

# Millennium Development Goals and Dalits

## A S T A T U S R E P O R T

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**National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR)**

M-3/22, Model Town-III, Delhi 110009 INDIA Telephone: +91-11-32903429 Facsimile: +91-11-27442744

Email: [nacdor@gmail.com](mailto:nacdor@gmail.com) Website: [www.nacdor.org](http://www.nacdor.org)

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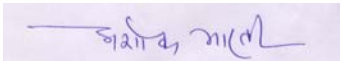
## FOREWORD

Setting targets for global achievement is not new. In early sixties, governments under the leadership of the United Nations agreed to attempt to achieve annual average economic growth rate of 5%. Since then it has become common for the nations under the United Nations to agree on common goals globally and put concerted efforts to achieve the same. In this light, after five years of adopting Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, it is timely to ask if these have a meaning for the Dalits and Adivasis. Will they be able to benefit from these commitments? In a society which continue to defy all efforts of providing equitable space to Dalits and Adivasis, will these very basic goals and targets would also meet the same fate or Dalits and Adivasis will take up this challenge and defeat the conservative forces opposed to their empowerment.

India faces a difficult challenge in respecting its commitment to the world. There is no doubt that attempts are being made to focus on the issues of Dalits and Adivasis. Central government and State governments have made specific programmes for dalits and adivasi groups and also some provisions in the budgetary allocations. But it is yet to be seen how adequate these allocations or supports are. The Government of India report on Millennium Development Goals does mention here and there about the Dalits and Adivasis, but hardly addresses the need of dovetailing the developmental programme to achieve these goals. Though India Country Report on MDGs says that India is currently 'on track' in terms of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger with sustainable access to safe drinking water in the country and basic sanitation in urban areas, but it is also important that whether Government this is also true for Dalits and Adivasis. Government has claimed that it is moving in the direction of achieving all the goals much earlier than 2015, but it is no more a secret that Government of India has already failed in keeping its promises made under the National Development Goals (NDGs). Therefore, it is important that government spell out its policy, programme, and implementation strategy to achieve the MDGs and NDGs, particularly in respect of Dalits, Adivasis, Minorities and other marginalised before it gets too late to respond.

In this report National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR), as the 'Dalit Voice' of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan has tried to capture the realities of Dalits in the light of Millennium Development Goals and National Development Goals. We find lots of gap requiring interventions from the government and non-governmental organisations. As commitments have been made globally, it is also imperative that global efforts are mobilised to see how best MDGs could be achieved in respect of Dalits and Adivasis. Naturally, we seek help, support and solidarity to find just space for the Dalits to achieve MDGs in this millennium.

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**Ashok Bharti**  
**National Coordinator**  
**National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR)**

# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals were adopted five years ago by all the world's Governments as a blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century.

– Kofi Annan

In order to address the issues of poverty, hunger and development, 189 countries under the aegis of United Nations adopted and endorsed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through Millennium Declaration in September 2000. Through these Millennium Development Goals, the international community set forth a powerful agenda for a global partnership for a better world by the year 2015.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), representing global partnership, grew from the commitments and targets established at several world summits held in the 1990s. As a response to the world's development challenges and call of the civil society movements, the MDGs aim at halving poverty, providing universal education, reducing maternal and child mortality, overcoming gender inequalities, and combating AIDS and other diseases.

Set for achieving by the year 2015, the MDGs are an agreed set of goals, which could be realised if all actors work together towards fulfilling their commitments seriously. Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS<sup>1</sup>

There are eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), addressing to the world's main development challenges, need to be achieved by 2015. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration. This declaration was adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the **UN Millennium Summit** in September 2000, reaffirming their commitments to the right to development, peace, security and gender equality, to the eradication of many dimensions of poverty and to overall sustainable development. The 8 MDGs break down into **18 quantifiable targets** that are measured by **48 indicators**.

The Millennium Development Goals:

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<sup>1</sup> Source: United Nations Development Programme: website: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

- Synthesise, in a single package, many of the most important commitments made separately at the international conferences and summits of the 1990s;
- Recognise explicitly the interdependence between growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development;
- Acknowledge that development rests on the foundations of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights and peace and security;
- Are based on time-bound and measurable targets accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress; and
- Bring together, in the eighth Goal, the responsibilities of developing countries with those of developed countries, founded on a global partnership endorsed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002, and again at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2003.

## **GOALS, INDICATORS AND TARGETS**

### **GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

**Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day**

**Indicator 1:** Proportion of population below \$ 1 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day poverty head count ratio (percentage of population below the national poverty line)

**Indicator 2:** Poverty Gap Ratio

**Indicator 3:** Share of poorest Quintile in National Consumption

**Target 2: Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.**

**Indicator 4:** Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age.

**Indicator 5:** Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

#### ***Progress:***

*Global poverty rates are falling, led by Asia. But millions more people have sunk deep into poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, where the poor are getting poorer. Progress has been made against hunger, but slow growth of agricultural output and expanding populations have led to setbacks in some regions. Since 1990, millions more people are chronically hungry in sub-Saharan Africa and in Southern Asia, where half the children under age 5 are malnourished.*

### **GOAL 2: Achieve universal primary education**

**Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary school**

**Indicator 6:** Net enrolment ratio in primary education

**Indicator 7:** Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5.

**Indicator 8:** Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds.

### ***Progress***

*Five developing regions are approaching universal enrolment. But in sub-Saharan Africa, less than two thirds of children are enrolled in primary school. Other regions, including Southern Asia and Oceania, also have a long way to go. In these regions and elsewhere, increased enrolment must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that all children remain in school and receive a high-quality education.*

### **GOAL 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

**Target 4: Eliminate Gender disparity in Primary and secondary education, preferably by 2015, and in all levels of education no later than 2015**

**Indicator 9:** Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

**Indicator 10:** Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 year olds

**Indicator 11:** Share of women in wage employment in the non – agricultural sector

**Indicator 12:** Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.

### ***Progress***

*The gender gap is closing — albeit slowly — in primary school enrolment in the developing world. This is a first step towards easing long-standing inequalities between women and men. In almost all developing regions, women represent a smaller share of wage earners than men and are often relegated to insecure and poorly paid jobs. Though progress is being made, women still lack equal representation at the highest levels of government, holding only 16 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide.*

### **GOAL 4: Reduce child mortality**

**Target 5: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under –five mortality rate**

**Indicator 13:** Under five mortality rate

**Indicator 14:** Infant mortality rate

**Indicator 15:** Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles.

## ***Progress***

*Death rates in children under age 5 are dropping. But not fast enough. Eleven million children a year — 30,000 a day — die from preventable or treatable causes. Expanding existing programmes that promote simple and low-cost solutions could save most of these lives.*

## **GOAL 5: Improve maternal health**

**Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio**

**Indicator 16:** Maternal mortality ratio (MMR)

**Indicator 17:** Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

## ***Progress***

*More than half a million women die each year during pregnancy or childbirth. Twenty times that number suffer serious injury or disability. Some progress has been made in reducing maternal deaths in developing regions, but not in the countries where giving birth is most risky.*

## **GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

**Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV / AIDS**

**Indicator 18:** HIV Prevalence among Pregnant Women Aged 15 –24 Years

**Indicators 19:** Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate

**Indicator 19:** Condom use at last high – risk - sex

**Indicator 19:** Contraceptive Prevalence Rate

**Indicator 20:** Ratio of School Attendance of Orphans to School Attendance of non-orphan aged 10-14 years

**Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases**

**Indicator 21:** Prevalence and Death Rates associated with Malaria

**Indicator 22:** Proportion of population in Malaria-risk Areas using Effective Malaria Prevention and Treatment Measures

**Indicator 23:** Prevalence and Death Rates Associated with Tuberculosis

**Indicator 24:** Proportion of Tuberculosis Cases Detected and Cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)

### ***Progress***

*AIDS has become the leading cause of premature death in sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide. In the European countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and parts of Asia, HIV is spreading at an alarming rate. Though new drug treatments prolong life, there is no cure for AIDS, and prevention efforts must be intensified in every region of the world if the target is to be reached. Malaria and tuberculosis together kill nearly as many people each year as AIDS, and represent a severe drain on national economies. Ninety per cent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevention and treatment efforts are being scaled up. Tuberculosis is on the rise, partly as a result of HIV/AIDS, though a new international protocol to detect and treat the disease is showing promise.*

### **GOAL7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

**Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources**

**Indicator 25:** Proportion of Land Area Covered by Forest

**Indicator 26:** Ratio of Area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity to surface Area.

**Indicator 27:** Energy use (Kg oil equivalent) per \$ 1 GDP (PPP)

**Indicator 28:** Carbon Dioxide emissions per capita and Consumption of Ozone-depleting Chlorofluoro Carbons (CFCs) (ODP Tons)

**Indicator 29:** Proportion of Population Using Solid Fuels

**Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation**

**Indicator 30:** Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural

**Indicator 31:** Proportion of Population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural

**Target 11:** By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

**Indicator 32:** Proportion of Households with access to secure tenure

### ***Progress***

*Most countries have committed to the principles of sustainable development. But this has not resulted in sufficient*

*progress to reverse the loss of the world's environmental resources. Achieving the goal will require greater attention to the plight of the poor, whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources around them, and an unprecedented level of global cooperation. Action to prevent further deterioration of the ozone layer shows that progress is possible. Access to safe drinking water has increased, but half the developing world still lacks toilets or other forms of basic sanitation. Nearly 1 billion people live in urban slums because the growth of the urban population is outpacing improvements in housing and the availability of productive jobs.*

