	<p>— Launch an IEC/BCC campaign with a focus on creating awareness and sensitization around the issues and rights of SCs across the country, among the children and youth of the country (SC/Non SC) It will access authentic information and research on SC relate issues and create various communication platforms to promote a public dialogue on social inclusion which is engendered into the day to day life of an average citizen</p> <p>— Reforming State level SC Commissions by focusing on capacity development, enhancing presence at district level, establishing linkages with key stakeholders and implementation agencies, and creating a knowledge sharing repository at the national level (NCSC) for</p>

Issues	Recommendations
<p><i>Poor socio-economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes</i></p> <p>Despite several constitutional safeguards and government policies and schemes for inclusive development, SCs continue to lag behind most social groups on socio-economic indicators. Prevalence of high levels of poverty, unequal access to shared assets and opportunities and incidence of atrocities reflect the poor socio-economic empowerment attained by this group.</p>	<p>enabling cross-learning and replication of best practices across state level commissions</p> <p>— Enabling NCSC to actively drive sector level progress by adopting a whole-of-sector approach to review and monitor the implementation of safeguards and development of SCs. This will be instrumental in identifying broad sector-level gaps and challenges across education, health, economic empowerment, social inclusion, etc. which are linked to the micro-level inputs across schemes implemented by MoSJE and other relevant central ministries. Creation of a consolidated sector level monitoring and evaluation framework as well as an annual survey of performance progress to provide specific recommendations to the implementing Ministries for strengthening planning, design, implementation and monitoring of various policies and programmes to achieve tangible impact.</p>
<p><i>Lack of a dedicated institutional mechanism is a major impediment to the development of OBCs</i></p> <p>Issues in terms of a missing institutional mechanism is a major challenge that affects the development of OBCs. The uptake of loans from National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC) is also low in most states e.g. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, which have significant OBC population. Although schemes targeting individuals do exist for OBCs, an integrated community development approach has not been undertaken by the government yet.^{218F212} Furthermore, demand for funds and allocation of funds under the Nodal Ministry towards welfare of OBCs has been observed to be declining in the past few years, particularly compared to the allocation for SCs notwithstanding that OBCs comprise a substantial proportion of the country's population^{219F213}.</p>	<p>— Creation of a separate Department for welfare of OBCs at the national and state levels to ensure adequate focus on this community and appropriate demand, allocation and expenditure of funds towards development of OBCs. This will also ensure improved governance through enhanced coordination, monitoring and supervision by the nodal Ministry of implementation of policies, programmes and schemes at the state level. The creation of a separate department at the state level will also allow for the development of an integrated community development approach which can be localized to each of the state's context and requirements thus ensuring an effective and efficient mechanism for improving the welfare of OBCs.</p>

²¹² Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GoI (2013-14), [Report of committee on welfare of backward classes](#), Last accessed on 12th Mar 2020

²¹³ Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, (2018), [Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes \(2018-19\) \(Sixteenth Lok Sabha\) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment](#), Last accessed on 26th Sep 2020

Issues	Recommendations
<p><i>Poor access of DNTs to government schemes</i> There is no central list of DNTs. Many of them are categorized either among STs, SCs or OBCs. However, many DNTs which are not categorized among any of the above groups lose out on accessing benefits under government schemes. They also lack any permanent residence and, therefore, also lack required official documents for accessing scheme benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Development of a targeted time-bound plan to complete the process of identification of DNTs that have not been formally classified under SC, ST or OBC categories.
<p><i>Weak institutional strength to deliver preventive and rehabilitative services for curbing substance abuse</i> The National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Abuse in India, conducted in 2019, revealed that the flagship programs of the two key ministries mandated to provide treatment services to victims of alcohol and drug use have very weak coverage with a negligible proportion of affected people reported receiving treatment from a designated (NGO or government run) de-addiction centre. This stems from the in-patient /hospitalisation focused treatment plan proposed under these schemes which is not financially feasible and due to the stigma attached to this issue, prevents victims from seeking such form of treatment. Furthermore, there is a lack of human resource and investment to cover the massive scale of treatment to be delivered considering the poor levels of existing treatment facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Conduct periodic surveys to collect and analyse credible data on the extent of substance use as well as the social, economic and psychological impact on the victims to enable well-informed policy making. — Adoption of a collaboration-driven approach to fill the financial and capability gap by leveraging the network of civil society organizations, NGOs, private sector, industry, etc. to delivery effective and efficient preventive, treatment and rehabilitative services across the country. — Increased focus needs to be provided to preventive and outpatient services for treatment in order to create an enabling environment for victims to seek treatment. An integration of substance use treatment services with general healthcare services should be carried out to promote preventive measures. Focus on awareness generation and education through general healthcare services can be pivotal in creating a strong preventive approach to this public health issue.
<p><i>Poor socio-economic conditions of PwDs</i> The absence of a comprehensive welfare system for PwDs, strong social stigma within the community, and low economic standing tends to make these persons and their families have low self-esteem and inhibits this group from seeking adequate benefits to improve their living conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Adoption of a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) across all States and UTs to improve access to affordable and accessible care, access to opportunities, participation in society through integration within the communities.
<p><i>Lack of adequate health care for the rising geriatric population in the country</i> High prevalence of chronic diseases can exacerbate dependency and lead to considerable expenditures. Current national health programmes cover all citizens, including seniors,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Inclusion of geriatric care as a specific area in national health programs to cater to the ageing population — Development of a District Plan for Geriatric Care to ensure at least one Geriatric-focused Hospital in every district of the country. Leveraging

Issues	Recommendations
<p>but they rarely focus on geriatric care as a specific area. A key need of this group is adequate health care, which seems to be lacking for the rising geriatric population in the country, many with chronic diseases that can exacerbate dependency and lead to considerable expenditure in old age. Moreover, government health facilities are not adequate to cater to the rising geriatric needs of our population.</p>	<p>Public-Private partnership to accelerate development of these facilities, capacity building of personnel, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Promoting research in areas related to geriatric disease to understand focus areas thus enabling the creation of a strategy roadmap for provisioning of appropriate services to the ageing population — Collaboration and assistance to private sector, non-government organizations (NGOs, voluntary organizations, CSOs, etc.) who provide day care, home care and palliative care to extend affordable and accessible geriatric care services
<p><i>Lack of effective policy implementation for manual scavengers</i></p> <p>Due to the indignity attached by other sections of society towards with this community, the deeply entrenched caste dimensions and lack of basic education and skills, manual scavengers face barriers in shifting away from manual scavenging towards other livelihood opportunities thus creating a vicious cycle. Despite various legislative provisions and schemes, manual scavengers still find it challenging to access alternative livelihood opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Develop a comprehensive rights-based policy to allow the exercise of rights by people involved in manual scavenging by effective strategies for alternative livelihoods and proper rehabilitation of manual scavengers, and awareness generation amongst this section about their legal safeguards, rights and entitlements to ensure a life with dignity. The policy must emphasize on linkages between various central, state and local government agencies to realize the objectives.
<p><i>Vulnerabilities faced by street children in terms of victimization, exploitation, and exercise of basic rights</i></p> <p>Homelessness continues to be a problem experienced by street children in India, majority of whom are poverty struck, migrants, orphaned, abandoned by their families. A lack of credible and updated data limits the social protection measures for this group thus resulting in all forms of exploitation including engagement in casual labour, rag picking, domestic help, vending and commercial sex work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Develop institutional mechanisms at the national, state and district levels to collect, report and analyze data on the number and status of street children to enable evidence-based decision making, need-based interventions and, monitoring and evaluating the impact of progress and schemes. The large network of child welfare committees, child welfare police officers, special juvenile police units, and NGOs/civil society organizations working in this space should be included in this systematic data collection and monitoring mechanism.
<p><i>Low social acceptance of transgender persons in society</i></p> <p>While the landmark legislation have entitled the transgender persons to exercise their basic rights and illegalized the discrimination against this group, the continue to face indiscrimination due to the deep social stigma attached to their nature and culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Adopt a participatory approach towards designing skill development and employment in collaboration with beneficiaries and other key stakeholders (employers, industry bodies, welfare/ support organizations, etc.) to account for the specific needs and context of the transgender community, create a collaborative ecosystem for furthering their inclusion and ensuring the uptake of such schemes.

Issues	Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Launching a national sensitization campaign to address the deep social stigmas and taboos associated with the transgender community and create greater awareness of the issues faced by the transgender community in terms of discrimination, identity and social acceptance, access to basic amenities and opportunities, etc. The campaign will aid dialogue on such issues amongst the general population and help break barriers that have aggravated over the years.

5. Conclusion

India is home to a huge proportion of vulnerable groups, thus making social justice and inclusion a priority for the Indian State. Social exclusion takes various dimensions in India including caste, age, religion, economic status, occupation, physical and mental ability and gender. The Indian Constitution ensures its citizens the liberty of expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity. It further prescribes safeguards for advancing the social, economic and political status of backward classes in the society. India has witnessed a major reduction in multi-dimensional poverty, with traditionally disadvantaged groups experiencing the maximum decrease through the decade, indicating their overall progress in society.

Notwithstanding, SCs and other vulnerable groups continue to remain amongst the poorest strata of the society and still face identity-based discrimination, resulting in exclusion from economic, social, cultural and political spaces due to the systemic inequalities in the country. Deprivation and lack of access to opportunities mutually reinforce each other to further aggravate their marginalization in society.

