

CURRENT STATUS AMONG DALIT FAMILIES: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON FACTORS INDICATING ECONOMIC STATUS

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the present study is that, to examine the Current status among dalit families. The study mainly focused on factors which indicating the economic status of the dalit families. For this purpose the researcher used primary data. The required primary data have been collected through interview schedules. Total 120 families over Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur District Karnataka have been taken for the study. Statistical tools like Mean, Graphs, Chi-square were used in the study. In the present study, it is observed that, majority of the dalits families still living in Kuccha House, Firewood is the main source for cooking, No toilet facilities, No transport facilities, low number of members are working, maximum dalits people still depending on casual work, landlessness, no financial from banking systems, wage payment is main source of earnings among dalits. Therefore, it could be said that, majority of the dalits have low economic conditions.

Keywords: Dalits, Economic Status, Chi-square, Families

INTRODUCTION

Despite more access to education, better household amenities and increased incomes, the economic gap between upper castes and dalit and tribal communities continues unchanged over the years. According to latest economic data from the NSSO, a comparison of average monthly expenditure of householders belonging to dalit communities with upper castes households showed that, the rural areas, there was a gap of about 38 percent in 1999-2000, which changed only marginally to 37 percent in 2011-12. In urban area upper castes households reported incomes that were 65 percent more than dalit households in 1999-2000, this gap reduced to a still shocking 60 percent in 2011-12. (**Subodh Varma**). India is considered to be the most stratified of all known societies in human history with its peculiar form of caste. The caste system is 'peculiar' in the sense that it is one of the greatest separating forces that have been used to divide human beings, mainly into two categories; higher castes and lower castes. This simple division is backed by certain religious sanctions, which yield to what sociologists' term 'purity' and 'pollution' concepts. These religious sanctions make possible a renewal of legitimacy of Indian caste system even after it is challenged

throughout the course of history. Thus, the caste system with its myriad variations of super-ordination and subordination still exists in all the regions of India with different degrees of rigidity. It is due to this irrepressible caste system that the untouchables of India, who number more than 220 million and are known today as Dalits, have been systematically neglected and ostracized in Indian society throughout ages. The dalits in our country are known by many other names given to them by others, mostly to despise them or to show contempt. A man is not a mere label but a disclosure of a reality. They are *Avarnas*, colorless and non-descript; or *panchamas*, those left over as it were after the four castes have been counted; or aspirations of a vast victimized section of the Indian population right down the ages.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Prakash lamani & P M Honakeri (2012)ⁱ studied on Migration among SCs. The aim of the study is to examine the level of work and problems faced by respondents at migrants place and to evaluate their level of improvement for migration. The researcher used primary data, the data were collected through exhaustive field work from Bijapur taluk of Karnataka State. It reveals that migration of scheduled caste to neighboring state like Goa, Maharastra and Andra Pradesh, where lack of opportunities available for their livelihood and better work options that are complementary to migration ; the availability of surplus labour within the household and also found that seasonal migration of labour for employment has become one of the most durable components of livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas.

Lakshmi Iyer et. all (2013)ⁱⁱ studied 'Caste and Entrepreneurship in India' It examines, it is now widely accepted that the lower caste have risen in indian politics. Has there been a corresponding change in the economy? Using comprehensive data on enterprise ownership from the economic senses of 1990, 1998 and 2005 and concludes that there are substantial caste differences in entrepreneurship across India. The SC and ST are significantly underrepresented in the ownership of enterprise and the share of the workforce employed by them.

Dr. B P Mahesh C G, V Shanmugam & H S Shivaraju (2015)ⁱⁱⁱ analysed SC/ST welfare activities of social welfare department of Karnataka state. The social welfare department is the nodel department to monitor the overall department of SC&ST people in Karnataka. The percentage of STs living in permanent houses with better civil amenities is lower when compared to SCs and other population. Adequate funds are not spent on various socially beneficial activities by the department of social welfare and also found that, the contribution of central government is inadequate for the social empowerment of SC & ST population.

John C B Webster (2001)^{iv}, the dalit situation in India Today. The Researcher studies, Dalit political, Economic, social, Religious strategies and found that dalit have been divided over whether to pursue political power independtity of other caste or in alliance with those member of other caste and communities. Dalit's as an improvised and independent source of cheap labor and also found that over

the past 125 years, so many dalit have converted to Christianity that today the majority of Christian population of India is Dalit.

Barbara Harriss and Aseem Prakash (2008)^v studied social discrimination in India- A case economic citizenship. In this paper made an attempts to analyse social discrimination and its manifestation and to suggest possible strategies at the conceptual level to tackle it. Finally concludes that the demand of equality is not only an individual moral claim to respect as human being but also a political claim on the state of a citizen.