## **GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

**Target 12: Develop further an open, rule based, predictable, no-discriminatory trading and financial system**

**Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries Official development assistance (ODA)**

**Indicator 33:** Net Official development assistance, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD / DAC

**Indicator 34:** Proportion of total Bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD / DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

**Indicator 35:** Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD / DAC donors that is united

**Indicator 36:** ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national income

**Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing state**

**Indicator 37:** ODA received in Small Island developing states as a proportion of their gross national income

**Target 15: Deal Comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term Market Access**

**Indicator 38:** Proportion of total developed country imports ( by value and excluding arms) from developing countries arms ) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty

**Indicator 39:** Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textile and clothing from developing countries

**Indicator 40:** Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their

gross domestic product

**Indicator 41:** Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity and Debt sustainability

**Indicator 42:** Total numbers of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

**Indicator 43:** Debt relief committed under HIPC Initiative

**Indicator 44:** Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

**Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth**

**Indicator 45:** Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total.

**Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provides access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries**

**Indicator 46:** Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.

**Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.**

**Indicator 47:** Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 populations.

**Indicator 48:** Personal computers in use per 100 population / Internet users per 100 populations.

## **Progress**

*The United Nations Millennium Declaration represents a global social compact: developing countries will do more to ensure their own development, and developed countries will support them through aid, debt relief and better opportunities for trade. Progress in each of these areas has already begun to yield results. But developed countries have fallen short of targets they have set for themselves. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, increased aid and debt relief must be accompanied by further opening of trade, accelerated transfer of technology and improved employment opportunities for the growing ranks of young people in the developing world.*

*Note: Annexure I provides values of the MDG indicators for available periods.*

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND INDIA<sup>2</sup>

*“India is on track with regard to achievement of the MDGs, yet the challenges for human development remain formidable. ... There is a growing public consensus on the need for proactive measures to tackle the situation of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups...”* **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) - INDIA: COUNTRY REPORT-2005**

The Planning Commission of India, in its Tenth Five Year Plan document, has outlined India’s human development goals and targets for the next 10 years. These are related to and are more ambitious than the MDGs<sup>3</sup>. These targets were fixed by the erstwhile government in the centre. There is new government in the Centre now. This new government has resolved to work to fulfil its commitments mentioned in the commonly accepted National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). This National Common Minimum Programme offers breathing space for civil society movements to pursue people centred development ensuring livelihood and other developmental goals of the marginalized in the country.

### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: PROGRESS IN INDIA

The Millennium Declaration adopted by the Government of India in September 2000 reaffirmed its commitment to the right to development, peace, security and gender equality to the eradication of many dimensions of poverty and to overall sustainable development. The head of the country at the General Assembly of the United Nations pledged to adopt new measures and join efforts in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, hunger, lack of education, gender equality, infant and maternal mortality, disease and environmental degradation. The Tenth year plan (2002-2007) rightly took the note of the MDGs and included a number of targets to be achieved during the plan period. These targets generally aim higher accomplishment than those targeted in MDGs. Taking into account the latest data availability, India’s position, in brief, with reference to the various Goals is indicated below:

MDGs	Monitor-able targets for the tenth plan and beyond	Progress Towards achieving MDGs
<b>GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction of poverty Ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012</li> <li>2. Providing gainful and</li> </ol>	To achieve MDG1 India must reduce by 2015 the proportion of people below poverty line from nearly 37.5 percent in 1990 to about 18.75 percent. As on 1999 – 200, the poverty head count ratio is 26.1 percent with poverty gap ratio of 5.2

<sup>2</sup> See Details about India Progress Report in Annexure II

<sup>3</sup> Sources: UNDP, in its Country Programme Outline for India (2003-2007), makes the following statement

MDGs	Monitor-able targets for the tenth plan and beyond	Progress Towards achieving MDGs
	high quality employment at least to addition to the labour force over the tenth plan period	percent, share of poorest quintile in national consumption is 10.1 percent for rural sector and 7.9 percent for urban sector and the prevalence of under weight children of the order of 47 percent.
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All Children in school by 2003;</li> <li>2. All children to complete 5 years of schooling by 2007</li> </ol>	To achieve MDG 2, India must increase the primary school enrolment rate to 100 percent and wipe out the dropouts by 2015 against 41.96 percentage in 1991-1992 The drop out rate for primary education during 20002 – 03 is 34.89 percent. The gross enrolment ratio in the primary education has tended to remain near 100 percent for boys and recorded an increase of nearly 20 percentage points in the ten years period from 1992-93 to 2002-03 for girls (93 percent). The literacy rate (7 years and above) has also increased from 52.2 percent in 1991 to 64.84 percent in 2000 – 01.
<b>Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction in gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by at least 50 percentage by 2007</li> <li>2. Reduction in decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2 percent</li> <li>3. Increase in literacy rates to the level of 75 percent within the plan period</li> </ol>	To ensure gender parity in education levels under MDG 3, India will have to promote female participation at all levels to reach a female male proportion of equal level by 2015. The female male portion in respect of primary education was 71:1000 in 1990-91, which has increased to 78:100 in 200-01. During the same period, the proportion has increased from 49:100 to 63:100 in case of secondary education.
<b>Goal 4 Reduce child mortality</b>	Reduction of Infant mortality ratio to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012	MDG 4 indicate that under five mortality rate (U5MR) must be reduced from 125 deaths per thousand live births in 1988-92 to 41 in 2015. The value of U5Mr has decreased during the period 1982-2002 to 98 thousand live births. The infant mortality rate has also come down from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 60 per thousand in 2003 and the proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles has increased from 42.2 percent in 1992-93 to 59.0 percent in 1992-93 to

MDGs	Monitor-able targets for the tenth plan and beyond	Progress Towards achieving MDGs
		59.0 percent in 2002-03.
<b>Goal 5 Improve maternal health</b>	Reduction of maternal Mortality Ratio to 2 per 1000 live births by 2007 and 1 by 2012	To achieve MDG 5, India must reduce maternal mortality (MMR) from 437 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 109 by 2015. The value of MMR for 1998 is 407. The proportion of birth attended by skilled health personnel is continuously increasing (from 25.5 percent in 1992-93 to 39.8 percent in 2002-03), thereby reducing the chances of occurrence of maternal deaths.
<b>Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>		Though India has a low prevalence of HIV among pregnant women as compared to other developing countries, yet the prevalence rate has increased from 0.74 per thousand pregnant women in 2002 to 0.866 in 2003. This increasing trends needs to be reversed to achieve MDG 6. The prevalence and death rates associated with malaria are continuously coming down. The death rate associated with TB has come down from 56 deaths per 100,000 populations in 1990 to 33 per 100,000 populations in 2003. The proportion of TB patients successfully treated has also risen from 81% in 1996 to 86% in 2003.
<b>Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase in forest and tree cover to 25 percent by 2007 and 33 percent by 2012</li> <li>2. All Villages to have sustained access to potable drinking water within the plan period</li> <li>3. Cleaning of all major polluted rivers by 2007 and other notified stretches by 2012.</li> </ol>	For achieving MDG 7, There is an increasing trend of total land area covered under different forests (20.64% as per 2003 assessment) due to government's persistent efforts to preserve the natural resources. The reserved and protected forests together account for 19% of the total land area to maintain biological diversity. The energy use has declined consistently from about 36 kilogram oil equivalent in 1991-92 to about 33 kilogram oil equivalent in 2003-04 to produce GDP worth Rs. 1000. The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation is to be halved by 2015 and India is on track to achieve this target.
<b>Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for</b>		With regards to MDG 8, the overall tele-density has increased from 0.67 percent in 1991 to 10.87 percent in November 2005.

MDGs	Monitor-able targets for the tenth plan and beyond	Progress Towards achieving MDGs
development		Use of personal computers has also increased from 5.4 million PCs in 2001 to 14.5 million in 2005 and there are 5.6 million internet subscribers as on June 2005 (2.3 internet users and 0.5 internet subscribers per 100 population).

Above picture reveals, that there are improvements in the lives of people over the years. This has been possible due to the planned implementation of programmes, despite the enormous and complex problems and diversities.

Above mentioned all the monitor-able indicators and progress towards achieving MDGs in India paints a rosy picture as far as presented data is concerned. However, the ground realities are something different. Looking at dalits and adivasi groups, their situation has not really changed. Today's dalits and Adivasis are living in distressed conditions. As communities, Dalits and Adivasis are living in situations mired by unemployment, illiteracy, poor access to healthcare/other services and food insecurities. Though National Food for Work Programme and National Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 has been introduced in selected 150 and 200 districts respectively, but its implementation status is not very progressive.

The above is also true in for Millennium Development Goals. While the Indian government is claiming that things are on the track, but for Dalits and Adivasis, there is not much to cheer about.

*Saharia is a community, which comes under Schedule tribes in the state of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh but today they are not enjoying their rights and entitlements. In the case of Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh, Saharai Children are not getting scholarship entitlement since last two schooling sessions – July 2004 – June 2005 and July 2005 – June 2006. Nearly 7000 school going children at primary school level are not getting scholarship. As an example of a Dalit community, Saharai is not a case in isolation.*

In a state like Uttar Pradesh only 7.2 percent of the amount earmarked has been utilised under the National Food for Work programme. Even NREGA seems to be very progressive, but its accessibility to dalits and adivasi groups is still a distant dream. The commencement of the NREGA was without Action in UP. I.e. from 2 February 2006 – 31st March 2006, No work under NREGA has been implemented in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

## DALITS IN INDIA

The word *Dalit* has its origin in Pali, a pre-Sanskrit language and it means the deprived. This term is used as an act of confident assertion, rejecting nomenclature of *Harijan*, the 'children of God'. Dalit Panthers, a radical movement of Dalit youth in the seventies used this term for the first time for those who were Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, neo-Buddhist, the working-people, the land-less and poor peasants, women, and all those who are being exploited politically, socially,

economically, and in the name of religion.