While targeted interventions are being carried out by various stakeholders, specifically the central and state governments, to transform the sectoral landscape, there is a need for further reforms and dedicated actions to enable inclusion and equality across all vulnerable groups. It is recommended to adopt a life-cycle/sector-wide approach for planning and implementing interventions, promote collaboration and partnerships within the wider gamut of stakeholders, strengthen technical capacity for implementation and monitoring across the sector, and ensure no one is left behind by providing basic minimal services for all vulnerable groups and formulating dedicated schemes for excluded groups.

framework

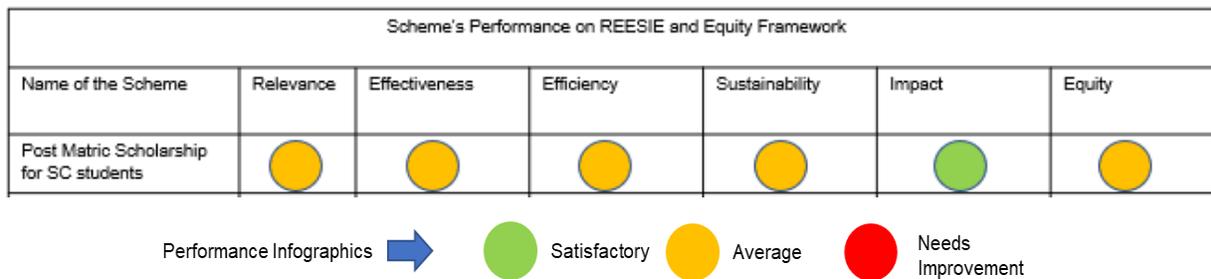


Table 25: Cross-Sectional Theme Analysis

S. No.	Theme	Area of Enquiry	Analysis
1	Accountability & transparency		
		Availability of Data Records and Reports in public domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Scholarship Portal is currently under progress. States have started to report on the NSP. Ministry does not maintain data on indicators such as gender wise applications and beneficiaries.
		Monitoring Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 10 out of 12 sampled states, absence of a scheme specific monitoring framework was reported. The centre and state departments have adopted the digital modes of reporting which has promoted paperless reporting.
		Evaluation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As discussed during National KIIs, the scheme has been evaluated by concerned departments under GoI. It is reported that the evaluations have not been conducted keeping the timeline of 3 years in consideration. The time-interval of these evaluations has been irregular. Latest evaluation study has been conducted by CAG in 2018.
		Citizen Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry has the grievance redressal and RTI filling mechanism in place. MoSJE does not have a project/scheme-specific, but a central citizen/client, charter that captures all schemes.
		Financial Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship allowances are directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Public Finance Management System (PFMS) acts as the common Platform for DBT in line with the resolve of the Government towards digital India to realize the motto of the Government to reach the beneficiary directly.
2	Gender mainstreaming		
		Inclusiveness in scheme design/planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender aspect is not being considered for programme design/planning Gender budgeting is not being actively practiced

S. No.	Theme	Area of Enquiry	Analysis
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No special provisions for children of LGBTQ+ community Reported
3	Role of Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan component of the scheme in mainstreaming of Tribal and Scheduled Castes population		
		Funds allocated under TSP/ SCSP and other provisions for vulnerable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a convergence between SCSP and scholarship scheme at the state level. States earmark the funds for the scheme under their Annual Budget for the SCs.
4	Use of IT/Technology in driving efficiency		
		Deployment of IT enabled mechanisms for monitoring of the Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Scholarship Portal Central Repository of data in a secured environment maintained by NIC Transfer of funds directly to beneficiary Integrating fund releases with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) Performance tracking of states and UTs Online processing of scholarship applications The IT-enabled mechanisms are user-friendly
		Use of latest technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness of scheme implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For scheme implementation, states use state portals, NSP, State NIC portal. States such as Bihar, Punjab and Haryana have not been reporting to the Ministry at regular intervals.
5	Unlocking synergies		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme does not overlap with any other state schemes in 10 out of 12 sampled states with exceptions in the state of Maharashtra and Gujarat
6	Stakeholder and beneficiary behavioural change		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No percentage of allocation is directed towards Awareness generation or sensitization. There is no fixed mechanism to promote beneficiary awareness and sensitization However, states such as Odisha, Himachal Pradesh do take initiatives to generate awareness regarding the scheme. States such as Maharashtra also provide workshops to academic institutions to ensure proper verification of applications.
7	Research and development		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry has a separate division named Planning division which provides Grants to Scholars, Grants for

S. No.	Theme	Area of Enquiry	Analysis
			Workshops/seminars, and grants for publication, to undertake any scheme level research and development.
8	Impact on and role of private sector, community, and civil society/NGOs in the scheme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no involvement of NGOs, and private sector in the scheme.

Legend

 High  Medium  Low

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213. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,(2017), [Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs for Study in India](#)

Annexure 1 : Central Government Initiatives

Interventions by Other Central Ministries

Apart from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, there are many other ministries which, through their various schemes and interventions, focus on these vulnerable groups. These ministries and their interventions are discussed in the following sections under the three broad categories of market, services and spaces related interventions:

Markets: Within the segment of markets, interventions pertain chiefly to land, housing, labour and credit availability. Certain schemes by different ministries which focus on vulnerable groups, along with key outputs and outcomes are:

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)⁶⁶⁵ is the flagship scheme for skill development across the strata of the society, enabling youth to undertake short-term training (STT) and Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) through accredited/affiliated partners/centers. These are imparted through state partnership and central guidance, imparting holistic skill training to SC, OBC, EBC, DNT, PwD, women, and other vulnerable sections such as manual scavengers, senior citizens, etc. to promote inclusive growth and economic development. As of 2019, cumulatively, 18,56,321 SC/ST/OBC candidates have been trained under the scheme.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)⁶⁶⁶, targets cooperatives organized and operationalized by marginalized groups and weaker sections such as SC, OBCs, etc., in order to provide them with economic and technical assistance. During 2018-19, NCDC sanctioned Rs. 224 crores for 2095 units, releasing Rs. 83.30 crores for tribal cooperatives; for scheduled castes, NCDC provided an additional Rs. 74.43 crores to four SC cooperatives and for women, during the same period, a total of Rs. 747.87 crores was sanctioned to 11 units (projects) and Rs.190.21 crores was released to women cooperatives.
- The Ministry of Textiles, through Samarth Scheme⁶⁶⁷, covers the entire value chain of the textile sector – except for spinning and weaving – to promote upgradation of skills across the traditional sectors and facilitate sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized and vulnerable population. Since its inception, as of 2017-18, the programme has trained 11.14 lakh workers in different sectors such as jute, apparel, textiles and so on. The programme covered all sections of the society across 33 states and UTs, with women beneficiaries possessing the largest share at 71.27 percent, and SC/PwD accounting for the remainder.
- The Ministry of Finance, through Stand-Up India Scheme⁶⁶⁸, seeks to promote entrepreneurship for the marginalized sections of SC and women to promote growth by providing them with credit to set-up green-field enterprises in manufacturing, trading and services sector. Under the scheme, it is mandated to accord loans on priority to SC and women applicants to serve the sector

⁶⁶⁵ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI, [PMKVY](#). Last accessed on 12th Apr 2020

⁶⁶⁶ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, GOI, [NCDC](#). Last accessed on 24th Jan 2020

⁶⁶⁷ Ministry of Textiles, GOI, [Samarth Scheme](#). Last accessed on 16th Mar 2020

⁶⁶⁸ Ministry of Finance, GOI, [Stand-Up India](#). Last accessed on 17th Apr 2020

and promote inclusion. As of 2019, across 72,983 accounts, an amount of Rs. 16,085 crores has been sanctioned, with women accounting for 83 percent of the borrowers and SC/ST being 13 percent and four percent, respectively.

- The Ministry of Science and Technology, through the Resource Management and Development for the Empowerment of Scheduled Castes Project⁶⁶⁹, is carrying out a coordinated programme in partnership with 45 NGOs to promote holistic development across villages. The programme targets areas such as micro-enterprises, livestock rearing and training for livelihood along with promoting WASH, social rights and generating awareness about societal issues such as substance abuse, discrimination and so on. The initiative has benefitted 15,000 inhabitants belonging to 4,557 households across 93 villages so far.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, through DAY-NULM Scheme⁶⁷⁰, comprehensively targets poverty alleviation, utilizing seven different components to address urban poor across the spectra of marginalized communities - people with disabilities, homeless, street children, beggars, etc. through skill development, employment, shelters, capacity building, mobilization, etc. As of 2018-19, a total of 3,18,521 beneficiaries have been provided with skill training and 1,67,644 have been placed within the same period; during the same period, 1,31,199 beneficiaries have been assisted in setting-up micro-enterprises and 1,12,421 SHGs have been formed; additionally, a total of 1,342 shelters have been made functional and 18,26,429 street vendors have been issued identity cards to quell civil harassment.
- The Ministry of Rural Development, via Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojna (PMAY-G)⁶⁷¹, focuses on providing shelter to rural households in a comprehensive manner to address the issue of homelessness and people living in *kuccha* housing, with a particular focus on marginalized, as 60 percent of funding on a central and state level is reserved for SC and STs. As of December 2019, a total of 1,36,71,736 houses have been sanctioned across the country. Out of these, a total of 33,37,061 houses were sanctioned for SCs.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, via the IT for Masses Initiative⁶⁷², seeks to bolster growth and inclusion and promote computer and ICT literacy amongst the marginalized groups by specifically targeting scheduled castes, senior citizens, economically weaker sections and PwD residing in backward, hilly, aspirational districts with more than 40 percent SC/ST population. Within the initiative, different projects are undertaken to develop skills, capacities and implement the objectives. As of December 2019, through 93 projects implemented across 25 states and seven UTs, over 5.5 lakh women, 73,405 SC and 37,310 ST candidates have availed and benefitted from the programme. Additionally, 1.95 lakh SC/ST candidates have benefitted under the fee reimbursement programme.
- The Ministry of Finance, through Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)⁶⁷³, seeks to provide credit and financing to small business owners who belong to marginalized backgrounds (SC, OBC, women), as these small enterprises find it difficult to procure formal credit, leading to stymied growth. Through PMMY, access to credit is facilitated without collateral to small enterprises

⁶⁶⁹ Department of Science & Technology, GOI, [Annual Report 2018-19](#), Last accessed on 31st Jan 2020

⁶⁷⁰ Ministry of Rural Development, GOI, [DAY-NULM](#), Last accessed on 23rd Feb 2020

⁶⁷¹ Ministry of Rural Development, GOI, [PMAY-G](#), Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

⁶⁷² Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, GOI, [IT for Masses](#), Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020

⁶⁷³ Ministry of Finance, GOI, [PMMY](#), Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

through Member Lending Institutions (MLI) such as NBFCs, MFIs, etc. As per Department of Financial Services, PMMY credit rose from Rs. 1,37,449 crores in 2015-16 to Rs. 3,21,722 crores in 2018-19 to more than 18 crore borrowers, of which 89 percent loans are under SHISHU category, 70 percent loans were to women entrepreneurs and 52 percent loans were to SC/ST/OBC.