R Suresh and B C Mylarappa (2012)^{vi} studied Socio- economic status of rural Scheduled Caste female students in higher education. It is indeed difficult to point the social educational status of women including untouchability throughout Indian history till the down of the independence on the canvas of a limited space. To analysed the socio-economic background of SC female students in higher education. The area of the study has been confined to Tumkur town. The sample size of 250 students was drawn on the basis of simple random technique. The sample size fixed in the view time and availability of the resources. The major tool of collection of primary data has been the interview scheduled. Majority (98.8%) of students are distributed in the younger or middle age group only, a small 1.20 percent is in the older age group. The prime motive of the study is to SC women are institutional problem of the SCs including hour is to remodel or redesign our institutional arrangement through a ractical structural change with emphasis on equity and equality of women as par with men in all spheres of social life. Moreover the insights emerging from the study point the need for further research in the area. They could also be useful to the planners and policy makers to evolve new struggles for educational development of SC women.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the present is to examine the current status among dalit families with special reference factors indicating economic status of the dalit families.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

H₀: Dalit Families do not have good economic conditions

H₁: Dalit Families do have good economic conditions

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study consists primary data. . The required primary data have been collected through interview schedules. Total 120 families over Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur District Karnataka have been taken for the study. Statistical tools like Mean, Graphs, Chi-square were used in the study.

The chi-square was calculated by using the following formula

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(A_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$$

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The present study is concerned with current status among dalit families, the study with special reference to factors influencing with respect to their economic development. This section is classified into two parts. Part-A consists socio-economic status among dalit families and Part-B relates basic factors which are influencing economic status.

Part-A: Analysis Of Demographic Profile Of The Respondent Families

In this section, Age of the respondent, Nature of the family, Size of the family, Numbers of children's in the family and Educational status have been studied. These demographic factors directly or indirectly related to economic conditions of dalit families.

Age of the respondent family:

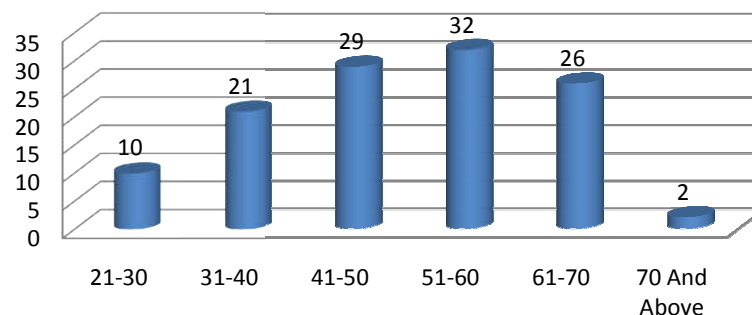
Age is one of the important biological traits and also indicator of social status, of which various stages of individual's life are differentiated for education, occupation, marriage, maturity etc. and it also play very important role in the determination of lifestyle and attitudes. It can be seen from table-1, majority of the respondents belonging to the 51-60 years (i.e., 26.67%) followed by 41-50 and 61-70 age holders with share of 24.1% and 21.67% respectively. Very less numbers of respondents found in above 70 years (i.e., 1.67%). To measure the degree of variation, standard deviation have been employed, SD is 11.71%, which indicates that less various in the age of respondent among dalit families. Fig-4, represents the age of the respondent families.

Table-1: Age of the Respondent

Respondents	Total	Percentage
21-30	10	8.33
31-40	21	17.50
41-50	29	24.17
51-60	32	26.67
61-70	26	21.67
70 And Above	2	1.67
Sub Total	120	100.00
St. Devi	11.71	

Source: Field survey

Fig-4.1: Age of the Respondents



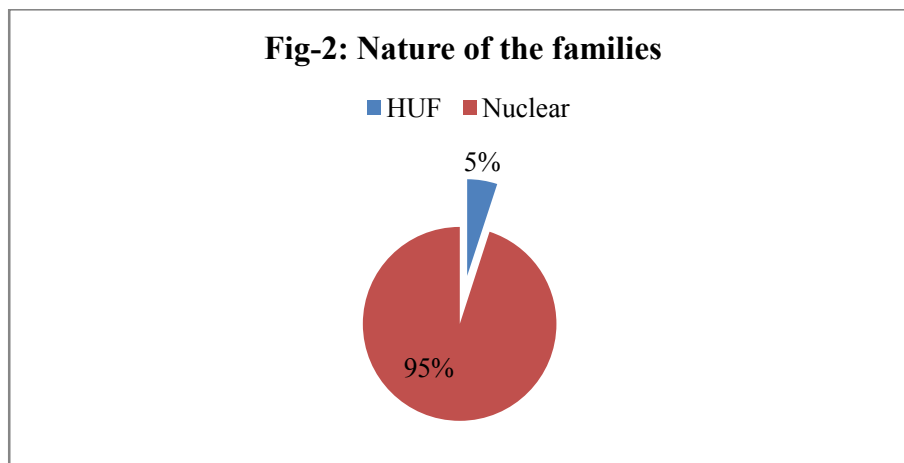
Nature of the family:

In India, types of families and their forms are based on various parameters. Families can be classified on the basis of marriage, the nature of residence, ancestry or descent family, size or structure, the nature of relationship etc., in the present study the researcher has been classified the families of dalit on the basis of size or structure, of which families are classified into Hindu Undivided Families (HUF) and Nuclear Families, this classification is more relevant indicator of economic conditions, the same is presented in table -2, it is observed in the study that, 95 percent of the respondents' families are nuclear families and only 5 percent of the families are Hindu Undivided families. The calculated SD is 76.37 percents, therefore, it can be concluded that, there is a high degree of variation between the nature of the families, which also directly play a vital role on economic conditions among dalit families.