The term Dalit does not refer to a caste. It symbolises unity of all those who suffered at the hands of iniquitous Brahmanism, which is the basis of Hindutva. It is a symbol of change and revolution. Dalits believe in humanism. They reject the existence of god, rebirth and soul, sacred books that teach discrimination, fate, and the concepts of hell and heaven, because all these made them slaves. However, the term is usually seen today in a much narrower context of referring only to Untouchables (socially excluded) and Adivasis (geographically excluded) communities of the past.

### **Dalits: Social and Economic Context**

In 2001, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constituted 24.4 percent of India's population (16.2% Scheduled Castes and 8.2% Scheduled Tribes). The population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (excluding the state of Jammu and Kashmir) as per the 2001 census was 166.67 million and 84.32 million respectively.

Dalits today not only constitute numerically an important section of the Indian society but also represent a community still struggling to break out of the centuries of mental bondage of the oppressive and hegemonic Brahmanical/Hindutva order and inhuman existence.

Social injustice, cultural and economic deprivation and exclusion of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes have a historical legacy. According to the Hindu Caste System only the Upper Castes had the right to the sacred thread ceremony, which ensured their right to study and gaining knowledge. They also had special privileges and powers in cultural, economic, political, legal and administrative fields, which were sanctified by the religious scriptures.

Right to education and gaining knowledge, right to vocation or choose employment and right to good habitations, which form three principles needs for Human Development, were officially denied to the Dalits and Adivasis. Stories of *Shambhuka Vadhb* (Killing of Shmbhuka) and chopping of thumb of Adivasi child Eklavya indicate this denial. This denial resulted in the lack of not only Human Development among the Dalits and Adivasis, but also prevented any significant technological changes in the means of production involving the labouring classes. It is not surprising therefore, that till the advent of the British period there was hardly any social and occupational mobility amongst the *Shudras*, the *ati-Shudras* and the Excluded.

The colonial rule brought about certain basic changes in the economic structure and sowed the seeds of capitalism. For the first time crime and punishment were de-linked with caste and social status. Legal ownership and tenancy backed up by courts operating on definition of legal private property was firmly established. This resulted in emergence of individuals in every caste (more in the upper caste) who could get education, a little bit of land and some access to new opportunities.

In other areas also, the law opened some possibilities for advancement and change to the lower castes, but it did not provide, any special leverage for the lowly, and hence tended to strengthen the then existing distribution of resources. Therefore, the elite and the middle class created by the colonial rulers were primarily drawn from among the upper castes.

Independent India inherited the same social, legal and administrative structure set up by the British with complete dominance of the higher castes in all spheres. The post-independence India has basically seen the consolidation and strengthening of the hold of the minuscule upper castes elite in the emerging new economic and social order.

*Despite the fact that “Untouchability” was abolished under India's constitution in 1950, the practice of “Untouchability”—the imposition of social disabilities on persons by reason of their birth in certain castes—remains very much a part of rural India. “Untouchables” may not cross the line dividing their part of the village from that occupied by higher castes. They may not use the same wells, visit the same temples, drink from the same cup in tea stalls, or lay claim to land that is legally theirs. Dalit children are frequently made to sit in the back of classrooms and communities as a whole are made to perform degrading rituals in the name of caste. Most Dalits continue to live in extreme poverty, without land or opportunities for better employment or education. With the exception of a minority who have benefited from India's policy of quotas in education and government jobs, Dalits are relegated to the most menial of tasks, as manual scavengers, removers of human waste and dead animals, leather workers, street sweepers, and cobblers. Dalit children make up the majority of those sold into bondage to pay off debts to upper-caste creditors. Dalit men, women, and children numbering in the tens of millions work as agricultural labourers for a few kilograms of rice or Rs. 15 to Rs. 35 (US\$0.38 to \$0.88) a day. Their upper-caste employers frequently use caste as a cover for exploitative economic arrangements: social sanction of their status as lesser beings allows their impoverishment to continue.*

### **Dalits: The Scheduled Castes**

According to the 2001 Census, the Scheduled Castes population in India (excluding the population of Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul Sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur) stands at 166,635,700 persons which constitute 16.2 per cent of the country's population. Of the total Scheduled Castes population, 79.8 per cent live in rural areas and 20.2 per cent live in urban areas. The sex ratio of 936 females per thousand males is slightly higher than national average of 933 sex ratios. The largest proportion of population of the Scheduled Castes to total population of the State is found in Punjab (28.9 per cent) followed by Himachal Pradesh (24.7 per cent) and West Bengal (23 per cent). In Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Pondicherry proportion of SCs population is exactly equal to the National average of 16.2 per cent. The smallest concentration of the Scheduled Castes population is in the North-eastern Adivasi States such as Mizoram (with negligible or only 272 persons) followed by Meghalaya (0.5 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (0.6 per cent). The highest percentage of Scheduled Castes population to the total SCs population of the country is reported in Uttar Pradesh (21.1 per cent) followed by West Bengal (11.1 per cent) and Bihar (7.8 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (7.4 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (7.1 per cent). In fact, more than 57 per cent of total SCs population inhabit in these five States.

At the district level, there are only 22 districts where the SC population is 30 per cent or more as per the 2001 Census. In majority of the districts (i.e., 273 districts) the concentration of SC population to the total population is between 10 to 20 per cent. In Nagaland, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, no Scheduled Caste is notified.

Table on the following page gives the proportion of Scheduled Castes population in India since 1961 Census.

### Trends in Proportion of Schedule Caste Population:

Census Year	Total population in million	SC population in million	Proportion of SC Population
1961	439.2	64.4	14.7
1971	547.9	80.0	14.6
1981	665.3	104.8	15.7
1991	838.6	138.2	16.5
2001	1028.6	166.6	16.2

### **Dalits : The Scheduled Tribes**

The total population of the Scheduled Tribes in India stands at 84,326,240 persons as per the 2001 Census. They constitute 8.2 per cent of the total population of the country, as may be seen from Map 2. Out of their total population in the country, 91.7 per cent were living in rural areas, whereas, only 8.3 per cent from urban areas. The sex ratio of Scheduled Tribes population was 978 females per thousand males. The sex ratio among Scheduled Tribes population is higher than that of the total population of the country as well as that of SCs. The proportion of the Scheduled Tribes to the total population of the States/Union territories is highest in Mizoram (94.5 %) and Lakshadweep (94.5 %) followed by Nagaland (89.1 %), Meghalaya (85.9 %). Within the major states Chhattisgarh (31.8%) has the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribes population followed by Jharkhand (26.3%) and Orissa (22.1%). These proportions are in the lowest in Uttar Pradesh (0.1 %), Bihar (0.9 %), Tamil Nadu (1.0 %) and Kerala (1.1%). Madhya Pradesh accounts for the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribes population to total STs population of the country (14.5 percent) followed by Maharashtra (10.2 per cent), Orissa (9.7 per cent), Gujarat (8.9 per cent), Rajasthan (8.4 per cent), Jharkhand (8.4 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (7.8 per cent). In fact, 68 per cent of the country's Scheduled Tribes population lives in these seven States.

### Trends in Proportion of Schedule Tribe Population:

Census Year	Total population in million	ST population in million	Proportion of ST Population
1961	439.2	30.1	6.9
1971	547.9	38.0	6.9
1981	665.3	51.6	7.8
1991	838.6	67.8	8.1
2001	1028.6	84.3	8.2

At the district level, there are 75 districts where ST population is 50 per cent or more as per the 2001 Census. These are given in Annexure 1.2. Districts having ST population between 30% and 50% is shown at Annexure 1.3. In majority of the districts (i.e., 403 districts), the concentration of STs Population to its total population is less than 20 percent.

In a little over half of the total number of 543 districts, STs accounted for less than 5% of the total population. On the other hand, in 75 districts the share of STs to total population was 50% or higher. In Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry, no Scheduled Tribe is notified.

## DALITS, ADIVASIS AND MDGs: THE LOST MEASUREMENT

*They are the last rung in the production ladder and, as it happens, it is the last man in any productive process who invariably adds maximum value of the final product that is forgotten. They constitute in the main, the bed-rock on which our society and economy rest. Rarely has any section of a nation contributed so much for so long, in return for so little. Indian Society owes the Scheduled Castes a heavy moral and material debt, yet to be discharged.*

– REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

As the first decade of the 21st Century unfolds, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Millennium Campaign around these Goals is gaining the centre stage in the development debate of United Nations, Governments and international development agencies. The formulation of the MDGs has been contested. These goals have been the subject of a serious debate, relating to the very relevance and significance of the MDGs. On the positive side, the MDGs have been portrayed as ‘a development manifesto for ordinary citizens around the world: time-bound, measurable, pocketbook issues that they can easily understand – and more importantly, with adequate data, the Goals seek to hold their governments and the international community accountable for their achievement’. On the other hand, the MDGs have invited quite a few critical comments in the recent year. The MDGs have been criticised for sidelining the critical and important issues of human rights and for ignoring inequitous international economic structure, which is antagonistic to the achievement of the MDGs themselves.

A pragmatic approach to the MDGs, based on a critical assessment of the issues involved, demands situating the emergence of MDGs as the culmination of a historical process, caught between two streams within the United Nations system – two streams, simultaneous but mutually contradictory. The first process centres on the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Centring on the various Human Rights Conventions and based on the series of Global summits over the 1990’s, this approach put forth a strong human right-focused perspective on Social development. The other stream lies in the sphere of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. The policies and economic strategies promoted by the World Bank, IMF and WTO today often contradict important UN Conventions on development and human rights, and undermine the UN’s commitment to the MDGs.

