

## **A Survey of Economic and Educational Inequalities of Socially Deprived People of Meerut District**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

"Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains. One man thinks himself the master of others, but remains more of a slave than they are." Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in his dramatic opening lines to his immensely powerful treatise "The Social Contract," wrote that man was naturally good but becomes corrupted by the pernicious influence of human society and institutions. He preached that mankind improved by returning to nature and living a natural life at peace with his neighbors and himself.

Looking at the history of humankind we are baffled as to why human beings who crave for freedom and equality for themselves are unwilling to part with their brothers and sisters. It is appalling to see human beings oppressing other human beings and inflicting untold cruelties upon others because of perceived inequalities in the spheres of social life, wealth, colour of the skin, race, language, gender and many other factors.

We in India pride ourselves on being the largest democracy in the world. We celebrate our Independence Day and Republic Day with pomp and show, delighting in our hard won freedom. However, the struggle for true freedom and liberty to all the citizens of our great nation is still a long way off. The evils of untouchability and caste system are still eating into the moral fabric of our country like worms and defacing the identity of our nation. This has been happening in spite of the fact that Indian Constitution has granted seven Fundamental rights for all its citizens. They include Right to Equality, Freedom, Life, Constitutional Remedies, Freedom of Religion, Right against Exploitation and Cultural and Educational Rights. Article 17 of our Constitutions abolishes untouchability; its practice in any form is made punishable under the law. This law may perhaps be the one that has done the most for providing equality and dignity for all, especially as a charter of deliverance to one-sixth of the Indian population from perpetual subjugation and despair, from perpetual humiliation and disgrace.

### **Educational Inequality**

Educational inequality means the difference of educational quality of members in a society according to their living standards. Education is equally meant for every citizen of the society. It has been rightly observed that educational system is the brain of any society. The aim of education at any given time is to bring progressive changes in the society which means to create awareness and to develop skills according to the potentiality of the individuals and requirements of the society. A country's real value is found not just in its economic stability, but in its precious human wealth. If this human capacity remains inaccessible to every kind of education, the vision of complete freedom and holistic development of its citizen will remain just a dream.

The progress of any community or Nation depends on the quality of its human resources. The human resources internally depend on the nature of education imparted and extent of its participation in it. Further it is proved that

education is a pre-requisite for all-round development of an individual and the nation as a whole. It was therefore quite appropriate that our constitutional framers have incorporated specific article to ensure that the state should take active participation in promotion of education among the most back wards viz.; the scheduled castes and tribes.

### **Economic Inequality**

Economic inequality in a society means wealth distributed unequally, i.e. wealth is accumulated in certain pockets and it is not available for every citizen of the society. Economic inequality is very much prevalent and is divided into three major categories like rich, poor and middle class in every Indian society. India being the largest democracy in the world has been facing various problems in the realm of economy all through after her independence. These economic situations and its variants should be studied and addressed with a meticulous mind for the eradication of the economic imbalance of the society.

The scenario of economic inequality of Meerut is also in tune with the main stream economy of the nation. Since the economic growth of the city is unequal, the holistic growth of its citizen is affected. The main reasons for these economic inequalities are unemployment, unjust payment, alcoholism, gambling, corruption, religious and social taboos, illiteracy, and diseases. Due to the above reason, this wealth disparity is so severe and acute that it affects the ordinary people and pushes them to the lower strata of the society where they live below the poverty line and struggle throughout their life to make both ends meet. The unwise expenditure of the rich, which does not maintain a balanced scale of living, is also a reason for the economic imbalance in the society that affects the dreams, ambitions and aspirations of the poor people to catch up with the rich. As a result, people in the lower strata of the society try out measures to make quick money and to improve their status even by sacrificing their education, parental care, morality and self-esteem. Such unwise measures push them to remain in the extreme lower level of the society.

### **Socially Deprived People**

Socially deprived people are those of low caste, economically weak, educationally weak and still considered untouchables in the society. When some castes are considered high and given a high value and respect by others the other group is just opposite to it and they are economically also very weak. Most of the people in this group are forced to live below the poverty line. In social stratification people who are poor and below poverty line are considered socially deprived. These people are normally looked down by the high class or the educated class in the society.

A socially deprived person is deprived of all the social advantages which are mostly enjoyed by a high caste person. Mostly everyone keeps a distance from these people. Many a times a low caste man is insulted or thrashed for a silly thing in a society. They become a prey to all kinds of social evils. Sometimes a low caste man is considered as the lowest or labeled as the lowest and even deprived of proper education. The number of socially weak people is increasing day by day.

### First Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference in the educational inequalities of socially weak people of Meerut.

S.No.		N	Mean	SD	t		
1	Educational Inequalities of socially weak people of Meerut.(OBC)	55	5.75	7.05	0.60	0-05	0-01
2	Educational Inequalities of Economically Weak and Deprived people of Meerut.(SC)	60	5.02	5.75		1.98	2.63

According to the interpretation we find the 't' value of socially weak people are 0.60. According to the significant value we find the value on level 0.05 is 1.98 and 0.01 is 2.63. Therefore the value of this table is low and the null hypothesis is rejected.

### Second Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference in the educational inequalities of economically deprived and weak people of Meerut.

S.N		N	Mean	SD	t		
1	Educational Inequalities of Economically weak and Deprived people of Meerut.(OBC)	55	5.52	11.57	0.126	0-05	0-01
2	Educational Inequalities of Economically Weak and Deprived people of Meerut.(SC)	60	5.75	7.08		1.98	2.63

According to the interpretation we find the 't' value of educational inequalities of socially weak and deprived are 0.126. According to the significant value on level 0.05 is 1.98 and 0.01 is 2.63. Therefore the value of this table is low and the null hypothesis is rejected.

### CONCLUSION

Our Constitution has promised equality for all before law. However, it is still a far dream as we see inequalities of various types plaguing our great nation and pulling it down in its journey to progress and universal brotherhood. The legislations enacted from time to time have helped to a great extent in creating a more egalitarian India. But this work of nation building is never complete. The existence of blatant inequalities in the economic, educational and social spheres of our own city Meerut is a proof of this. Hence we try to look at this

situation especially in some of the slums in Meerut, which will give us an insight into the causes of these inequalities and the extent of deprivation that the If education is equally given to all the people and jobs are distributed according to the eligibility of each individual, a lot of joblessness and economic crisis can be overcome. If wealth is distributed equally, corruption can be reduced in many ways. Since education is the birth right of each individual it should be equally distributes. Education is the key factor that can bring about all-round development of a human being. Meerut has got number of educational institutions but still a large group of people remain illiterate and unemployed – they feel deprived socially and educationally. There is a lack of suitable curriculum meant for the weak and deprived people which could mould their life-style and help them achieve a better life.

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