Table-2: Nature of the family

Nature	F	Percentage
HUF	6	5
Nuclear	114	95
Sub Total	120	100
St. Dev	76.37	

Source: Field Survey

**Size of the family member:**

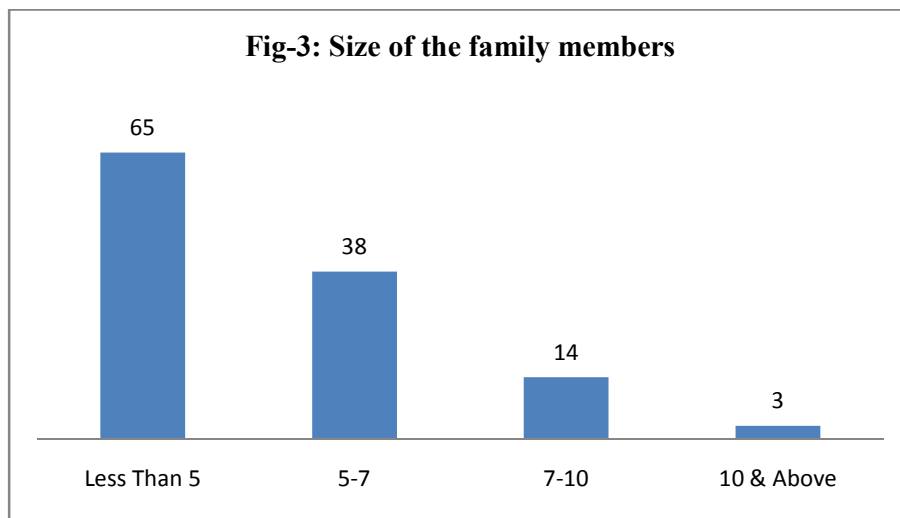
Family income is in many respects a better measure of economic competence than individual income. In our economy, considerable proportions of women and minor children are compelled to work in order to supplement the inadequate wages of low wage family head and these cases, economic calculations are probably more influenced by combined income of the family members than they are by the earnings of head of the family. In this context, family size is directly influenced the economic conditions of families. From the table -3, it is observed that, 54.17% of the families consists less than

5 members in the family and 31.67% of the respondent dalit families have 5-7 people in their family and only 2.5% of families have more than 10 members in the families. From this analysis, it is clear that, most of the respondent families are belonging to nuclear family.

Table-3: Size of the family members

Particular	f	Percentage
Less Than 5	65	54.17
5-7	38	31.67
7-10	14	11.67
10 & Above	3	2.50
Sub Total	120	100
St. Dev	27.53	

Source: Field Survey



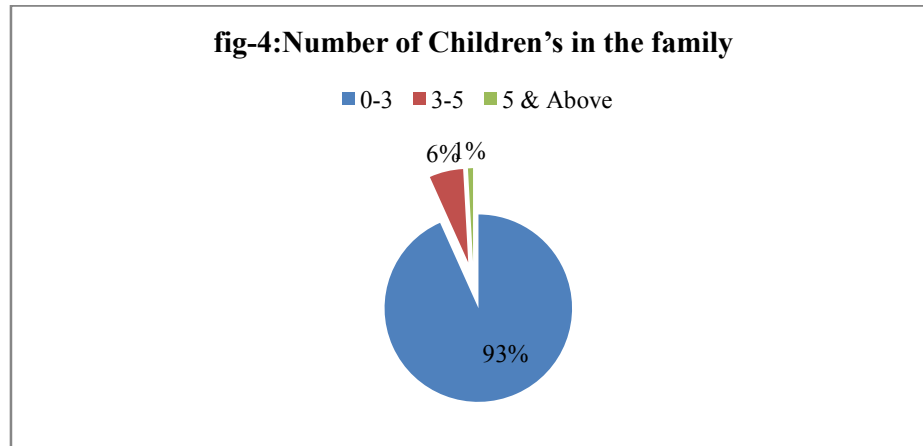
Number of children's in the family:

Children's and family income are directly correlated, because children's are very unevenly distributed among the families, their opportunities for developments are unequal. According to Thomas J Woofter "on a comparable unit basis, income of families without children's averages more than the twice that of families with three or more children's". in this context, there is a high degree of positive association between children's and families. in the present study size of the children's are classified into three categories, viz., less than 3, 3-5 and 5 and above. It can be seen from the table-4 is that, 93.33% of families have less than 3 children's, 5.33% of respondent dalit families have 3-5 children's and only one family has more 5 children's. from this it can be concluded that, majority of the respondent families are nuclear families.