- North-eastern states, owing to their geographical topology, have often found socio-economic growth challenging. The Ministry of Development of North-East Region (DoNER) seeks to address this developmental gap through concerted efforts across the spectrum. The North-East Venture Fund (NEVF)⁶⁷⁴, for instance, seeks to stimulate development and growth by providing funding to different activities and enterprises across the north-east region to benefit entrepreneurs across the strata of society, including the marginalized sections. Providing funding across areas such as healthcare, agriculture and allied activities, education, tourism, logistics, entertainment, food processing and so on across the NEER through a collaboration between DoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) with investments ranging from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 10 crores per venture. Between 2017-20, NEVF has committed Rs. 44.53 crores and during the same period Rs. 18.16 crores have been disbursed to 12 start-ups
- The Ministry of Rural Development, through Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)⁶⁷⁵, targets rural youth between the ages of 18 to 35 years belonging to marginalized and vulnerable backgrounds such as SC, OBC, etc. to provide a comprehensive skill-development ecosystem to train youth population across domains for livelihood and employment opportunities. As of 2019-20, DDU-GKY has trained 42,590 SC candidates and 28,354 ST candidates.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, through National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Hub (NSSH)⁶⁷⁶, endeavour to mentor, support and handhold SC/ST entrepreneurs to increase their participation in public procurement along with other initiatives. The hub seeks to achieve this by information diffusion, capacity building, vendor development through collaboration and so on. Additionally, under NSSH, different schemes have been introduced to promote inclusion of SC/ST entrepreneurs in public procurement. These schemes target registration, marketing and capital subsidy to facilitate participation and empowerment. To generate awareness and establish commercial relationships, 25 conclaves were organized through 8,985 entrepreneurs in 2018-19; during the same period, 2,118 and 141 SC/ST MSMEs have participated in domestic and foreign exhibitions respectively; 76 special vendor development programmes and 71 awareness campaigns were organized with 2,440 and 3,516 MSMEs participating; additionally, through different technology centers, capacity building training has been provided to 6,672 SC/ST entrepreneurs/youths.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment, through National Career Centers for SC/ST⁶⁷⁷, provides services such as coaching, counselling and training programmes to SC/ST job-seekers that are registered with employment exchanges. Primarily, these centers seek to render vocational guidance and mobilize economic upliftment of SC/STs. 25 national centers are functional across

⁶⁷⁴ Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region, GOI, [NEVF](#). Last accessed on 7th Feb 2020

⁶⁷⁵ Ministry of Rural Development, GOI, [DDU-GKY](#). Last accessed on 6th Mar 2020

⁶⁷⁶ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GOI, [NSSH](#). Last accessed on 6th Apr 2020

⁶⁷⁷ Ministry of Labour and Employment, GOI, [National Career Centers for SC/ST](#). Last accessed on 12th Apr 2020

25 states/UTs providing educated SC/ST job-seekers with guidance, training and facilitation of placement through collaboration between stakeholders. Additionally, training for shorthand and typing is also provided. Cumulatively, between 2018-19, the National Career Service Centers covered 39,846 candidates and provided them with registration guidance; 4,962 candidates were provided with pre-submission guidance; 18,529 candidates participated in confidence building programme; additionally, 11,923 candidates were trained in typing/shorthand, while 3,106 were provided with pre-recruitment training.

Services: Delivery of various services remains a pressing issue for both state and the Central Government. In this regard, multiple interventions are being undertaken by central ministries. A brief description of these schemes along with key outputs and outcomes are provided below:

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, through the POSHAN Abhiyaan⁶⁷⁸, seeks to target and address malnutrition prevalent in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women by adopting a multi-pronged approach and addressing it through capacity building, training, awareness, etc.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare targets public health and welfare for the poor through Ayushman Bharat⁶⁷⁹, a comprehensive health scheme that targets the underprivileged and offers Rs. 5 lakh worth of insurance coverage to more than 50 crore individuals. Particularly, the scheme targets the marginalized and 40 percent of its beneficiaries come from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and particularly vulnerable tribal backgrounds. Further, the ministry's National Health Mission (Tribal Sub-Plan) component has been specifically demarcated to develop tribal healthcare systems through static and mobile infrastructure such as healthcare facilities, mobile healthcare units, health facilities and placement of healthcare staff through incentives to work in hard to reach and difficult areas (tribal areas).
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti, via the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)⁶⁸⁰, aims to provide every rural individual access to potable water for drinking, cooking and other necessities in a sustainable manner through base quality standard to ensure uniformity. Within NRDWP, SC/ST are accorded special provisions to ensure adequacy of coverage, as within allocation to the states, the rural SC/ST population carry a weightage of 10 percent. As a result, states accounting for higher number of SC/ST population are provided with a larger share of funds. Additionally, progress of coverage is monitored through a dedicated MIS. As of March 2019, Rs. 1,760 crores have been released to the states for coverage of SC/ST population; as of April 2018, out of 2,05,380 SC concentrated habitations, 1,62,198 or 79 percent have been fully covered and out of 3,62,468 ST concentrated habitations, 3,10,290 or 85 percent have been fully covered; additionally, 1,54,819 or 64 percent of Minority Concentrated Districts (MCD) have been fully covered.
- The Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resources Development), through the flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)⁶⁸¹, now subsumed under Samagra Shiksha, and other ancillary schemes, targets universal education for children between the ages of 6-14 years, with

⁶⁷⁸ Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI, [POSHAN Abhiyaan](#). Last accessed on 12th Mar 2020

⁶⁷⁹ Ministry of Health and Family, GOI, [Ayushman Bharat](#). Last accessed on 13th Feb 2020

⁶⁸⁰ Ministry of Jal Shakti, GOI, [NRDWP](#). Last accessed on 14th Jan 2020

⁶⁸¹ Ministry of Human Resource Development, GOI, [SSA](#). Last accessed on 31st Jan 2020

special emphasis on initiatives for girls and children belonging to SC, ST, OBC, BPL and minority backgrounds. The scheme provides for Rs. 50 lakhs per district per year for innovative projects targeting girls and children belonging to minority marginalized communities such as SC, ST, OBC, etc. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) cover Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) with low female rural literacy, specifically targeting girls from SC, ST, OBC, BPL and minority communities.

- To focus on improving the quality of teachers and pedagogy, Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs)⁶⁸² have been established by the Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resources Development), with the objective of imparting training to teachers across the spectra (pre-service, in-service, primary, upper primary and secondary) situated within areas with significant population of SC, ST and minorities. As of 2016-17, a total of 30 BITEs have been sanctioned across nine different states based upon the criterion utilized for identifying the districts for BITEs implementation.

Annexure 2 : State Government Initiatives

Interventions by State Governments

Other than the schemes designed and implemented by the central ministries, there are several state governments-initiated schemes which focus on betterment of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. A review of a such schemes, primarily in the sampled states for this study, are provided below:

Markets

- Employment and livelihood remain a priority, regardless of the demographical composition, but presence of many vulnerable groups necessitates an operative paradigm that works for their welfare and advantage, be it short-term or long-term. In the case of former, Department of Civil Aviation in Government of Punjab facilitated upliftment of SCs through the Financial Assistance to the SC Youth for CPL (Commercial Pilot License) Scheme⁶⁸³, giving youth from Scheduled Castes an opportunity to become commercial pilots by providing financial assistance of Rs. 25 lakhs.
- A longer-term strategy can be seen through the Centre for Training and Employment of Punjab Youth (C-Pyte)⁶⁸⁴ initiative run by Department of Employment, Government of Punjab. The institute targets unemployed/unemployable youth belonging to marginalized backgrounds through dedicated camps across the state and utilizes a multi-faceted approach by imparting pre-selection training for joining the armed forces along with providing technical training to augur the youth's prospects of livelihood in other fields. Since its inception in 1990, as of December 2019, C-Pyte has trained 2,23,941 youth and placed 1,12,194 youth in different fields and within the armed forces.
- Another contemporary initiative to address unemployment within marginalized communities is the Apni Gadi Apna Rozgar (AGAR)⁶⁸⁵ scheme, launched by the Department of Employment Generation and Training, Government of Punjab. The scheme targets marginalized unemployed by facilitating self-employment by providing them with commercial driving opportunities through taxi aggregators such as Ola and Uber. It provides subsidy up to 15 percent towards the purchase of a vehicle for commercial driving purposes, with 30 percent allotment specifically reserved for people belonging to scheduled castes. The scheme aims to uplift socio-economically marginalized youth through employment opportunities and, at present, is being run as a pilot scheme in limited districts of Punjab (Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Ropar Cluster).
- Himachal Pradesh's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, through the Vishesh Mahila Uthaaan Yojna⁶⁸⁶, seeks to alleviate the plight of vulnerable women. Re-vitalizing socially and psychologically affected women by providing them with livelihood avenues through training, loans and skill development in fields such as garment-making, basic beauty care, computer fundamentals and toy-making through ITIs around the state. A similar initiative can be seen in

⁶⁸³Department of Welfare, Government of Punjab, [SC Youth CPL Scheme](#). Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

⁶⁸⁴Employment Generation and Training, Government of Punjab, [C-Pyte](#). Last accessed on 23rd Feb 2020

⁶⁸⁵Employment Generation and Training, Government of Punjab, [AGAR Scheme](#). Last accessed on 19th Mar 2020

⁶⁸⁶Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh, [Visheh Mahila Uthaaan Yojana](#). Last accessed on 12th Apr 2020

Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat, through Mukhyamantri Gramya Swanirbhar Yojana, targets marginalized rural women and facilitates their socio-economic upliftment by providing subventions to women SHGs to purchase agricultural and non-agricultural equipment.