### **MDGs: the grass root realities of Dalits**

The 2003 Human Development Report of UNDP provides a sort of a semi-mid-term review of the progress of the implementation of MDGs by various countries. The major point that emerges from the review is the fact that even in successful cases of MDGs implementation; certain groups have been excluded or left behind. “In Brazil, China, India and Mexico overall progress has been excellent. But some areas and groups are not benefiting enough, while wealthy segments of the population continue to surge ahead...”

## Dalit and Food Security

Although famine has been overcome, millions of Indians still suffer from chronic undernourishment and severe micronutrient malnutrition, especially women, children and people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Neither starvation deaths have been fully eradicated, nor discrimination against women and lower castes, corruption, impunity and a wide range of violations including forced labour, debt bondage and forced displacement (destroying people's access to productive resources) remain serious obstacles to the realization of the right to food. In the current transition to a more liberalized, market-oriented economy, the poorest are disproportionately bearing the costs, with undernourishment rising as public spending on rural development and social programmes is being cut back. With falling agricultural wages, increasing landlessness and rising food prices, food insecurity is growing particularly in rural areas. Recent economic growth is generating employment mostly in high-tech sectors that will not be able to absorb the loss of livelihoods from the agriculture on which two thirds of Indians still depend. Public expenditure must therefore be directed towards smallholder agriculture to improve household food security, while also improving and maintaining effective safety net programmes, including the PDS, to prevent a further regression in the realization of the right to food during the economic transition.

Scheduled castes and tribes suffer most from hunger and malnutrition, making up 25 per cent of the rural population but 42 per cent of the poor.<sup>17</sup> As a result of discrimination, many low-caste Dalits are expected to work as agricultural labourers without being paid, many held in debt bondage by their higher-caste employers. Although debt bondage is illegal, NGOs estimate that there are between 20 to 60 million bonded labourers in India, 85 per cent of them belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.<sup>18</sup> Widespread discrimination prevents Dalits from owning land, as they are seen as the "worker class", and even if they receive land (as a result of redistribution and agrarian reform programmes in some states), such land is frequently taken by force by higher-caste people in the area. Lower castes are also often restricted from using village wells, as observed by the Special Rapporteur in Shivpuri District. Tribal peoples, particularly those living in forest and hill areas, are extremely marginalized, many having lost access to traditional forest livelihoods and food resources through the creation of Forest Reserves, and many remain without food ration cards or access to government services. Tribal peoples also suffer disproportionately from displacement because of development projects such as dams, power plants, coal mines and mineral industries.<sup>19</sup> There are no official statistics on the number of people displaced, but NGOs and academics estimate that dam projects alone have displaced up to 33 million people who have lost their lands and livelihoods.<sup>20</sup> Around 40-50 per cent of the displaced are tribal people even though they make up only 8 per cent of the population, reflecting the serious discrimination against tribal peoples.

Source: The Right to Food Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, Addendum, MISSION TO INDIA \*\*\*, (20 August-2 September 2005)

The groups, so excluded or left behind, have been identified as women, ethnic and racial minorities and rural inhabitants. This includes Dalits and Adivasi in India. They are also termed as special social groups. It is indeed revealing, though not surprising, that the whole debate on MDGs in India, till now, has continued as though in a virtual casteless discrimination-free society framework. Though it

## **Dalit and Education**

Dalit children, being disproportionately poor, most heavily suffer the ills of an inequitable and ineffective education system in India. The Indian constitution pledges to provide free and compulsory education for all children up to age fourteen. However, in 1993 only 16.2% of primary school age Dalit children were enrolled in school as compared to 83.8% of primary aged children from non-scheduled castes.<sup>29</sup> According to the India Education Report, school attendance in rural areas in 1993-94 was 64.3% for Dalit boys and 46.2% for Dalit girls, compared to 74.9% among boys and 61% girls from other social groups.<sup>30</sup> Dalits lagged behind the general population by as many as 15 percentage points in literacy, and according to the 1991 Census, barely 24 per cent of Dalit women were literate. Statistics also show that Dalit children are more likely to drop out than their non-Dalit counterparts, particularly in the early elementary stages.

Education represents one way to break out of cycles of poverty and distress, but it is also a by-product of such economic conditions. Even when Dalits are allowed access to school, Dalit students face substandard conditions. Ninety-nine percent of Dalit students come from government schools that lack basic infrastructure, classrooms, teachers and teaching aid. In contrast, it is common for non-Dalit children to seek private tutoring or to access private education of generally better quality. The motivation to do so comes from the fact that most primary government schools are considered low quality. Few Dalits are able to access such supplementation to their education; this furthers the education gap. Once enrolled, discrimination continues to obstruct the access of Dalit children to schooling as well as to affect the quality of education they receive.

Source: Ellyn Artis, Chad Doobay and Karen Lyons: *Workshop on Human Rights: From Grassroots Courage to International Influence*, The Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, January 2003

is heartening to see the question of gender finding mention routinely, there is hardly a mention of Dalits or Adivasis, who still continue to be the most excluded communities of the country. Government of India's Country Report on MDGs is the latest example. This report has hardly taken any notice of the conditions of the Dalits and Adivasis vis-à-vis MDGs. Successive reports by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Human Rights, National Commission for Women, National Minority Commission, Planning Commission's Working Groups on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government of India Task Force on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Millennium Development Goals India Country report 2005 by Government of India, and many other studies and reports in their equivocal voice have said that in this country, dalits have tended to be excluded and have lagged behind other sections of population in literally every dimension of human and social development.

## **Poverty and Dalits**

Since the inception of development planning in India, the main concern of the development strategy has been to improve the standard of living of its people. This was sought to be achieved by raising economic growth, particularly by investing larger share of resources in industry. However, by the late

1960s it had become quite clear that growth had not percolated down to the poor to the desired extent and millions of them were still living in deplorable conditions. This was particularly the case of certain sections of the society, viz. the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The problems of poverty, unemployment and in general low standards of living were a matter of concern. Accordingly, greater attention was paid to programmes that directly resulted in poverty reduction and employment generation apart from measures that enhanced the rate of growth, as a part of our development strategy.

### **Commitment to Equality: Strategy and Approach**

The Scheme of the Constitution (of India) reflects a three-pronged strategy for changing the status of Scheduled Castes (and Scheduled Tribes) based on the traditional social order. This consists of:

- (a) Protection: Legal/Regulatory measures for enforcing equality and removing disabilities; Providing strong punitive action against physical violence inflicted on them; Eliminating customary arrangements which deeply hurt their dignity and person; Preventing control over fruits of their labour and striking at concentration of economic assets and resources and setting up autonomous watchdog institutions to safeguard interests, rights and benefits guaranteed to them.
- (b) Compensatory discrimination: Enforcement of reservation provisions in public services, representative bodies and educational institutions.
- (c) Development: measures to bridge the wide gap between the Scheduled Castes and other communities in their economic conditions and social status, covering allocation of resources and distribution of benefits.

This strategy was subsequently operationalised in the State policy and the commitment to this policy has been a feature of Indian State ever since. The policy has been strengthened and revised and its ambit made wider from time to time.

**Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, INDIA, page 5**

The persistence of poverty in India despite achieving increase in per capita income levels over the successive five - year plans has remained a matter of concern for the policy makers. Quantification of poverty based on certain minimum consumption standards has evolved in the official circles in India since 1970s. The Planning Commission uses poverty line, based on per capita consumption expenditure, as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The Planning Commission estimates proportion of people living below the poverty line at national and state level using the mentioned poverty lines and applying it to class-wise distribution of household consumption expenditure. The latter is obtained from the large sample surveys of household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization every five years.

Based on the same Surveys, it is possible to estimate the proportion of people living below the poverty line for different social groups viz. SCs, STs, etc. It may be mentioned that the poverty ratios for SCs and STs have not been estimated for all the States. It has been estimated for major

States only. This is on account of the fact that the sample size for the different social groups in the smaller States is quite small and estimates and analysis based on such small samples could be misleading and, however, it is difficult to have a comparative picture over time.

### **Access to Agricultural Land**

Despite distribution of the ceiling surplus and other land, the percentage of landless households among SCs has increased from 12.62% in 1982 to 13.34% in 1992, while the corresponding rate has remained constant at around 10% for non-SC and ST category<sup>7</sup>. Though the above figures may create the impression that at all India level around 87% of SC households owned some land in 1992, this may be misleading as nearly 60% are landless or near landless because less than 1/2 an acre of land owned by 47.50% (as per table below) may consist of patch of land to include residential backyard.

Thus SC's potential to pursue viable agriculture is constrained by lack of access to sufficient land and even to the extent of small land they possess; they lack access to capital and various inputs. Several Rural Development Programmes have been in operation to provide financial assistance for various inputs, such as IRDP, JRY, Million Wells Scheme to improve the productive capacity of small and marginal farmers and some SCs did get the benefit of these Schemes. However, at all India level, only 19.12% were self employed cultivator households out of SC households who owned some land, as per information available in 1991. This ratio did not change in the statistics available for 1997-98. As against this, the percentage of self-employed cultivators among non-SCs and STs was more than double in both periods. The position in respect of self employed non-farm households was also lower for SCs in 1992, as compared to other categories. This clearly shows that the various schemes of poverty alleviation did not create substantial impact in improving the economic position of SCs. The gap in respect of self-employed households in urban areas is even wider between SCs and non-SCs.

**Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, India, Page 151-152**

**At the all-India level the poverty ratio for the rural areas was 37.3 percent in 1993-94 and it declined to 27.1 percent by 1999-2000. The corresponding ratios for the urban households were 32.4 percent and 23.65 percent respectively. The poverty ratios for SCs and STs were significantly higher both in 1993-94 and 1999-2000.**

It may be observed that as against 27 percent of all population living below the poverty line in the rural areas in 1999-2000, 36 percent of SC population and 46 percent of ST population lived below the poverty line. There was a decline in the poverty ratio of 27% for all population, 25% for SCs and 12% for STs as compared to 1993-94. This implies that the poverty ratio declined faster for all population than for SCs and STs, though between the SCs and STs, the decline has been more rapid

in the case of former. Similar trend is observed in the urban areas where the proportion of people living below the poverty line declined faster for all population than for SCs and STs. However, there is significant difference between the rural and the urban areas. In the rural areas the proportion of SC population living in poverty is lower than poverty ratio of ST population. The situation is the reverse in the urban areas. As a result the ratio of people living in poverty for SCs and STs to (all) population below poverty line has changed significantly.

It may also be observed that the poverty ratio has declined faster in the case of SCs than for STs. This is true of both the rural as well as of the urban areas. There are large variations in the proportion of population living below the poverty line across the States. In the rural areas of Bihar, close to 70 percent of the SCs and STs lived below the poverty line in 1993-94; similarly over 70 percent of the ST population in Orissa was below the poverty line. Even in better-off States like Maharashtra, the poverty ratio for the SCs and the STs was over 50 percent both in the rural as well as the urban areas in that year. On the other hand around one fourth of the SCs and ST population in the rural areas of Punjab lived in poverty. It may also be mentioned that the proportion of Adivasi population to total population in Punjab is quite small. In 1999-2000, over 70 percent of the ST population in rural Orissa and over 70 percent of the SC population in urban Orissa lived below the poverty line. The proportion of SC and ST population living in poverty in rural areas of Bihar was close to 60 percent in that year. On the other around one-eighth of Punjab's SC and ST population was below the poverty line. Overall, the trends suggest that in the rural areas in most of the States larger proportion of the ST population is likely to be below the poverty line as compared to the SC population, whereas in the urban areas, poverty ratios in most of the States are higher for the SCs than the STs. It may be mentioned that the proportion of all population living below the poverty line in most of the States is significantly lower than the proportion of SC and ST population living below the poverty line. There are a few exceptions mainly in the urban areas, particularly for the Adivasis. It is felt that the aspect of lower poverty ratios for the Adivasis in the urban areas and lower poverty ratios for SC population in the urban areas needs to be examined further, particularly from the point of view of nature of migration from the rural to the urban areas, among the different social categories.

### **Poverty below the poverty line**

One of the measures to analyse the state of the poor persons is the income gap ratio (IGR). It essentially measures the difference between the poverty line and the average consumption of the people living below the poverty line and can be expressed symbolically as

$$IGR = \frac{Pl - P^*}{Pl}$$

where IGR = Income Gap Ratio

Pl = Poverty Line

P\* = Average Consumption of people below poverty line

Though the poverty ratio between the SCs, STs and the total population varies significantly, the income gap ratio in most of the States is not significantly different between SC, ST and All-population. This is true both of rural and the urban areas. This would seem to suggest that while the chances of SCs and STs being poor are significantly higher than that of the total population in most of the states, the condition of the poor as reflected in the consumption pattern of the Surveys conducted by the NSSO in 1993-94 and 1999-2000 and measured by the income-gap ratio is unlikely

to be very different for SCs, STs and all population.

	Rural			Urban		
	SCs	STs	All	SCs	STs	All
<b>Income Gap Ratio in India for 1993</b>	<b>0.243</b>	<b>0.254</b>	<b>0.229</b>	<b>0.273</b>	<b>0.264</b>	<b>0.250</b>
<b>Income Gap Ratio in India for 1999 -2000</b>	<b>0.200</b>	<b>0.225</b>	<b>0.194</b>	<b>0.228</b>	<b>0.246</b>	<b>0.218</b>

It may further be mentioned that this assertion needs to be examined further in detail as it could have policy implications for anti-poverty programmes. Although there has been a reduction in the incidence of poverty among all sections of society including Scheduled Castes, the reduction was comparatively lesser in case of Scheduled Castes in Urban areas. Still about 37.36% of Scheduled Caste population continues to live below the poverty line, as compared to 20.36% of total population. But the situation is strikingly worse in case of urban Scheduled Caste population. Their housing and economic empowerment would be the main areas of concern although education, health and safe drinking water for the urban SC population, which mostly dwells in the slums, are not far behind.

Collating some of the facts in different government reports and correlating them with the major Goals and Targets of MDGs can indeed be revealing - as to how far, after more than 50 years of planning, the socio-economic status of dalits has significantly lagged behind that of others, vis-à-vis the goals of the MDG :

### **Goal 1: Population below Poverty line**

Year	Rural			Urban		
	SCs	STs	All Population	SCs	STs	All Population
1993-1994	48.11	51.94	37.27	49.48	41.14	32.36
1999-2000	36.25	45.86	27.11	38.47	34.75	23.65

Source: Planning Commission Estimates, March 2005

Though the official data on poverty suggest a reduction in the percentage of population below the poverty line, there is a reason for presuming that the incidence of hunger is increasing. The proportion of the rural population accessing less than 1800 kcal/day (the level below which malnutrition can cause irreversible damage) exceeds 30 percent. This is indeed cause for concern for larger dalits and adivasi community. There are several incidences of starvation deaths experienced in the state of Uttar Pradesh in recent days, which has been raised by NACDOR and its community based organization, but action in favour of the community like Musahar and Saharia is still inactive.

The Mid Term appraisal of the tenth plan reveals that we are lagging behind in achieving the MDGs of halving hunger by 2015. Under-nutrition and malnutrition are still widespread. Maternal and foetal under-nutrition is resulting in the birth of babies with low birth weight. This has serious consequences for the future intellectual capital of India.

## Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

The Crude Literacy Rate (defined as percentage of literates among the total population) of Scheduled Castes increased from 10.27 in 1961 to 45.20 in 2001 registering an increase of 34.9 percentage points in the last forty years. The crude literacy of Scheduled Tribes was 8.53% in 1961, which increased to 38.41% in 2001 registering an increase of 29.88 percentage points in the last forty years.

The Effective Literacy Rate (defined as percentage of literates among the population in ages 7 years and above) for SCs in 2001 Census is 54.69 and in 1991 Census was 37.41 registering an increase of 17.28 percentage points between 1991 and 2001. The effective literacy rate for STs in 2001 Census is 47.1 and in 1991 Census was 29.6 registering an increase of 17.5 percentage points in the last ten years.

The literacy percentage of SC/ST when compared with the literacy percentage of other communities other than SCs /STs during 1991 and 2001 reflects that the literacy gap has decreased from 20.28 in 1991 to 14.12 in 2001 in respect SCs and from 28.09 in 1991 to 21.71 in 2001 in respect of STs to other than SC/ST, which is given in Table 2.3.

The reduction in the literacy gap between the SCs and STs and others is a positive sign, yet the gap is quite large and sustained effort is required to bridge this.

**Literacy:** The performance of literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in 2001 in states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh and that of Scheduled Tribes in states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, J and K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Dadra and Nagra Haveli is below 50%. Among the SCs the proportion of literates in 1991 was the highest in Kerala (79.7%) and the lowest was in Bihar (19.5%). The pattern was similar in 2001 with the literacy rate being 82.7% in Kerala and the lowest 28.5% in Bihar, thereby showing a narrowing of gaps. As far as STs are concerned, Mizoram had the highest literacy rates in 1991 (82.7%) and 89.3% in 2001. This was the lowest in 19.4% in Rajasthan in 1991 and 28.2% in Bihar in 2001. A statement giving the districts having less than 30% literacy rate in different States for SCs and STs is as follows:

### DISTRICTS WITH LESS THAN 30% LITERACY AMONG SCS

S. NO.	STATE	NAMES OF THE DISTRICTS HAVING LITERACY RATE BELOW 30
1	BIHAR	Pashchim Champaran, Purvi Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia, Katihar, Madhepura, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Vashali, Samastipur, Khargaria, Banka, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, (24 districts)
2	JHARKHAND	Garhwa, Palamu, Chatra and Pakur. (4 districts)
3	UTTAR PRADESH	Sultanpur, Behraich, Saraswati, Balrampur, (4 districts)
	TOAL NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	32 DISTRICTS

## DISTRICTS WITH LESS THAN 30% LITERACY AMONG SCS

S. No.	STATE	Names of the Districts having Literacy Rate below 30
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	Medak, Mahboobnagar , (2 districts)
2.	BIHAR	Paschim Champaran, Supaul, Areria, Kishanganj, Purnia, Katihar, Seharsa, Vaisali, Samastipur, Banka, Lakhisarai, Nalanda, Rohtash, Nawada, Jumei, (15 district)
3.	CHATTISGARH	Dhantewada, (1 district)
4.	JHARKHAND	Garba, Kodarma, Girdi, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakur. (6 districts)
5.	KARNATAKA	Raichure (1 district)
6.	MADHYA PRADESH	Sheopur, Chattarpur, Barwani, (3districts)
7.	ORISSA	Raigarha, Navrangpur, Korapat, Malkangiri. (4 districts)
8.	RAJASTHAN	Jodhpur, Jalore, , Siroho, Pali, Ajmer, Tonk, Bundi, Bhilwara, Rajasmand, Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara. Kota, Baran (16 districts)
9.	TAMIL NADU	Kanchipuram, Vellore, Thirivanamallai, Villupuram, Salem, Arealure, Theni, Ramanathapuram, (8 districts)
10.	UTTAR PRADESH	Ferozabad, Unnao, Oriya, Jaloan, Jhansi, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Fatehpur, Pratapgarh, Kausambi, Barabanki, Ambedkar nagar, Sultanpurm Behraich, Sarawati, Balrampur, Siddhartha Nagar, Basti, Kushinagar, Jaunpur, Chandoli, Mirzapur. (23 districts)
11.	WEST BENGAL	Uttar Danajpur. (1 district)
	<b>TOAL NUMBER OF DISTRICTS</b>	<b>80 DISTRICTS</b>

**Enrolment:** Enrolment of SC and ST students has increased in all categories in Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary/Senior Secondary and Higher Education levels during the period 1995-96 to 2002-2003/2001-02. More so, percentage increase of ST enrolment is faster than that of SC enrolment.

**Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** GER is defined as the percentage of enrolment in Primary (I-V) and Upper Primary (VI-VIII) to the estimated child population in the age group 6 to below 11 years and 11 to below 14 years respectively. Enrolment in these stages includes under-age and over-age children.

**Dropout Rates:** The data on dropout rate for the period 1996-97 to 2002-03 indicate decreasing trend and the decrease in percentage points. There is an improvement for SCs and STs in all categories of school education.

### Drop outs (I to V classes)

Drop out rates for All India fell during 1996-97 to 2002-03 by 5.3% for all children in Class I to V, although it fell by 1.3% for SCs and 5.2% for STs. The drop out rates increased in 2002-03 as

compared to 1996-97 of scheduled castes in Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Dadar Nagar Haveli and Delhi and that of scheduled Tribes increased in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Daman and Diu shows the quality of education is on decline in the above stated States/UTs .

**Drop outs (I to VIII classes):**

Drop out rates for All India fell during 1996-97 to 2002-03 by 3.7% for all children in Class I to VIII, although it fell by 4.6% for SCs and 6.50% for STs. The drop out rates increased in 2002-03 as compared to 1996-97 of scheduled castes in Assam, Bihar, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi and that of scheduled Tribes increased in Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and Daman and Diu shows the quality of education is on decline in the above stated States/UTs.

**Drop outs (I to X classes):**

Drop out rates for All India fell during 1996-97 to 2002-03 by 7.39% for all children in Class I to VIII, although it fell by 5.67% for SCs and 3.92% for STs. The drop out rates increased in 2002-03 as compared to 1996-97 of scheduled castes in Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Chandigarh and Delhi and that of scheduled Tribes increased in Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

**Goal 3: Gender Inequality**

Sex Ratio per 1000 males for Dalits=922 and General Population=944

**Female literacy Gaps**

Year	All-India Total	All-India Female	Dalit Female
1961	24.02	12.95	3.29
1971	29.46	18.72	6.44
1981	43.67	29.85	10.93
1991	52.21	39.29	23.76

*Source: Census of India Records of 1991 and 2001, Registrar General, Government of India.*

The 1991 Census revealed the great disparity between SC women illiteracy rate (76.24) and that of the general population (47.79). The SC female dropout rate at every stage of education is higher than that of either SC boys or the general female population. It is sad that over 83% of SC females drop out of school at the secondary stage, the most crucial one for the next stage of higher education and for future employment.

**Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality Rate**

**Health Status among SCs and STs:**

The National Health Policy-2002 (NHP-2002) recognizes that access to and benefits from, the

public health system have been very uneven between the better endowed and the more vulnerable sections of society. Against this backdrop, it is then the principal objective of NHP-2002 to evolve a policy structure, which reduces these inequities and allows the disadvantaged sectors of society a fair access to public health services by various measures including separate schemes and increasing sectoral outlays in the primary health sector.

### **Total Fertility Rate:**

At the National level the Total Fertility Rate is higher among SC and STs as compared to others. In the States of Bihar, Haryana, J and K, M.P, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh the TFR among SCs is more than the average TFR among SCs at national level. It is further observed that in the States of Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, J and K, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttaranchal the TFR among SCs is greater than 3 children whereas it is more than 4 in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The TFR among the Schedule Tribe population in the states shows that in the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Sikkim it is less than the average TFR of the State as well as the TFR for others. In the states of J and K and M.P the TFR for STs is more than 3 and it is more than 4 in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

### **Neo natal, infant and child mortality rate:**

In 1998-99, the infant mortality rate among SCs was 83 and among STs were 84.2 against others of 67.6 per 1000 live births. According to NFHS II data, the neo natal mortality, Infant mortality, child mortality and under-five mortality is higher for SCs and STs at all India level compared with total mortality rates and mortality rates for others respectively.

	SCs	STs	OBCs	Others	Total
<b>Infant Mortality</b>	83	84.2	76	61.8	67.6
<b>Neo natal Mortality</b>	53.2	53.3	50.8	40.7	43.4
<b>Child Mortality</b>	39.5	46.3	29.3	22.2	29.3
<b>Under Five Mortality</b>	119.3	126.6	103.1	82.6	94.9

*Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 1998-1999*

### **Working Population**

'Work Participation Rate' (WPR) is defined as the percentage of total workers to total population. The Work Participation Rate at All India level is highest among the Scheduled Tribes being 49.1 percent followed by Scheduled Castes (40.4 percent) and General population (30.3 percent). The picture is somewhat similar in all the States/UTs where the Scheduled Tribes have much higher WPR followed by the Scheduled Castes. Among states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat that have significant proportion of Adivasi population have reported WPR of 50 percent or more. Among the Scheduled Castes, Andhra Pradesh has recorded the largest WPR being 50.5 followed by Himachal Pradesh (48.9), Tamil Nadu (48.1) and Karnataka (46.3).

Although the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes appear to be doing well in the employment front, an in-depth examination of the data in terms of the availability of work throughout the year and the type of activity provides clearer picture of the deprivation. According to Census definition a Worker is categorised as 'Main Worker' if she/he has worked for 6 months or more, otherwise

she/he is considered to be a 'Marginal Worker'. The percentage distribution of total workers between main and marginal workers is given below:

While 80 percent of the workers among the general population are main workers, the share of main workers among Scheduled Castes is 73 percent and that among Scheduled Tribes is 69 percent. The situation is similar in the states with Jharkhand having the largest proportion of marginal workers among the Scheduled Castes (41.8 percent) and J and K and Orissa among the Scheduled Tribes (42.6 percent).

**Type of Economic activity:** It will be interesting to look at the type of economic activities pursued by the different categories of population.

From the statement it comes out that an overwhelming proportion of Scheduled Tribes are engaged in basic agriculture work; only about 18 percent of the Scheduled Tribes are engaged in non-agricultural sectors, as against 34 percent among SCs and 47 percent among general population. This is mainly because more than 90 percent of the population lives in rural area. The actual percentage of representation of SCs in the services of Central Government is given in the table below.

#### REPRESENTATION OF SCs IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Group	1991			2001		
	Total	SCs	% of Total	Total SCs	SCs	% of Total
A	62560	5689	9.09	104642	11950	11.42
B	102532	12115	11.82	158154	20274	12.82
C	2402089	376015	15.65	2468060	400978	16.25
D	1167836	248101	21.24	998711	178667	17.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>1167836</b>	<b>6441920</b>	<b>17.19</b>	<b>3729567</b>	<b>61186</b>	<b>16.41</b>

*Source: Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India*

Although, the share of Scheduled Caste employees in all the Groups of services has increased from 1991 to 2001, yet there is still a shortfall in Group A and Group B. In Group C, it is at the desired level and in Group D it is 21.24% against a reservation of 15%.

#### Goal 5 Improve maternal health

The National rural Health Mission (2005-12) seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 states, which have weak public health indicators and / or weak infrastructure. It has a key components provisions of a female health activist in each village. But the selection criteria for these Female health personnel are not pro SCs / STs. The minimum criteria of education standards do not suit for SCs / STs especially in under-served and un-served areas.

**BASIC MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PARAMETERS  
AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEULED TRIBES AND OTHERS**

	SCs	STs	Total
ANC Check up	61.1	56.5	65.4
Percentage Institutional Delivery	26.8	17.1	33.6
Percentage of women with anaemia	56.0	64.9	51.8
Percentage of children, underweight for their age	53.5	55.9	47.0
Childhood vaccination (full immunization)	40.2	26.4	42.0

*Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 1998-1999*

**Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

**Institutional Delivery Indicator:**

Comparing the institutional delivery at the country level, it is observed that indicators for both SCs and STs are less than others. As is seen in the table given above, Anaemia among SC and ST women is more compared to the women of other communities. It is also seen that at national the full vaccination among SC and ST infants is less compared to others. At national level Anaemia among SC and ST children is more than that prevalent among others. At national level the unmet need for limiting is more for SCs compared with unmet need for limiting among others. The same is true for unmet need among SCs with regard to spacing. It is observed that at all India level the unmet need for limiting among ST population is less compared to unmet need for limiting among others whereas the same is not true with regard to unmet need for spacing.

It was also observed that TB generally prevails among SCs and minorities. It is now well established that TB can be deadly when occurring in a patient of HIV/AIDS, especially due to the advent of new and drug resistant forms of the disease. Much more research is needed to understand the actual extent of prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the vulnerable Dalit / Adivasi populations. The scenario for them does not look very bright, especially due to the fact that these populations have the least access to even basic healthcare.

**Goal 7: Access to Water, Sanitation and Basic Amenities**

According to the data on electricity based on Houses and households' amenities data, Census of India 2001, 55.8 percent of the households in the country have access to electricity. The extent of attainments and deprivation among SCs, STs vis- à- vis 'General' with regard to availability of electricity. The percentage access in terms of General category, SC and ST households are 61.4%, 44.3% and 36.5% respectively. Thus, SC and ST households have lesser coverage in terms of access to electricity.