Table-4: Number of Children's in the family

Particulars	f	Percentage
0-3	112	93.33
3-5	7	5.83
5 & Above	1	0.83
Sub Total	120	100
St. Dev	62.43	

Source: primary data

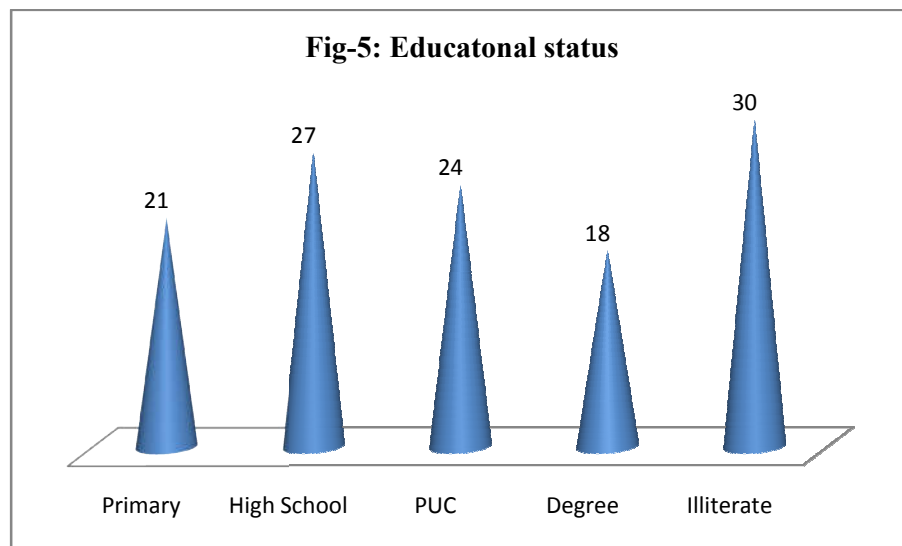
**Educational Status of the respondent:**

Education is powerful driver of development and one of the strongest instruments for reducing the poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace, economic condition and stability. In the study educational status of the respondents have been classified into five categories, which are presented in table-5, it is observed in the study that, 25% of the respondent of dalit families are illiterate and 17.5% of the are studies only primary education and 22.5% of the respondents below high school, 20% are studied PUC and 15% of the respondent have Degree. It is clear in the study that, majority of the dalit still has low education.

Table-5: Educational Status of the respondents

Particulars	f	percentage
Primary	21	17.5
High School	27	22.5
PUC	24	20
Degree	18	15
Illiterate	30	25
Sub Total	120	100
St. dev	4.74341649	

Source: Field Survey



Part-B: Analysis of Current Economic Condition Among Dalit Families

In this section the researcher studied various economic indicators of dalit families like, type of house in which dalit living, energy type which using for cook, source of water using by dalit, common facilities of households, transportation, common facilities, communication facility, number of members working, work status, various assets, incomes, expenditures of the families.

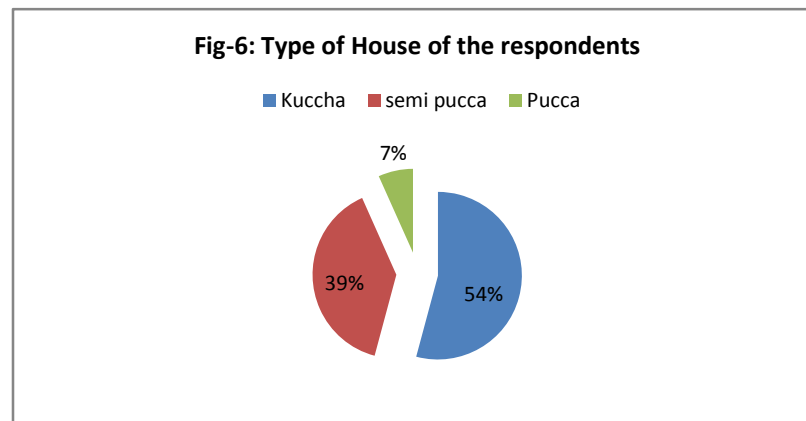
House:

House is one of the important necessity for human life and it also major indicators of the economic conditions of the families. There are many types of houses, where we live in. as far as economic conditions are considered houses are classified into three categories, viz., Kuccha house, Semi-pucca, and Pucca house. It can be observed from the table 6 that, out of 120 respondent families, 54.17% of the families have kuccha house, 31.17% of the families living semi pucca house, and only 6.67% of the families living in pucca house. It is found in the study is that, 94% of dalit respondent families do not have pucca house for their living. To know the variation among type houses living dalit families χ^2 test have been employed. The calculated χ^2 value is greater than the critical value at 5% level of significance (χ^2 , 54.95 > 5.991). Hence it can be concluded that, there is significant variation between types of house among dalit families.