- The Sahara Scheme by Government of Himachal Pradesh⁶⁸⁷ targets economically weaker sections of the society, providing financial assistance to patients suffering from specified diseases such as Parkinson's, thalassemia, muscle dystrophy, etc. It primarily seeks to mitigate the societal hardships experienced by chronically ill patients or patients who have become incapacitated due to illness by providing them with Rs. 3,000 per month as financial aid. A total of 8,188 beneficiaries are registered under the Sahara initiatives and 5,580 beneficiaries have started receiving their monthly grants, as of 2020.
- The Government of Bihar, through the Mukhyamantri Ati Pichhda Varg Udyami Yojana⁶⁸⁸, targets Extremely Backward Castes (EBC) and provides financial assistance to promote socio-economic upliftment. Through this scheme, the Bihar government grants Rs. 10 lakh financial assistance (Rs. 5 lakhs in subsidy and Rs. 5 lakhs as interest-free loan) to aspiring entrepreneurs amongst the EBC category (including minorities and severely marginalized men and women), to facilitate training and stimulate economic growth through injection of initial capital. Similarly, the Bihar State Minorities Financial Corporation, Government of Bihar, via the Mukhyamantri Alpsankhyak Rozgar Rin Yojna, offers loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs to people belonging to minority communities to assist in employment and livelihood. For the year 2017-18, a total of 2,495 applicants have benefitted from the scheme and have been accorded loans for employment generation.
- For the welfare of PwDs, the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar, operates Mukhyamantri Viklang Sashaktikaran Yojna (SAMBAL)⁶⁸⁹, an umbrella initiative subsuming all state schemes targeting PwDs into one to facilitate social, economic and educational rehabilitation of PwDs. Through this scheme, the Bihar government provides survey, certification, educational and self-employment loans to PwDs. The state government further operates three residential schools for the visually impaired and five for deaf and mute individuals. Through certification module, 12.90 lakh persons have been certified and 7.49 lakh have received pension through DBT.
- For destitute/beggars, the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar, runs Mukhyamantri Bhikshavriti Nivaran Yojna (MBNY)⁶⁹⁰ targeting the destitute/beggar populace for rehabilitation and social welfare through identification and dedicated centers. As of 2017-18, a total of 4,219 identity cards have been issued to the surveyed destitute. Additionally, eight rehabilitation centers, two 'Raen Basera' and one residential vocational training centre are operational across five districts of the state.
- Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, operates Chief Minister's Disability Pension Scheme (CMDPS)⁶⁹¹ targeting PwDs and providing financial assistance to PwDs belonging to tribal background. The scheme promotes economic rehabilitation by providing financial assistance to PwDs who have 100 percent degree

⁶⁸⁷Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh, [Sahara Scheme](#). Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

⁶⁸⁸Department of Industry, Government of Bihar, [Mukhyamantri Ati Pichhda Varg Udyami Yojana](#). Last accessed on 7th Feb 2020

⁶⁸⁹Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar, [SAMBAL](#). Last accessed on 6th 2020

⁶⁹⁰Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar, [MBNY](#). Last accessed on 6th Apr 2020

⁶⁹¹Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, [CMDPS](#). Last accessed on 14th Jan 2020

of disability in categories such as orthopaedic, visual, locomotor disability, multiple disabilities and so on. A sum of Rs.1,000 is provided per month. A total of 684 beneficiaries benefitted during the year 2017-18.

- Government of Maharashtra's Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana⁶⁹² supports marginalized population, targeting destitutes, PwDs, widows and other highly vulnerable individuals to accord them monthly financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 600 if there is a single beneficiary and Rs. 900 if there are two or more.
- Targeting the senior citizens, Government of Gujarat, through Niradhar Vrudhdha Pension Yojana⁶⁹³, provides a monthly pension to the tune of Rs.1,000 to senior citizens aged 75 years and above across the state.
- A prominent example of extending the social security net through direct benefit transfer can be seen through the Aasara scheme run by Government of Telangana.⁶⁹⁴ The scheme targets senior citizens, widows, AIDS victims, disabled weavers/beedi-makers and so on, providing them with a monthly pension of Rs. 2,016 to promote dignified existence by supporting their daily minimum needs.
- The Mukhya Mantri Nasha Mukti Yojana⁶⁹⁵ by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, seeks to holistically address the prevailing problem of substance abuse by providing addicts with targeted interventions in the form of rehabilitation, training, treatment, etc. across the state.
- The Government of Madhya Pradesh, through its Surajdhara Yojana⁶⁹⁶, targets small and marginal farmers from SC and ST backgrounds to provide them with high-yielding seeds. Surajdhara/Annapurna collectively is a seed distribution programme that provides seeds of improved and high-wielding varieties for crops such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds and so on by replacing the old seeds, leading to growth and gains for small farmers.
- Madhya Pradesh's CM Aarthik Kalyan Yojana⁶⁹⁷ provides working capital and/or low-cost equipment to scheduled castes and BPL individuals to stimulate growth for the weaker sections by providing financial liquidity and capacity as well as equipment to establish a new industry/business.
- Government of Uttarakhand's Free Coaching Scheme⁶⁹⁸ seeks to assist SC students preparing for competitive examinations such as IAS, PCS and so on. The students are given free coaching for a period of five months to facilitate learning and support their socio-economic upliftment.
- Government of Gujarat's Pandit Din Dayal Upadhyay Awas Yojana⁶⁹⁹ seeks to provide and promote housing for the marginalized sections such as SC, OBCs and so on, by providing direct financial assistance of Rs.1.2 lakhs.

⁶⁹²Department of Social Justice, Government of Maharashtra, [Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana](#). Last accessed on 12th Mar 2020

⁶⁹³Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of Gujarat, [Niradhar Vrudhdha Pension Yojana](#). Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020

⁶⁹⁴Department of Rural Development, Government of Telangana, [Aasara](#). Last accessed on 24th Mar 2020

⁶⁹⁵Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, [Mukhya Mantri Nasha Mukti Yojana](#). Last accessed on 13th Feb 2020

⁶⁹⁶Department of Farmer Welfare & Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh, [Surajdhara Yojana](#). Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

⁶⁹⁷Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, [CM Aarthik Kalyan Yojana](#). Last accessed on 6th Apr 2020

⁶⁹⁸Department of Social Welfare, a Government of Uttarakhand, [Free Coaching Scheme](#). Last accessed on 31st Jan 2020

⁶⁹⁹Department of Rural Development, Government of Gujarat, [Awas Yojana](#). Last accessed on 6th Mar 2020

- Telangana State Programme for Rapid Incubation Dalit Entrepreneurs (T-PRIDE)⁷⁰⁰ empowers the marginalized by specifically targeting SC entrepreneurs to facilitate industry, innovation and economic emergence by offering a comprehensive process-driven approach consisting of training, incentives, financing (through heavy subsidies and rebates) as well as private sector handholding and participation to promote curated insight.
- Government of Kerala's Kudumbashree⁷⁰¹ is a comprehensive initiative for poverty alleviation and empowerment, targeting economic, social and women's development through multiple interventions and enterprises across different domains. For economic prosperity and upliftment, it utilizes and promotes collectives and self-help groups through micro-finance, savings, small enterprises, development, strategy and so on. On the social front, it targets destitute, mentally challenged individuals and children for appropriate rehabilitation and societal empowerment. For women, it operates gender self-learning Initiative along with raising awareness regarding domestic violence, discrimination, transgenderism and so on. Additionally, Kudumbashree acts as a nodal and implementing agency for various central initiatives and poverty alleviation programmes to facilitate socio-economic upliftment.

Services

- Government of Himachal Pradesh's HIMCARE⁷⁰² is a comprehensive insurance scheme that seeks to provide cashless insurance coverage to families left out of the Ayushman Bharat umbrella by targeting families belonging to backgrounds such as BPL, marginalized, senior citizens, PwDs, widows, Aanganwadi workers and so on. As of 2019, a total of 68,222 beneficiaries have been provided with health services and coverage worth Rs. 63 crores under the scheme.
- Another notable state healthcare scheme is Government of Odisha's Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).⁷⁰³ BSKY aims to provide healthcare coverage to the economically vulnerable groups by offering them annual health coverage of Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 7 lakhs for women members of the family. Targeting both Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families. Citizens of Odisha residing outside of the state are also eligible for the benefits. BSKY covers over 4,000 packages as compared to PMJAY's 1,343. Within two months of its launch, the scheme has benefitted over 1.1. crore people.
- Government of Maharashtra, through Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY)⁷⁰⁴, focuses on economically backward BPL/APL families to facilitate coverage up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per family per year across 30 specialized categories, comprising of 971 surgeries/procedures.
- Government of Telangana's Arogya Laxmi scheme⁷⁰⁵ addresses the nutritional deficiencies that exist among the women belonging to marginalized strata of the society (APL/BPL). Arogya Laxmi offers nutritious meals through Aanganwadi centers of the state, with the beneficiaries getting egg, milk and nutritional edibles on a regular basis. The meals are provided through over 30,000 Aanganwadi centers and over 4,000 mini-Aanganwadi and caters to over 3 lakh women.