Census Year	Percentage of House Having Access to Electricity			
	Total	General	SCs	STs
1991	42.4	48.1	28.1	22.8
2001	55.8	61.4	44.3	36.5

The 1991 figures excludes Jammu and Kashmir. The figures of 2001 excludes Mao-Maram, Paomata and Purab sub division of Senapati district of Manipur in 2001.

Though during the decade 1991-2001, the access to availability of electricity among the households of General, SCs and STs population increased by 13.3, 16.2 and 13.7 percent points respectively, still both the SCs and STs households were still deprived in comparison to General households.

Taking villages with 50 percent or more households of the village to be ST villages and 30 percent or more households criteria for SC villages, the following Table shows distribution of SC, ST and Other villages by percentage of households having electricity viz. - 0 percent, greater than 0 but less than 10 percent and more than or equal to 10 was produced using Census data. The criteria of 10 percent households using electricity was adopted based on the input given by Power Ministry for a village to be considered as electrified. At All India level, percentages are as follows:

#### Percentage of Village Having Access to Electricity

Category of Households	Percentage of Villages having access to electricity		
	0 percent	Greater than 0 but less than 10 %	More than or equal to 10
SCs	21.4	14.6	64.0
STs	47.8	11.3	40.9
others	19.5	12.3	68.2

The deprivation is clearly reflected among SCs and STs villages as compared to other villages. The above table reflects that 21.4 percent SCs villages and 47.8 percent STs villages have no electricity.

**Electrification in SCs households:** Barring a few States namely JandK, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Daman and Diu where percentage of SC household electrification is more than the General category households, in most of the States the proportion of electrified household is less in SC category. In some States namely, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa the difference in proportion of electrified households of SC Category and General Category is relatively more as compared to rest of the States. Incidentally, these are also the States that have low level of overall household electrification. Thus, we can see that the States having low level of electrification have larger disparity between General and SC Category.

**Electrification in STs Households:** Overall 36.5% of ST households in the country have access to electricity. Barring the States of Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim, in all other States the percentage of electrified households is less in ST category compared to General Category. In some States namely J and K, Rajasthan, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh the disparity between ST households and General Household is more as compared to other States.

ST population largely reside in forest, hilly and remote areas of the country, where rural electrification has not been able to penetrate much because it becomes difficult to sustain the commercial operation of electric supply as compared to the densely populated plain areas. This is also one of the reasons for low household electrification in ST category compared to SC or General Category.

## Drinking Water

Status of drinking water supply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are coupled with inadequacy of available data. According to the Report of Census of India 2001, out of total 53.69 million urban households, the SCs and STs households are 7.808 million and 2.328 million respectively. The details of distribution of urban households, SCs and STs households by source of drinking water and its location contained in the 2001 census Report are given as under.

In India 45.2 percent households among the general population are having drinking water source within premises whereas only 27.0 percent Scheduled Castes and 15.2 percent Scheduled Tribes households have this facility. As regards availability of drinking water sources within premises at the state level, Punjab have 89.3 percent households among the general population followed by Lakshadweep (86.2), Chandigarh (82.8) Delhi (79.3) and Kerala (74.5). Except Goa (62.1), Maharashtra (58.5) and Gujarat (53.7) states, in rest of the states, the percentage of households having drinking water source within premises is below 50 percent. In case of Scheduled Castes households, the drinking water source within premises in Punjab, Delhi, Goa, Chandigarh and Kerala are 77.8 %, 56.9 %, 53.8 %, 53.0 % and 52.5 % households respectively. States like, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and all the seven north eastern states having drinking water source within premises at below 50 percent.

Among the Scheduled Tribes households the situation is very discouraging, as compared to the General and Scheduled Caste households. Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttaranchal have been reported 48.4 %, 47.2 %, 44.5 % and 44.0 percentages respectively have drinking water source within the premises. The remaining major states have reported less than 40 per cent households are having drinking water source within premises. While analyzing, the data at Rural/Urban level, the scenario in general is much better in case of urban areas compared to rural areas.

In case of drinking water source near premises the picture is slightly different. The SCs and STs are better compared to General population. The General households in Manipur, (58.7) have drinking water source near premises followed by, Chhattisgarh (57.1), Tamil Nadu (56.9), Jharkhand (52.0) and Himachal Pradesh (51.5). In remaining major states the percentage of households having drinking water source near premises were below 50 percent. While comparing the state level data for Scheduled Castes households, 74.5% households are having drinking water source near premises in Tamil Nadu followed by Pondicherry (68.3%), Chhattisgarh (66.5%), Manipur (65.8%), Bihar (61.5%), Jharkhand (60.2%), Andhra Pradesh (59.4%), Himachal Pradesh (59.1%), Madhya Pradesh (57.3%), Uttar Pradesh (56.8%), Karnataka (56.5%), Daman and Diu (55.4%), Tripura (55.1%), Orissa (54.7%) and West Bengal (54.5%) respectively. In rest of the states, less than 50 per cent households are having drinking water source near their premises.

There are eighteen states where General households are having drinking water source away premises higher than the national average 14.4 percentage. Of these states, Manipur leads the table in which 27.4 % households are having drinking water source away from their premises followed by other states. In case of Scheduled Castes Population 34.2% households are having drinking water source away from their premises in Orissa followed by Madhya Pradesh (28.3%), Jharkhand (27.9%), Karnataka (27.7%), Rajasthan (27.5%), Assam (26.1%), Haryana (25.9%), Tripura (23.6%), Uttaranchal (22.9%), Meghalaya (22.8%), Andhra Pradesh and Manipur (22.4%), Sikkim (21.7%), Kerala (21.1%), Chhattisgarh (21.0%), Mizoram (20.7%), Jammu and Kashmir (20.5%), Bihar (20.0%) and West Bengal (19.9%). There are thirteen states where Scheduled Caste households are

having drinking water source away from their premises were below the national average of 19.5 percent. A total of 28.2 % households among the Scheduled Tribes are having drinking water source away from their premises in comparison to 19.5 % and 14.4% among the Scheduled Castes and General households respectively.

The above discussions indicate that the gap between General, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in relation to drinking water source is high.

## Sanitation

As per the 2001 Census data, 23.7 percent of Scheduled Castes households have latrine facility within premises as compared to 42.3 per cent general households. Among the Scheduled Tribes only 17 per cent households have latrine facilities. There are eighteen states where Scheduled Castes households and sixteen states where Scheduled Tribes households are have latrine facility below the national average at 36.4 percent. Of these states, Orissa (7.6 percent), Bihar (8.1 percent), Chhattisgarh (9.6 percent), Jharkhand (13 percent), Madhya Pradesh (14.7 percent) are the states where only less than 15 percent households are have latrine facility among Scheduled Castes households. On the other hand Orissa (3.6 percent), Chhattisgarh (4.4 percent), Madhya Pradesh (5.9 percent) Jharkhand (6.5 percent), Rajasthan (7.1 percent), Andhra Pradesh (12.6 percent) and Bihar (12.7 percent) are the states where less than 15 percent households are have Latrine facility among STs households.

As regards, households with connectivity for waste-water outlet, 50.6 percent of general households, 42.9 percent of SCs households and 21.8 percent of STs Households have access to this facility in India. The percentage distribution of General, SCs and STs Households having connectivity for wastewater outlet is given in table below:

Percentage of households by availability of Waste water outlet	Distribution of 593 districts according to households having facility among		
	General	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribes
15.0 – and below	37	86	147
15.1 - 25.0	81	110	98
25.1 - 45.0	180	174	140
45.1 - 65.0	160	107	93
65.1 - and above	135	105	65
Total	593	582	543
Districts without SC/ST		11	50

## Housing

Housing is one of basic requirements for human survival. For a normal citizen, owning a house provides significant economic security and dignity in society. For a shelter less person, possession of a house brings about a profound social change in his existence, endowing him with an identity, thus integrating him with his immediate social milieu. As per the 2001 Census, 57.7 percent of general

households have permanent houses, whereas 42.8 percent SCs households and only 24.4 percent STs Households possessed permanent houses. The condition of housing for the Scheduled Castes in Orissa (19.5 percent), Chhattisgarh (22.2 percent), West Bengal (23.9 percent), Bihar(27.9 percent), Jharkhand(29.6 percent), Madhya Pradesh(34.8 percent), Uttar Pradesh (41.0 percent) and all the North-eastern states except Mizoram are below the national average. The condition of housing for STs is pre-dominantly Adivasi states are pitiable. Chhattisgarh has only 8.2 percent of their Adivasi households living in permanent houses followed by Jharkhand (11.1percent) and Orrissa (12.9 percent).

## **Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development**

Today, in 2005, the scenario has undergone in amazing transformation. Telecommunication sector in India has witnessed a dramatic transformation on almost all the fronts and has achieved national recognition as the key driver for development and growth.

Prior to 1999, there were very few private operators in the field. With the announcement of National Telecom Policy (NTP) 1999, a large number of private operators have been given licenses. Use of Personal Computers has tremendously increased from 5.4 million PCs in 2001 to 14.5 million in 2005. Despite Every 35th person in India use Internet, but only 200th person subscribe to internet.

The government vision is to use information technology as a tool for raising the living standards of the common man and enriching their lives towards this end an ambitious programme of PC and Internet penetration to the rural and under served urban areas has been taken up. The National Policy of the Government recognizes the potential of E- Governance not only to improve governance but also to facilitate people's access to government services.