Table-6: Type of House of the respondents

Type of House	f	Percentage
Kuccha	65	54.17
semi pucca	47	39.17
Pucca	8	6.67
Total	120	100
χ^2		54.95
df		2.00
Sig. ($\alpha=0.05$)		5.991

Source: Field Survey



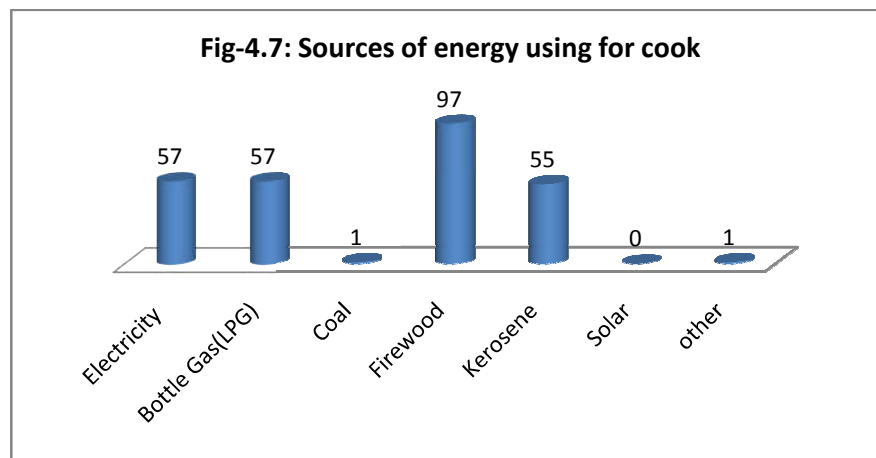
Type of Energy using among dalit

Energy is main requirement for preparation of food; people have been using different types of energy like, Electricity, LPG, Coal, Firewood, and Kerosene, Solar etc. Table-7, shows that, 80.83% of dalit families still using Kerosene for cooking, 45.50% of the families are using electricity and bottle gas (LPG), none of the families are found in using solar. This result also supported from χ^2 test, the calculated χ^2 is less than the critical value at 5% level of significance ($0.985 > 11.07$). hence it can be said that, there is no significant difference in the energy sources using among dalit families for cooking.

Table-7: Type of Energy using among dalit

Energy type	f	percentage
Electricity	57	47.50
Bottle Gas(LPG)	57	47.50
Coal	1	0.83
Firewood	97	80.83
Kerosene	55	45.83
Solar	0	0.00
Other	1	0.83
Total	268	***
χ^2	0.985	
df	6	
Sig. ($\alpha=0.05$)	11.07	

Source: Field Survey



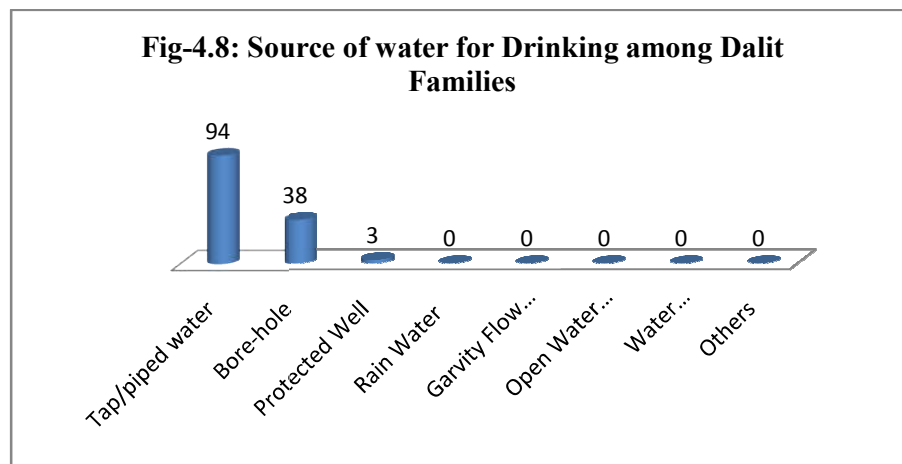
Source of water:

Water is one of the most important substances on earth. All plants and animals must have water to survive. If there was no water, there would no life on earth. People are using different source of water of their day to day consumption like, piped water, borehole, protected well, rain water, gravity flow scheme, open water source, water truck etc. the same sources have been taken in the study, which are also presented in table .8, 78.33% of dalit families are using piped water and 31.67% of families are using borehole and only 2.5% of the families are found in protected well. Further to find out the variation among different sources of water, χ^2 test has been employed, here χ^2 4.06 > 14.06 at 5% level of significance. Hence there is no significant difference in different sources of water using among dalit families.