⁷⁰⁰Industries Department, Government of Telangana, [T-PRIDE](#). Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

⁷⁰¹Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala, [Kudumbashree](#). Last accessed on 7th Feb 2020

⁷⁰²Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh, [HIMCARE](#). Last accessed on 24th Jan 2020

⁷⁰³Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, [BSKY](#). Last accessed on 23rd Feb 2020

⁷⁰⁴RGJAY Society, Government of Maharashtra, [MJPJAY](#). Last accessed on 13th Feb 2020

⁷⁰⁵Department of Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana, [Arogya Laxmi](#). Last accessed on 17th Apr 2020

- For senior citizens, the requirements manifestly become more pressing owing to advancing age. Government of Uttarakhand's Mukhyamantri Vridh Mahila Poshan Yojana⁷⁰⁶ targets female senior citizens and provides them with healthy nutritious meals through Aanganwadi centers across the state.
- For urgent/unforeseen social welfare affecting vulnerable groups such as PwDs, Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala, operates Pariraksha⁷⁰⁷, targeting differently-abled individuals undergoing crisis and/or emergency-like situations to aid them in a holistic manner. Individuals with 40 percent or more disability can avail services and assistance through this special demarcated fund.
- The Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar, through the Prak Pariksha Prashikshan⁷⁰⁸, targets students belonging to the backward castes. The scheme facilitates competitive exam preparation through establishment of dedicated training centers, leading to societal upliftment and inclusion. At present, there are Prak centers across seven districts benefitting 1,680 aspirants preparing for different competitive examinations.
- Government of Maharashtra, via the Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Merit Scholarship⁷⁰⁹, seeks to promote competitive spirit amongst DNTs by providing monthly scholarships to high-scoring students scoring above 75 percent or more in their matriculation examination.
- Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala, to alleviate the problems of transgender students, operates Samawaya.⁷¹⁰ This continuing education programme allows transgender people to continue their education and develop the appropriate framework to transition into meaningful livelihood.

Spaces

- The Sweekruti (Promotion of Transgender Equality and Justice)⁷¹¹ Scheme of Government of Odisha is a welfare initiative that comprehensively targets the transgender community through different components to provide welfare, social security as well as a safe and accepting environment. The scheme has several components. Utilizing a smart card, the scheme allows the transgender individuals to avail scholarship assistance, skill development for economic empowerment as well as providing them the necessary tools through mobilized self-help groups, personality development and community awareness and sensitization across involved parties.
- Sahaya (protection, care and rehabilitation of beggars)⁷¹² is a comprehensive umbrella scheme of Government of Odisha that targets beggars, particularly those inflicted with leprosy, suffering from disabilities or age-related ailments. The scheme seeks to holistically rehabilitate them for social inclusion. The scheme approaches beggars in a multi-dimensional way by providing health insurance, livelihood support through skill development, counselling, scholarship for beggars' children, among other activities such as awareness generation and sensitization. The number of

⁷⁰⁶Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Uttarakhand, [Mukhyamantri Vridh Mahila Poshan Yojana](#). Last accessed on 25th Feb 2020

⁷⁰⁷Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala, [Pariraksha](#). Last accessed on 31st Jan 2020

⁷⁰⁸Department of SC/ST Welfare, Government of Bihar, [Prak Pariksha Prashikshan](#). Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020

⁷⁰⁹Department of Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, [Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Merit Scholarship](#). Last accessed on 12th Mar 2020

⁷¹⁰General Education Department, Government of Kerala, [Samanwaya](#). Last accessed on 6th Mar 25th Feb 2020

⁷¹¹Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department, Government of Odisha, [Sweekruti](#). Last accessed on 13th Feb 2020

⁷¹²Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department, Government of Odisha, [Sahaya](#). Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020

beggars has seen a reduction going from 6,390 identified beggars in 2018 to 5,950 beggars in 2019.

- Bhima Bhoi Bhinnakshyama Samarthya Abhiyan (BBSA)⁷¹³ of the Government of Odisha is a comprehensive scheme for PwDs that seeks to uplift them and facilitate social inclusion. Through the organization of *Samrthya Sibirs*, the scheme seeks to provide an integrated platform for providing a range of services to PwDs such as issuance of formal identification and certificates, selection for skill training, fitting of disability aids and appliances, formation of SHGs and so on. In the year 2018, BBSA organized 369 camps at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 30 crores. Through these camps, 2,13,840 PwDs have been registered, 1,29,500 have been assisted. Additionally, 23,764 PwDs have been provided with aids and appliances.
- Abadana (Welfare and Protection of Senior Citizens)⁷¹⁴ targets the welfare of senior citizens in Odisha and seeks to improve their quality of life by providing them with life necessities, different services and energizing and promoting stakeholders to establish a better social climate for the senior citizens, elderly destitute and seniors with disabilities. The scheme has a comprehensive approach and encompasses food, shelter, healthcare and focuses on implementing programmes to reinforce inter-generational relationships, encourage productive ageing along with advocacy, awareness generation and so on.
- A similar initiative can be seen through Government of Kerala's Sayamprabha Home Scheme.⁷¹⁵ This comprehensive initiative seeks to facilitate elderly care by providing day care facilities in collaboration with local self-government institutions. Broadly, it provides persons above 60 years of age with holistic support through social interaction, yoga, varied activities as well as take care of their nutritional inadequacies.
- The Government of Punjab, through the Concessional Bus Travel Facility for Women⁷¹⁶, targets female senior citizen and facilitates mobility. Women above the age of 60 years that reside in Punjab or with state government employees in Chandigarh can avail concessional fare when using the buses of Punjab Roadways and Pepsu Road Corporation.
- Government of Punjab, with its large SC populace, through the Ashirwad (erstwhile Shagun) Scheme⁷¹⁷, provides financial assistance totalling Rs. 21,000 to girls from marginalized/minority backgrounds at the time of their marriage, daughters of widows from any caste at the time of their marriage and scheduled castes widows/divorcees at the time of re-marriage, based on determined eligibility criteria.
- Telangana state government implements Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaaadi Mubarak schemes.⁷¹⁸ While Kalyana Lakshmi component of the scheme targets poor marginalized communities with emphasis on SC households, the Shaadi Mubarak component targets minorities, with both components providing a one-time assistance sum of Rs. 51,000 at the time of marriage.

⁷¹³Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department, Government of Odisha, [BBSA](#). Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

⁷¹⁴Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department, Government of Odisha, [Abadana](#). Last accessed on 23rd Feb 2020

⁷¹⁵Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala, [Sayamprabha](#). Last accessed on 17th Apr 2020

⁷¹⁶Department of Social Security and Women & Child Development, Government of Punjab, Women, Last accessed on 19th Feb 2020

⁷¹⁷Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and Minorities, Government of Punjab, [Ashirwad Scheme](#). Last accessed on 16th Mar 2020

⁷¹⁸Minorities Welfare Department, Government of Telangana, [Shaadi Mubarak Scheme](#). Last accessed on 16th Apr 2020

- Government of Madhya Pradesh, through the Nishakt Vivah Protshan Yojna⁷¹⁹, targets PwDs and provides financial assistance to newly-wed PwDs to ensure their societal and economical rehabilitation and promote socio-economic growth.
- Government of Gujarat's Mai Ramabai Sat Fera Samuh Lagna Yojana⁷²⁰ seeks to curb unnecessary individual expenditure on marriages of vulnerable groups by facilitating collective marriage ceremonies. Persons living below poverty line, Scheduled Castes and developing caste organizations are provided Rs. 3,000 per couple for organizing group marriages and each couple is provided a grant of Rs.11,000.