Table-8: Source of water for Drinking among Dalit Families

Type	f	Percentage
Tap/piped water	94	78.33
Bore-hole	38	31.67
Protected Well	3	2.50
Rain Water	0	0.00
Garvity Flow Scheme	0	0.00
Open Water Source	0	0.00
Water Truck/Vendor	0	0.00
Others	0	0.00
Total	135	
χ^2		4.068
Df		7
Sig ($\alpha=0.05$)		14.06

Source: Field Survey



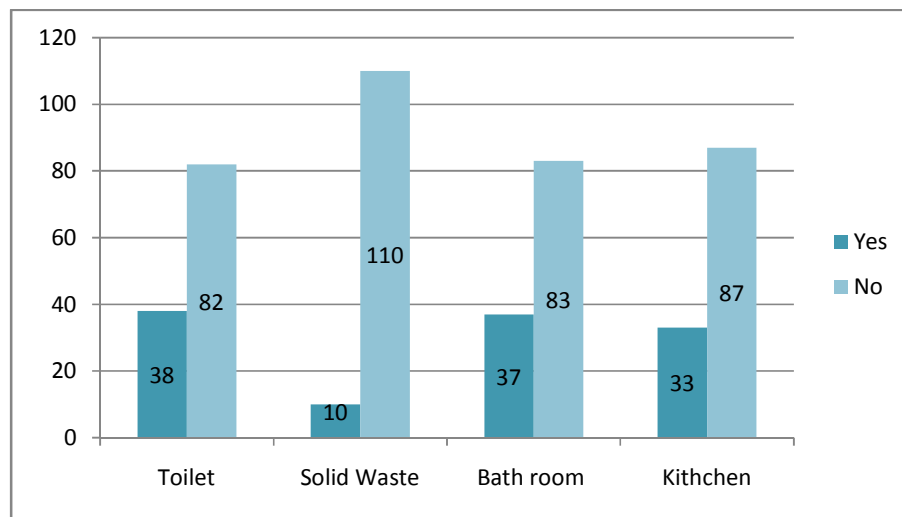
Common facilities among dalit families:

Some of the facilities like, toilet facilities, solid waste, bath room facility, Kitchen etc, are very much required for every household. It can be seen from the table 9 is that, out 120 respondent dalit families, only 31.67% of the have toilet facility at their home, remaining 69.33% of the families do not have toilet facilities, 91.67% of the families do not have solid waste facilities, 69.33% of the respondents do not have bathroom, 72.5% of the families do not have kitchen in their home. An average 70% of the respondent dalit families do not have minimum basic facilities at their home. This result also supported from chi-square test, the calculated χ^2 value is greater than the critical value (23.418 > 14.06). Therefore, there is significant difference in the common facilities among dalit families.

Table-9: Common facilities among dalit families

Facility	Yes	No	Total
Toilet	38 (31.67)	82(69.33)	120
Solid Waste	10 (8.33)	110(91.67)	120
Bath room	37(30.83)	83(69.33)	120
Kithchen	33 (27.50)	87(72.5)	120
Total	118	362	480
χ^2			23.418
df			7
Sig ($\alpha=0.05$)			14.06

Source: Field Survey



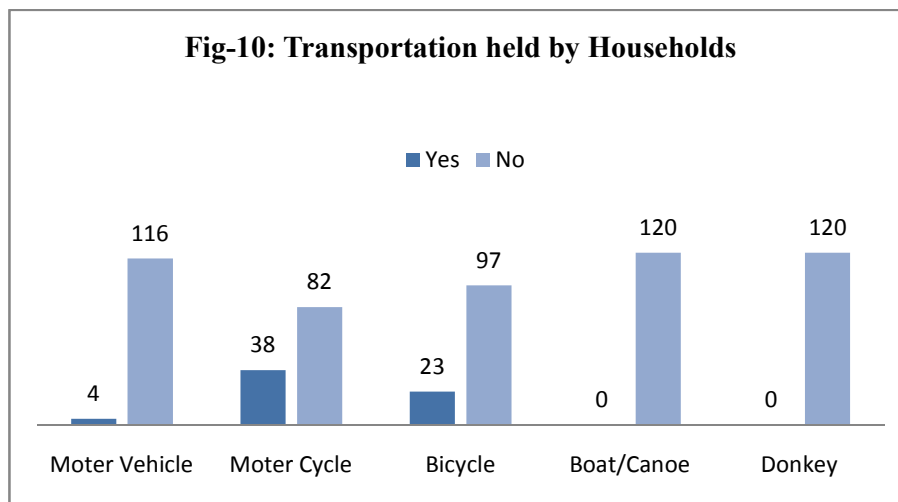
Transportation held by Households

Nowadays, transportation facilities are very much required for every families and it also indicators of economic condition of the families. The families may have motor vehicle, motor cycle, Bicycle, Boat or Donkey according to their requirement. From the table-4.10, it can be seen that, 96.67% respondent dalit families do not have moter vehicle. And 68.33% of the dalit families do not have motor cycle and majority of the families (i.e., 80.83%) do not have Bicycle. The calculated χ^2 value is greater than the critical value at 5% level of significance ($98.69 > 9.488$). hence it can be concluded that, there is a significance difference between transport facilities among dalit fmilies.