⁷¹⁹Social Justice & Disabled Welfare Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, [Nishakt Vivah Yojana](#). Last accessed on 7th Feb 2020

⁷²⁰Scheduled Caste Welfare Department, Government of Gujarat, [Mai Ramabai Sat Fera Samuh Lagna Yojana](#). Last accessed on 24th Jan 2020

Annexure 3 : Private/CSR/Donor Initiatives

Interventions by Donors (Multilaterals and Bilaterals)

Among the donors, the interventions range from financial assistance to central and state governments for running targeted programmes for addressing socio-economic gaps of the vulnerable populations, technical assistance, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation and improving governance of the programmes and schemes. The key interventions are analyzed below:

Markets

- There are interventions supported by donors such as IFAD which primarily focus on empowerment of the vulnerable groups. Interventions such as The Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme (JCTDP)⁷²¹ was started in 2001, continued till 2012 for Jharkhand and 2010 for Chhattisgarh, and targeted marginalized inhabitants including ultra-poor, SCs, among other vulnerable groups. Primarily, a markets-oriented intervention, the project focused on rural micro-finance and enhancement of livelihood systems through a multi-pronged approach targeting infrastructure, grass roots development and systems.
- Primarily, given the nature of the lenders and scale of operations, micro-finance has emerged as a veritable alternative to substitute moneylenders and deliver capital for growth from a ground-up approach. Asian Development Bank's Supporting Access to Finance for Women in Rural Areas Project⁷²² seeks to provide marginalized women across poorer states of India such as Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, among others, with loans and micro-financing, facilitated through Annapurna Finance, a dedicated Micro-Finance Institute (MFI).
- This gendered method of increasing availability of financial resources can be readily seen in the Department for International Development (DFID)'s Poorest States Inclusive Growth Programme (PSIG).⁷²³ PSIG is a multi-state intervention containing within its coverage ambit the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal and operational for a duration of 14 years from 2008 to 2022. Cumulatively, these states account for most of India's population and as a corollary, also comprise of the most marginalized individuals.
- Interventions that target marginalized with climatological perspectives have also gained traction, such as The Andhra Pradesh Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project funded by The World Bank and operational from 2018 till 2025. The project targets over 2,00,000 farmers and marginalized individuals, especially women, to transform their farming practices to be more climate resilient through multi-faceted interventions across assessment, infrastructure and practices, leading to enhanced incomes and socio-economic upliftment.
- In MGNREGA, beneficiaries remained disproportionately men and where women were included, the facilities as provided for in legislation were often omitted or compromised, with women from marginalized backgrounds such as *Dalits* and minorities figuring prominently on the receiving end of societal prejudice. Through a dedicated initiative, UN Women sought to address this

⁷²¹ International Fund for Agricultural Development, (2001), [The Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme \(JCTDP\)](#), Last accessed on 12th Apr 2020

⁷²² Asian Development Bank, (2018), [Supporting Access to Finance for Women in Rural Areas](#), Last accessed on 23rd Feb 2020

⁷²³ Department for International Development, (2012), [Poorest States Inclusive Growth Programme \(PSIG\)](#), Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

prevailing disparity. The Dalit Women's Livelihoods Accountability Initiative (DWLAI)⁷²⁴ was implemented through grass roots-oriented NGOs for a period of two years between 2009 and 2011 across nine districts of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

- Poorer states face multiplicity of challenges. Beyond possessing comparatively lower fiscal resources and lack of skilled workforce to stimulate efficiency-driven enterprise, the stigmatization owing to perceived and actual social and economic realities such as discrimination, corruption, etc. hinder prospects for growth and investment. The Department for International Development (DFID), through the Growth, Resources, Opportunities and Wealth Creation in Bihar (GROW Bihar)⁷²⁵ project, seeks to address this in a holistic manner. Operational for a duration of six years between 2014 and 2020, GROW Bihar is primarily meant as a technical assistance programme. The project seeks to re-invigorate the existing bureaucratic knowledge pool as well as assist the government in implementing lasting procedural and infrastructural changes driven by inclusionary perspective of uplifting the population of marginalized minorities and women collectively through concerted efforts, developing a welcoming and lively investment climate fashioned around industrial, economic and social growth.

Services

- Asian Development Bank, through the Madhya Pradesh Urban Services Improvement Project⁷²⁶, seeks to address these prevailing inadequacies by a systematic upgradation of existing water infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh to bring it in line with the increased demand. The project is for a duration of five years, implemented between 2017 and 2022 and seeks to focus on ensuring clean, piped water supply to households with a driven emphasis on ensuring populace from the marginalized groups such as SC, ST, minorities, women are benefitted.

Spaces

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its Access to Justice Project⁷²⁷, seeks to address the persistent omission of information by cultivating literacy regarding laws, rights and entitlements across marginalized sections of the society. Primarily implemented for a period of nine years between 2008 and 2017, the project has been successful in disseminating legal awareness amongst two million marginalized people and integrating legal literacy in the Sakshar Bharat Programme. To engender sustainability and expand the ambit, through it over 7,000 paralegals from underprivileged backgrounds have been trained and deployed to provide legal assistance across communities. Additionally, the project has sought to sensitize legal fraternity regarding the challenges and grievances of the marginalized to effectuate nuanced and culturally sensitive justice delivery.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has implemented its Action for Adolescent Girls (AAG) Programme⁷²⁸ across select districts in India. In two blocks of Madhya Pradesh comprising of 150 villages, the programme has been implemented as Samridhi Project. Seeking to target the most marginalized adolescent girls belonging to backgrounds including the SC, between the ages of 10

⁷²⁴ UN-Women, (2011), [DWLAI](#), Last accessed on 17th 18th Apr 2020

⁷²⁵ Department for International Development, (2014), Growth, [Growth, Resources, Opportunities and Wealth Creation in Bihar \(GROW Bihar\)](#), Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

⁷²⁶ Asian Development Bank, (2017), [Madhya Pradesh Urban Services Improvement Project](#), Last accessed on 19th Feb 2020

⁷²⁷ United Nations Development Programme, (2007), [Access to Justice Project](#), Last accessed on 25th April 2020

⁷²⁸ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), (2014), [Action for Adolescent Girls \(AAG\)](#), Last accessed on 31st Apr 2020

and 19, the programme imparts educational, leadership and gender perspectives to promote safety, hygiene, sexual well-being, livelihood and individualistic assertion through trainings, campaigns and promotions. On a larger scale, UN Women's comprehensive programme - Facilitating Women in Endemic Poverty Regions to Access, Actualize and Sustain Provisions on Empowerment, was implemented across nine districts of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal for a period of four years between 2010 and 2014. Principally, this programme sought to promote holistic inclusion of women by promoting self-help groups and advocating gendered perspectives across structures, schemes and communities. As discussed earlier, increasingly the focus has shifted to collectives and women's organizations to cultivate substantial and lasting change. Particularly, this UN Women enterprise sought to re-vitalize women's self-help groups by dissemination of information regarding social, legal and political rights and entitlements to promote livelihood opportunities and growth. Initiatives such as these delineate the importance of promoting gender equality to develop rural areas and eliminate discrimination.

Interventions by Private and Public sector including CSR initiatives

Markets

- In Assam, Indian Oil Company Ltd. established Indian Oil Multi-Skill Development Institute (IMSDI)⁷²⁹ in Digboi town of Tinsukia district with the aim of offering short-term vocational courses to promote upliftment of inhabitants in and around the town that mostly consists of marginalized, vulnerable population comprising of SC, OBC and so on.
- ITC Limited's Women Empowerment Programme⁷³⁰ targets marginalized women living in extreme poverty by facilitating economic mobility through micro-financing and entrepreneurship. The initiative spans country-wide and has, so far, helped over 65,000 marginalized women across vulnerable communities.
- National Mineral Development Corporation has carried out multiple initiatives⁷³¹ across Dantewada (Chhattisgarh) and Nuh (Haryana) to train minorities, SC, OBC individuals in skills such as industrial garmenting, shuttering carpentry, plumbing, electrician as well as programmes to develop dairy farming, tailoring, cutting and so on.
- Spark Minda Foundation, run by Minda Corp., operates Aakarshan Vocational Training Programme⁷³² in five locations in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. The trainings are meant to facilitate long-term sustainable livelihood through computer skills, literacy, beauty culture as well as industrial training (cutting, tailoring) for marginalized women who require occupational opportunities with urgency. Since its inception in 2014, the initiative has benefitted 3,701 individuals and has placed 225 women across different export houses through industrial training.
- K.C. Mahindra Trust's Mahindra Pride Schools (MPS)⁷³³ are a pertinent example, operating in seven locations across different states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and so on, targeting

⁷²⁹Indian Oil Company Ltd, (2014), [Indian Oil Multi-Skill Development Institute](#), Last accessed on 16th Jan 2020

⁷³⁰ ITC, (2020), [Women Empowerment Programme](#), Last accessed on 14th Jan 2020

⁷³¹ National Mineral Development Corporation, (2020), [CSR](#), Last accessed on 7th Feb 2020

⁷³² Spark Minda Foundation, (2020), [Aakarshan Vocational Training Programme](#), Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020

⁷³³K.C. Mahindra Trust, (2020), [Mahindra Pride Schools](#), Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

marginalized youth from vulnerable backgrounds such as SC, OBC etc., between the ages of 18 and 25 to impart training. The trainings centre around three domains of hospitality and craft, ITeS and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and focus on life skill development both through centers as well as the extended MPS Classroom Programme that provides skilling digitally across universities and institutes.

Services

- Power Finance Corporation, through a multi-faceted CSR approach⁷³⁴, intervened in Bhupalpally (Telangana) to upgrade Integrated Disease Diagnostic Facilities to target tribal healthcare through nutritional rehabilitation centers and day care to aid tribal women. In Ferozepur (Punjab), 200 Aanganwadi centers were constructed through district programme office to engender awareness, health and nutrition amongst the inhabitants.
- K.C. Mahindra Trust's Nanhi Kali initiative⁷³⁵ seeks to ensure that girls from marginalized backgrounds such as SC, OBC, etc. are provided with 10 years of formal schooling. The initiative seeks to achieve this in a holistic manner by not only providing girls with academic support through dedicated centers, but also providing them with life-essentials such as school bags, intimate hygiene products and so on to ensure participation remains dignified and comprehensive, along with carrying out advocacy to generate awareness and stimulate social winds for sustainable change.

b) Interventions by NGOs/ voluntary organizations

The prevalence of non-profit interventions in the sphere of empowerment of different kinds and degrees remains substantial. Through different approaches, the non-profit organizations have steadfastly worked in parallel with governments and the civil society to address pressing issues.