Table-10: Type of Transportation held by Households

Type	Yes	No	Total
Moter Vehicle	4 (3.33)	116(96.67)	120
Moter Cycle	38(31.67)	82(68.33)	120
Bicycle	23(19.17)	97(80.83)	120
Boat/Canoe	0 (0)	120 (100)	120
Donkey	0(0)	120(100)	120
Total	65	535	600
χ^2			98.69
Df			4
<i>Sig($\alpha=0.05$)</i>			9.488

Source: Field survey



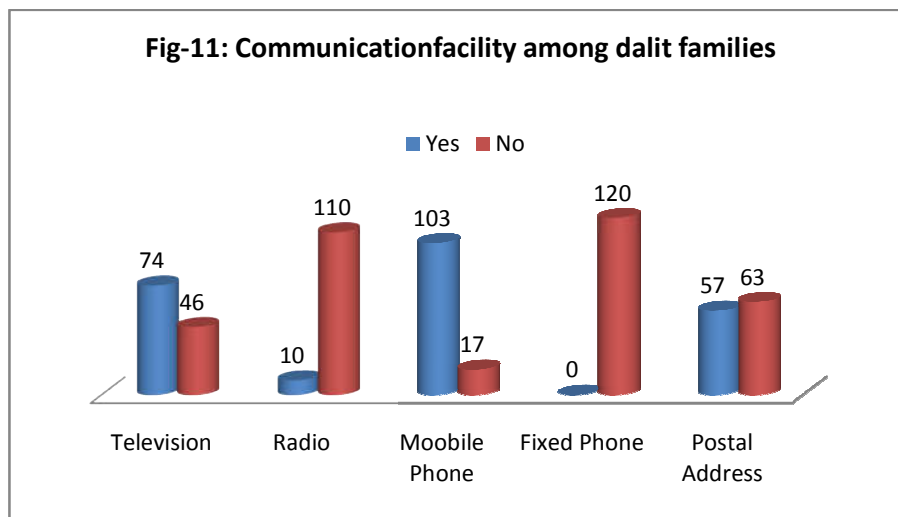
Communication facility:

Communication facility plays an importance role for integrated economic development. It plays a major role in the economic uplift of country as it promotes internal and external trade, economic use of natural resources, mobility of skilled labour etc. for families also communication tools are very important indicator of economic conditions. There are various types of communication tools like, Television, Radio, Mobile phone, Fixed phone, postal address etc. which are presented table 11. it is found in the study that, 61.37% of the families have television facilities and 85.83% of the respondent families have mobile phone, and 47.5% of the families have postal address also. This result also supported from χ^2 test. The calculated χ^2 value is greater than critical value at 5% level of significance ($259.95 > 9.488$). therefore it can be concluded that, there is a significant difference between communication facilities among dalit families.

Table-11: Communication facility among dalit families

Type	Yes	No	Total
Television	74 (61.37)	46 (39.67)	120
Radio	10 (8.33)	110 (91.67)	120
Moobile Phone	103 (85.83)	17(14.17)	120
Fixed Phone	0 (0)	120 (100)	120
Postal Address	57 (47.5)	63 (52.5)	120
Total	244	356	600
χ^2	259.95		
Df	4		
Sig($\alpha=0.05$)	9.488		

Source: Field Survey



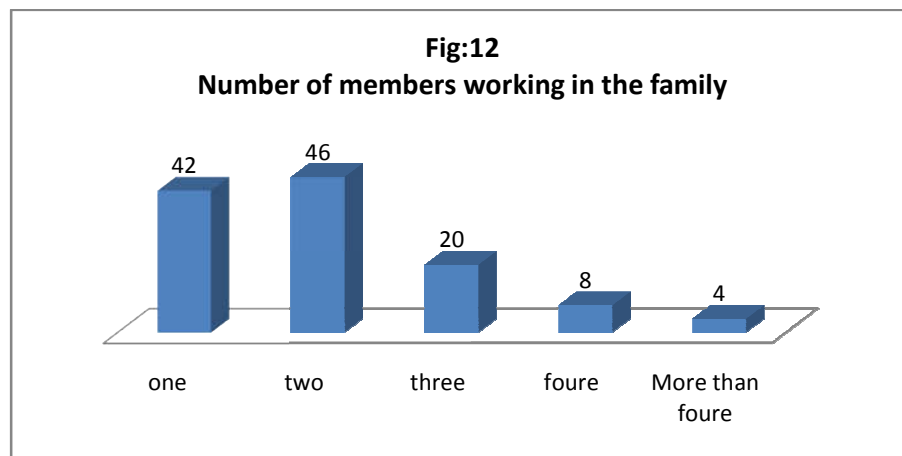
Number of members working in the family:

Family is a social force that has influence on the development of human behavior and personality. It is interdependent; the economic conditions of the every family depend upon number of members in the family and number of members working in the family. Table-12 given the result of number of the members is working in respondent dalit families. it is observed in the study that, in 35% of the respondent family only one person is working and in 38.33% of families two persons are working, three persons are working in 16.67% of respondent families, four members are working in 6.67% of the families and only in 3.33% of the families have more than four members working. Average 73% of the families consists two working people. This result directly effect on the families, which is also supported from χ^2 test, the calculated χ^2 value is greater than the critical value ($78 > 9.488$) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, it can be said that, there is a significant difference in number of persons working among dalit families.