Markets

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Partnership for Women's Empowerment and Rights (PoWER)⁷³⁶ initiative sought to target marginalized women farmers and families from SC, ST, OBC, etc. backgrounds to augur their income and create market linkages across the scope area spanning multiple endemic poverty states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and others. The initiative focused on SHGs as instrumentalities to holistically cover different sectors that affect livelihood and quality of life for women and farmer families, such as promoting WASH, gender equality, discrimination and collaboration with locally placed CSOs.
- American India Foundation's Ability Based Livelihood Empowerment (ABLE) Programme⁷³⁷ runs across multiple states and targets PwDs to accord them with relevant, dignified livelihood through industrial collaboration and tailored training and skill development to ensure bilateral benefits across the stakeholders. So far, the programme has created employment opportunities for over 9,000 PwDs and trained over 15,000 PwDs for socio-economic empowerment.

⁷³⁴ Power Finance Corporation, (2019), [CSR](#), Last accessed on 17th Apr 2020

⁷³⁵ K.C. Mahindra Trust, (2020), [Nanhi Kali Initiative](#), Last accessed on 14th Jan 2020

⁷³⁶ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, (2017), [Partnership for Women's Empowerment and Rights \(PoWER\)](#), Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

⁷³⁷ American India Foundation, (2015), [ABLE](#), Last accessed on 25th Mar 2020

Services

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Avahan AIDS Initiative⁷³⁸ was a comprehensive AIDS programme that covered six states with high-at-risk populations (sex workers, transgender people, homosexual males) such as Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Karnataka and so on, along with major trucking routes, to comprehensively scale-up and provide preventive services to high-at-risk populations. The programme targeted reducing HIV transmission rates by providing for preventive measures (condom distribution), information campaigns and counselling along with testing, treatment and needle exchange for injectable drug users.
- HelpAge India's Mobile Healthcare Unit (MHU)⁷³⁹ operates in 1,920 community locations across 25 states in India, providing the elderly belonging to marginalized backgrounds such as SC, OBC, etc., with primary healthcare facilities through qualified staff consisting of doctors, pharmacists and social workers.
- Save the Children, along with ITOCHU Corporation, operated Mobile Learning Centre (MLC)⁷⁴⁰ in M-East Ward in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The MLC project targeted out-of-school children, street children and children from marginalized communities such as SC, OBC, etc., to address knowledge and education gaps and encourage inclusion of children into formal education. The project also sought to advocate and generate awareness regarding child labour for communities and stakeholders as well as empower children by fashioning them into change-makers to inoculate them from societal evils such as police harassment and substance abuse.
- Katha Lab School⁷⁴¹, started in 1990 as a place for marginalized children residing in urban slums to access education, has expanded with considerable growth and presents many learning examples and modalities that should be considered for replication. Particularly, Katha's story, pedagogy methodology focuses on learning through stories. The focus, additionally, has also been to elevate marginalized youth and women by providing them with training of skills and ideas to promote livelihood and employment generation; this initiative has benefitted 200,000 women.

Spaces

- Butterflies India, through the Children's Development Khazana (CDK) Programme⁷⁴², targets street children and children from underprivileged/impoverished backgrounds to help develop themselves as entrepreneurs by learning the fundamentals of accountancy, banking and management and cultivate knowledge related to social and financial management. The CDKs operate with great autonomy and are managed by children, with the organizational objective being to support children and enable them to exit poverty and illiteracy.
- Children across ages and backgrounds face discrimination. This discrimination is much more prevalent towards young girls and adolescent women who often must survive not only within limited means, but also under the constant barrage of patriarchal oppression. To this effect, the YP Foundation's Butterfly Project⁷⁴³ sought to empower young marginalized women from SC,

⁷³⁸Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, (2003), [Avahan AIDS Initiative](#), Last accessed on 26th Mar 2020

⁷³⁹HelpAge India, (1982), [Mobile Healthcare Unit](#), Last accessed on 17th Mar 2020

⁷⁴⁰ITOCCHU Corporation, (2013), [Mobile Learning Centre](#), Last accessed on 19th Mar 2020

⁷⁴¹Katha Lab School, (1990), [Katha Lab School](#), Last accessed on 17th Mar 2020

⁷⁴²Butterflies India, (2001), [Children's Development Khazana](#), Last accessed on 10th Jan 2020

OBC and similar backgrounds residing in select areas of Delhi and Rajasthan, to cultivate them with the necessary skills, training and confidence to advocate for their issues and rights.

- Oxfam India, through the By the People initiative⁷⁴⁴, targeted vulnerable, marginalized individuals belonging to SC, OBC and other vulnerable backgrounds across states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, etc. to position them as advocates of change via Community Led Organizations (CLOs). Through capacity building of both organizations and individuals, the initiative facilitates collaboration and representation across marginalized stakeholders and decision-makers for enhanced awareness and participation of vulnerable groups and communities.
- DNTs exist all over India, with little information being available regarding their overall numbers and face a severe lack of inclusion within formal systems of banking and identification. In Gujarat, the Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch (VSSM)⁷⁴⁵ is a dedicated organization that focuses on DNTs for their upliftment and socio-economic inclusion. The organization, among other initiatives, has facilitated issuance of identity through caste certificates BPL/APL/Antyodaya Cards to over 10,000 DNTs along with targeting issues such as WASH and water conservation through dedicated campaigns, and enabling economic independence through providing interest-free loans for housing, entrepreneurship and so on.

Annexure 4 : List of Key Informant Interviews

S.No	Name of the respondent	Designation	Department/Organization
1	Kalyani Chadha	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2	Ram Prasad Meena	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
3	Deepak Mehra	Director	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
4	R. Subrahmanyam	Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
5	Tasneem Majid Ganai	Director	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
6	Mahender Kumar Ujjainia	DDG	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
7	Vijay Kumar	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
8	Khagesh Garg	Director	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
9	Arvind Kumar	Director	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10	Sitaram Yadav	Deputy Secretary	Department of Empowerment of PwD
11	Mrityunjay Jha	Deputy Secretary	Department of Empowerment of PwD
12	T.C. Sivakumar	Director	Department of Empowerment of PwD
13	K. Narayan	Managing Director	National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)
14	Prof.(Dr.) Ram Shankar Katheria	Chairperson	National Commission for Scheduled Castes
15	KK Bhagat	Chief Manager	NSKFDC
16	Dipta Bhanu Das	Director	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
17	Navin Kumar	Under Secretary	Department of Empowerment of PwD
18	Dr. Muniraju	Dy. Adviser (SJE-VAC)	NITI Aayog
19	Sumitra Dhalsamantha	Project Coordinator	Ministry of Health, Family and Welfare
20	Shakuntala Majhi	Gender Expert	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
21	Alka Upadhyaya	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Rural Development
22	Kalyani Mishra	Economic Advisor	Ministry of Rural Development
State			
1	Ranjana Chopra	Principal Secretary	ST & SC Development, Minorities, & Backward Classes Welfare Department, Odisha
2	Poonam Guha	Director	ST & SC Development, Minorities, & Backward Classes Welfare Department, Odisha
3	S G Bhabor	Joint Secretary	Social Welfare Dept., Gujarat
4	PL Dolanki	Director	Department of Backward Class/ OVG, Gujarat
5	G N Nachhiya	MD	Department of Social Welfare, Gujarat
6	D N Menamma	MD	Department of Open Category, Gujarat
7	V. V Patel	Under Secretary	Department of Social Welfare, Gujarat
8	Sarbjinder Singh Randhawa	Director	Social Welfare Department, Punjab
9	Lalmuankima Sailo	State nodal officer	Scholarship Board, Mizoram
10	Rakesh Bhardwaj	Director	Education Department, Himachal Pradesh
11	Himanshu Gupta	Secretary	Planning Department, Arunachal Pradesh
12	Punyendu Mishra	Director	Planning Department, Arunachal Pradesh
13	Joram Muthu	Officer on Special Duty	Higher and Technical education Department, Arunachal Pradesh

S.No	Name of the respondent	Designation	Department/Organization
14	Yumlum Kaha	Director	Social Justice, Empowerment and Tribal Affairs Department, Arunachal Pradesh
15	Sanghamitra Das	Undersecretary, Scholarship wing	SC/ST Development Department, Odisha
16	Surbhi Srivastava	Senior Consultant, Scholarship Wing	SC/ST Development Department, Odisha
17	Ripudaman Singh	SCA to SCSP	Social Welfare Department, Punjab
18	Jagmohan Kafola	Deputy Director	Social Welfare (SC), Uttarakhand
19	Hemlata Pandey	State Nodal Officer, D.S.W.O Dehradun	IT (SC/ST), Uttarakhand
20	Pradip Bhogle	Assistant Commissioner, PMAGY	Social Welfare Department, Maharashtra
21	Parthapratim Manna	Director	SC ST Corporation, West Bengal
22	B Rajshekar	Director	APSCFDC, Andhra Pradesh
23	G N Bhatt	Deputy Commissioner	Department of Rural Development, Uttar Pradesh
24	Vijayrani	General Manager	SC ST Corporation, Tamil Nadu
25	Debakumar Kalita	Managing Director	Assam State Development Corporation for SCs Limited, Assam
26	Iqbal Kataria	Deputy General Manager	SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation Limited, J&K
27	Gedam	General Manager	Mahatma Phule BCs Development Corporation Limited, Maharashtra
District			
1	P. Yadaiah	Social Welfare Officer	Mahbubnagar, Telangan
2	P. C. Laltanpuia	District Social Welfare Officer	Serchip, Mizoram
3	Lalsiampuii	DCPO	Serchip, Mizoram
4	Mutsen Perme	Deputy Director of Secondary Education	Siang, Arunachal Pradesh
5	Tapik Kamut	District Planning Officer	Siang, Arunachal Pradesh
6	Moon madam	District Social Welfare Officer	Amravati, Maharashtra
7	Bindu Joseph	Counsellor, IRCA	Kozhikode, Kerala
8	Omprakash Setia	Deputy District Education Officer	Sangrur, Punjab
10	Nilesh Tore/Amol Shrimanwar/Rameshwar Dharade	Social Welfare Inspector	Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
11	M S Sindram	District Education Officer	Mandla, Madhya Pradesh
12	R D Mungate	District Education Officer	Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
13	Ku. M. V. Patel	Deputy Director	Bharuch, Gujarat

S.No	Name of the respondent	Designation	Department/Organization
14	Thilakan / Mrs, Bingdu	District SC Development officer	Thrissur, Kerala
15	Sulekashna	District Child and women welfare officer	Thrissur, Kerala
16	Priya Deshmukh	District Education Officer	Amravati, Maharashtra
17	Harpreet Singh	Senior Astt. District Welfare Officer	Gurdaspur, Punjab
18	Pinki Borgoyari	Sub Divisional Welfare Officer	Udalgiri, Assam
19	Sudhir	Secretary	Jalgaon, Maharashtra
20	Mohan Sharma	Counsellor	Punjab, Sangrur
21	Sundar Prasad Chaurasiya	DSWO	Banka, Bihar
22	Anil Kumar	Managing Director	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
23	N.B.Chavda / Karsan Padha / Aneesha Prajapati	District Education Officer	Banaskantha, Gujarat
24	Harshika Singh	Collector and District Magistrate	Mandla, Madhya Pradesh
25	Pendam	District Social Welfare Officer	Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
26	Souqat Mahapatra	District Scholarship Coordinator	Sundergarh, Odisha
27	Vidya Sagar Ojha	District Social Welfare Officer	Aurangabad, Bihar
28	Ulhas Narad	District Education Officer	Wardha, Maharashtra
29	Anitha Kumari/ Mr. Biju	District Education Officer, Senior clerk, District Education Officer	Thrissur, Kerala
30	Anjna Jaitwar	Assistant Director Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department	Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh
31	Anil Walke	District Social Welfare Officer	Wardha, Maharashtra
32	Rajendra Latore	District Education Officer	Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh
33	Rupal Dalal	Assistant Schedule Caste Social Welfare Officer	Walsad, Gujarat
34	Sanjeev Maini	Planning officer	Firozpur, Punjab
35	Kulwinder Kaur	District Educational Officer	Firozpur, Punjab
36	Pu Lawmawma	Social welfare officer	Mamit, Mizoram

S.No	Name of the respondent	Designation	Department/Organization
37	Ahasan	District Education Officer	Banka, Bihar
38	Pankaj Kumar Jaiswal	Block welfare Officer	Banka, Bihar
39	Bhaskar Pawar	District Social Welfare Officer (Developing Caste)	Walsad, Gujarat
40	Prabhusimran Kumar(P), Rajpal Kaur (Ele)	District Education Officer	Sangrur, Punjab
41	Kajveer Singh	District Welfare Officer Sr. Assistant	Sangrur, Punjab
42	R. C. Prajapati	District Social Welfare Officer (Developing Caste)	Bharuch, Gujarat
43	Krishna Murthy	District Social Justice Officer	Mallapuram, Kerala
44	Kusumam	District Education Officer	Mallapuram, Kerala
45	Vikash Kumar	District Social Welfare Officer	Sitamarhi, Bihar
46	Samant	District Social Welfare Officer	Champwat, Uttarakhand
47	Surendhar	District Welfare Officer (BC)	Bhadrari Kothagudem, Telangana
48	Sarojani Devi	District Education Officer	Bhadrari Kothagudem, Telangana
49	Ram Reddy	District Welfare Officer (BC)	Rangareddy, Telangana
50	Prof Shafiqul Ali Mondol	Secretary, IRCA	Dhubri, Assam
51	Dharmendra Hanwat	Director, IRCA	Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh
52	Dev Bind Kumar Singh	DEO	Kishanganj, Bihar
53	Lalan Rishi	DWO Zila Kalyan Pad Adhikari	Katihar, Bihar
54	Arup Choudhary, Purabi Kunwar	DSWO,DC	Nalbari, Assam
55	Amardeep Tiwari	DPO	Kishanganj, Bihar
56	Deepak Singhala	DC	Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
57	Vijay Kumar Choudhary	DM	Pitthoragarh, Uttarakhand
58	Sudeshna	District Protection Officer	Malkangiri, Odisha
59	Mamta Mohanty	District Programme Manager	Odisha
Expert			
1	Avatthi Ramaiah	Professor	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
2	Sanjay Kumar	Director	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies
3	Martin Macwan	Trustee	Dalit Foundation

S.No	Name of the respondent	Designation	Department/Organization
4	Yamini Aiyar	Director and Chief Executive	Centre for Policy Research
5	Pavithra Kumar	Chief Program Director	Tata Trust
6	Poornima Dore	Chief Program Director	Head, Data Driven Governance
7	Manabendra Nath Ray	Director – Program Strategy & Policy	Plan India
8	Ashwini Deodeshmukh	Head: CSR and Sustainability Reporting	Godrej
9	Karon Shaiva	Chief Impact Officer	IDOBRO
10	RR Prasad	Director	NIRD
11	Susmita Patnaik	Senior Manager (Partnerships)	GRAAM
12	Lokesh Gujjarappa	Head, Monitoring and Evaluation	United Way Bengaluru
13	Archana Soreng	Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, United Nations	United Nations
14	Nikhil Singh	Monitoring and Evaluation Lead	UNICEF
15	Rani Patel	Founder	Aarohan
16	Gatha Namboothiri	Research Associate	Centre for Social Justice
17	Pravin Mote	Director	Centre for People's Collective
18	Geetanjoy Sahu	Associate Professor	School of Habitat Studies, TISS Mumbai
19	Prabhu Kumar	Senior Programme Director	Hope Foundation
20	Mrinal Gohain	Regional Manager	Action Aid organization
21	Kanksshi Agarwal	Founder	Netri Foundation
22	Sahana Mishra	Integrator	PRADAN
23	Ashwini Kulkarni	Director	Pragati Abhiyan
24	Finaz Jahan Saifi	Founding Member	GSM Foundation
25	Ramanan Jayaraman	Manager	Reliance Foundation
26	Pradeep Kumar	Manager	Reliance Foundation
27	Brindavan Behera	Program Manager	Gramin Foundation India
28	B.C. Rath	Programme Manager	World Fish Center, USAID
29	Pradyumna Mohanty	Manager	Bosch, CSR
30	Jhili Khatua	Manager, Health and nutrition	Jindal CSR
31	Sudhansu Behra	MLE Expert	UNDP
32	Vibash Chobey	NRM Expert	UNDP
33	Jagannat Mishra	Founder Member	Ekta NGO
34	Geo Sabastian	Project Officer	UNDP
35	Chandan Nayak	Project Manager	Saathi

S.No	Name of the respondent	Designation	Department/Organization
36	Surendra Kumar Jena	State Head	Mamta
37	Rajalaxmi Behera	Project Officer	Action Aid
38	Fazlul	State Head	Nutrition International
39	Shambhu Kumar	Programme Manager	Udyogini
40	Beenita Meher	Gender Consultant	NA
41	Adikanda Biswal	Programme Officer	MASS
42	Bhupendra Sangata	Secretary	Sangata Sahabhangi Gramin Vikas Sansthan
43	Prunjay Mishra	Secretary	Chhayadeep Samiti Rajkheta Wadrafanagar
44	Ravi Kumar Singh	Secretary	Sarguja Gramin Vikas Sansthan (SGVS)
45	Shibani Ghosh	Co-founder	Parvarish the Museum School
46	Kamal Das	Secretary	Sahabganj Samaj Sevi Sansthan
47	Monisha Vemavarupu	CEO	Rubaroo
48	Hemlata Sahu	Director	MSKPP
49	Lokesh Kalal	President	Alfa Education Society
50	Diya Mukherjee	Project Coordinator	Britannia Nutrition Foundation
51	Sanjeev Anand	Project Officer	Ajeevika
52	Cynthia Stephen	Gender and Development Policy Analyst & Independent Media Person	Independent Consultant
53	Devilal Vyas	Founder /Member	People's Education Development Organization
54	Divya Jaiswal	Advocate	Centre for Social Justice, Chhattisgarh
55	Father Joseph	Secretary	Changnacherry Social Service Society, Kerala
56	Kunteshwar Bhatt	Managing Trustee	The National Education Society, Gujarat
57	Moin Jaffar	Member	Shanti Sadbhavana Manch,/ Aastha Shiksha Samiti
58	Pragnya Joshi	Gender and Development Training Research Consultant	Independent Consultant
59	Rajendra Bandhu	Director	Samman, Indore, MP
60	Rishi P Singh	Retired	National Productivity Council
61	Shrikant Kolakhe	Member	Satyashodhak Shikshak Sabha, Maharashtra
62	Suman Devathiya	Member	Dalit Women's Movement
63	Sunder S Khadse	Independent	Independent Consultant
64	Surinder S Jodhka	Professor	Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, JNU
65	Ajay Dandekar	Director	School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University
67	Ankit Jha		Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
68	Archana Sharma	President	Aarohan, MP
69	Anil Sinha	Key Functionary	Aniket Sewa Foundation
70	Sujata Shah	Director	Gujarat Kelavani Trust
71	Karuna Phillip	Member	Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti (Works with women, adolescent girls, children on a mix of social issues)
72	Rajan Chaudhary	Chief Functionary	Shikshit Rojgar Prabandhak Samiti

⁷⁴⁴Oxfam India, (2019), [By the People Initiative](#), Last accessed on 23rd Mar 2020

⁷⁴⁵Vicharta Samuday Samarthan Manch, (2005), [VSSM Activities](#), Last accessed on 25th Apr 2020



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