Table-12: Number of members working in the family

Size	f	Percentage
one	42	35.00
two	46	38.33
three	20	16.67
four	8	6.67
More than four	4	3.33
Total	120	100.00
χ^2	78	
Df	4	
Sig($\alpha=0.05$)	9.488	

Source: Filed Survey



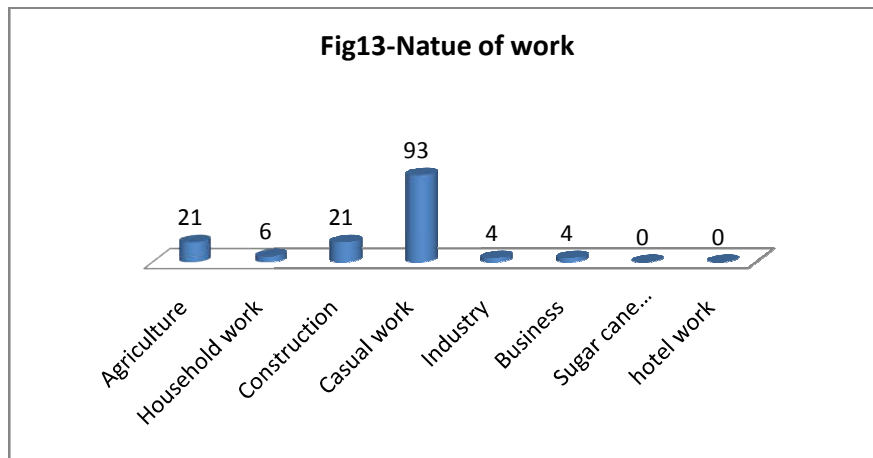
Work status of family member:

The most distressing aspects of the plight of dalit has been the stigma of untouchability, which they have carried for centuries. It may be mentioned that the dalit have been identified on the basis of their extreme educational and economic backwardness resulting out of the traditional practice of untouchability. As it well known a large number communities of the dalits have been traditionally associated with some or the other profession. However their occupations gave them major returns for the jobs they performed. Their service for the society though absolutely essential, were considered menial, unclean and required hard labor but brought abysmally low return. Dalits have followed a wide range traditional occupation. Prominent among the traditional occupations are skin and hide work, carrying carcasses, scavenging, drum beating, playing music and singing, casual work (unskilled work). It can be found in the present is that (see table 4.13) is that, out of 120 respondent dalit families, 77.5% of family members are depending upon casual work, 17.5% doing construction work, 17.5% are doing Agriculture and very less percentage of families doing business and industries. This result indicates that the most of the dalits are unskilled labour, this is on account of their educational backwardness. Further the calculated χ^2 value is less than the critical value ($6.072 > 14.06$) at 5% level significance. Hence it can be concluded that, there is no significant improvement in the work status of dalits.

Table-13: Work Status of family members

Nature of work	f	Percentage
Agriculture	21	17.50
Household work	6	5.00
Construction	21	17.50
Casual work	93	77.50
Industry	4	3.33
Business	4	3.33
Sugar cane cutter	0	0.00
hotel work	0	0.00
Total	149	***
χ^2		6.072
Df		7
Sig($\alpha=0.05$)		14.06

Source; Field Survey



CONCLUSION

Dalits are entitled to constitutional safeguards, reservation benefits and welfare benefits and welfare opportunities. They are also fully entitled to certain rights and privileges, which were denied to them in the past on the ground of the caste system and practice of untouchability. Both central and state governments, through social welfare departments, formulated various programmes and schemes for the upliftment of schedule castes and schedule tribes especially for their integrated development since 1956. In order encourage the members of the dalits and to develop them economically, governments have been launched the various programmes such as, Housing schemes, training programmes, self employment schemes, land acquisition schemes, financial assistance schemes etc. But some of the studies like Aneka lal barman, Shobods Varmal, Kumar, Victor's D'souza, have been reveals that, the economic conditions of the dalits is low. In the present study, it is observed that, majority of the dalits families still living in Kuccha House, Firewood is the main source for cooking, No toilet facilities, No transport facilities, low number of members are working, maximum dalits people still depending on

casual work, landlessness, no financial from banking systems, wage payment is main source of earnings among dalits. Therefore, it could be said that, majority of the dalits have low economic conditions.

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