However a huge gap still exists between the development assistance required to meet the MDGs and what the developed countries have pledged so far. The situation becomes more miserable when we compare above development indicators to the existing scenario for the SCs and STs. The accessibility level of IT among SC / ST is negligible in rural areas and extremely low in urban areas. Unfortunately there are no data available in this regard, but looking at the socio economic profile discussed in the report, it can be safely presumed that accessibility level of IT among SC / ST is extremely low both in rural and urban areas.

## **Conclusion:**

The coverage of SC population in the provision of drinking water has been the least (77.54%) up to 31.3.96. In other words, more than 20% of the SC population does not have access to safe drinking water. About 70% of Dalit households have no electricity and 90% have no sanitation. Rural SC households are even more deprived of basic amenities. 78% have no electricity and more than 90% have no sanitation facilities. And, over the period since the early 1990s, when the Reforms regime overtook Indian socio-economic scenario, the gaps between dalits and non-dalits, in all dimensions of social development, have only grown. And, though it is yet to be professionally established, one can safely say that with regard to every one of the 8 Goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators of the MDGs, dalits have lagged behind, been excluded and left behind!

## DALITS, MDGS AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY<sup>4</sup>

There is both a business and a moral case for addressing caste discrimination. If corporate world choose not to do anything, they will be contributing to the perpetuation of one of biggest human rights and poverty problems today. Dealing with the problem, international companies can make a huge difference for many people. In addition the accompanying dialogue would promote new understanding, new attitudes and practices and Companies may end up serving as role models also for Indian based companies.

The connection between discrimination, poverty and hunger is evident. Social and economic indicators across South Asia reflect the fact that Dalits and indigenous people remain at the bottom of the society when it comes to education, income, employment, health, etc. The data mentioned above also justifies this in the Indian Context. If no special effort is made by the private sector, the governments and development agencies to address this form of discrimination and exclusion, the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved. In countries with a poor human rights record or ineffective protection of the poor and discriminated groups, international companies and investors have a particular responsibility to avoid violation of human rights and labour conventions and to contribute with affirmative action.

Discrimination against Dalits is often hidden to outsiders, but it is deeply engrained in the Indian society and it cuts across all sectors and livelihood areas. Dalits are also excluded and marginalised in the labour market, resulting in low income or lack of income and accompanying poverty. Special measures and targets need to be set both in development programming and in private sector operations in order to change the situation.

Recent surveys reveal that international companies in India hardly employ any Dalits, although they constitute between 18-20% of the population. At the same time evidence is growing that it is unprofitable for business to enter into a system with widespread discrimination and not seek to address it. The caste system itself runs against efficient and rational operations.

Some examples are: A notion of purity and pollution, segregation of living / working areas; prohibitions on where to move and how to act in front of an upper caste person; Dalits are often denied access to public places, such as tea-shops and restaurants, and to public resources such as water taps, wells, and public grounds. The allocation of labour on the basis of caste is a fundamental part of the caste system. Dalits are forced to undertake certain types of work, the most menial, dirty and degrading work for a very low pay or meagre payment in kind. Dalits are not allowed to undertake certain jobs for example to prepare and sell certain food products, as Dalits are considered impure. (This may be of particular interest for those companies, who are in the food processing industry). In the private sector, Dalits have a low employment record in proportion to their share of the total population - both in the rural areas and in the middle class occupations in the

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<sup>4</sup> Danish Church Aid Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, Poverty and Hunger – 23 February 2006, Short summary of introductory remarks by Sven Riskær, IFU

cities. The perception that Dalits should be restricted to their traditional low status occupation is widespread, and those who have obtained educational qualifications find it difficult to get work. If recruited they often serve in low-level positions and both open and hidden practices of caste discrimination are commonplace and practiced by both employers and co-workers. Discrimination also includes fewer career opportunities and lower wages for Dalits.

Some companies may claim that there is no discrimination within their operations as they have a general policy of 'non discrimination'. In a society with systemic and engrained discrimination; special measures are need to be introduced in a big way, before any claims to existence of 'non discriminatory environment' can be made. In fact, non introduction of these measures themselves constitute maintenance of status quo, which in the context of India imply maintenance and nurturing of caste based discrimination.

A country Risk Assessment on India made for companies by the HR and Business project identifies caste discrimination as a critical human rights issue in the country - which cuts across all major rights areas – and therefore constitutes a high risk factor for companies.

One particularly critical area for companies trading with and investing in India relates to the supplier or sub-contracting chain. Bonded labour, forced labour and child labour are widespread – it is estimated that 40 million people are kept in bondage and slavery working under horrifying conditions in for example agricultural, textile and handicraft production sectors. The reason for getting into bondage is poverty. Poor families with little or no income and no access to means of productions (mainly Dalits and indigenous people) obtain loans from landlords and employers to cover basic living expenses and ensure daily survival. Due to high rates of interest and extremely low wages (sometimes coming down to a meal or two a day) people are caught in forced labour sometime for generations. This area must be of special concern to companies with suppliers and sub-contractors in India.

## **Responsible Private Sector**

There is a strong need to eliminate caste discrimination in the labour market. It require interventions from international organisations, national organisations and government in association with the organisations of the Dalits develop guidelines to be adhered by all doing business in India and South Asia. Private company and investors must realise that they are responsible and accountable for their impact on the wider society, including those whom it employs or whose employment it influences through the sub-contracting chain. This necessitates urgent action from the corporate world to reorient its policies so that they are just, fair and fit the constitutional morality of the country.

# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: TOWARDS A DALIT - CENTRIC POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The realization of MDGs, oftener than not, excludes specific sections of the population has led to many governments to work out specific targeted policy frameworks, policies and budget allocations targeting the marginalised and excluded sections. Given the fact that these marginalized sections are at the rock bottom of the social development ladder of the economy, concrete improvement in their attainment is essential for the achievement and success of MDGs. In India, a Dalit centric policy framework to the MDGs is a pre-requisite. This is not only a matter of Dalit rights, but in a caste-ridden situation like India, such an approach is essential to the success of MDGs. The success of MDGs lies in learning from the failure of the past planning process, and incorporating newer learning from worldwide experiences.

Therefore, it is extremely important that 8 Millennium Development Goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators are broken down into Dalit (the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) specific goals, targets and indicators policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms are put in place to ensure they are met by the year 2015. It must be pointed out that the current Development Planning Model that plans for everything except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is incapable to deliver the desired results.

## Challenges

The above realisation naturally necessitates going beyond national averages, and going for a focused policy orientations and budget allocations. This require generating data - disaggregated along gender,

### **RESISTANT CIVIL SOCIETY**

Civil society in general, particularly in rural areas, has been extremely hostile to earmarking of programmes and funds for Scheduled Castes. This hostility is given vent to 'openly. In the implementation of programmes, this hostility is reflected in manipulation to ensure that even the earmarked benefits do not reach Scheduled Castes. This happens when a drinking water facility meant for SC bustee is diverted to upper caste segment. The school is located in a manner that children of Scheduled Castes have to pass through upper caste bustees and therefore feel intimidated in accessing it due to taunting remarks. In the matter of distribution of irrigation water, scheduled castes who have their land at the tail end get a raw deal. Several restrictions are imposed on the use of common property resources by caste Hindus of the village. It is widely known that a number of upper caste people have falsely obtained Certificate of belonging to Scheduled Caste through a corrupt bureaucracy in order to corner jobs meant for SCs. Such instances can be multiplied. This manipulation gets accentuated when the implementing bureaucracy also shares their social background and bias because in that case the Scheduled Castes have no one to seek relief from. – **Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, India, Page 175**

ethnic, age, race, geographic or other lines, enabling deeper analysis of country-specific causes of inequality and poverty and revealing systemic discrimination and serious deprivations. Such a disaggregated approach to data generation and data collection could be instrumental in changed policy strategies for advancing, and developing tools for measuring, progress on human development as well as towards targeted investments in health, education, livelihood and other basic fundamental developmental needs.

### **The way forward...**

Facts and figure mentioned in previous chapters, clearly demands focused intervention at country

#### **Unresponsive Delivery Mechanism**

The attitudinal problems of the personnel involved in implementation of programmes for SCs are acute constraints in reaching benefits to them. The major problem lies in the fact that the implementing bureaucracy largely comes from upper caste background and has no empathy for the Scheduled Castes. It is worse, where it has caste bias and resentment against them. In general, it is unresponsive to their needs and situation. This is compounded by various corrupt practices. There also exists the problem of distance between the beneficiaries and the delivery agents due to which a large number of intermediaries emerge on the scene and try to bridge this distance. This obviously is done at the cost of scheduled castes – **Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, India, Page 175**

level for the Dalit (the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) Communities. This requires large scale mobilisation of the Dalit groups around their rights and entitlements, so that they could actively participate in their own developmental attainment process. It has been the experience of India's MDG Campaign that building the stake of Dalit organisations in this campaign has paid rich dividends. The Campaign, however, needs, among other things, focus on the following areas of policy making and budget allocations, geared to greater empowerment of dalits, and by inference, top the very success of the campaign in India.

#### **Existing Programmes: Better Targeting of Dalits**

1. The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan should focus attention on those SC areas where the gap between national percentage in literacy and the SC literacy percentage in a district is more than 10%;
2. There should be greater fund flow to the “Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya” Yojna and the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes.
3. In order to provide employment avenues in the non-agriculture sector, there is need to impart skills including vocational training. Special courses can be devised for the target groups, keeping in view the market viability. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions should oversee “special recruitment drive” to fill backlog of SC vacancies of Group A and B posts;
4. Concerted efforts should be made to strengthen the National Scheduled Castes Finance and

Development Corporation by strengthening the equity base. This Scheme should enlarge its scope of financing to include Dalits working under unorganised sectors such as Mochis (Cobblers), vegetable vendors etc.

5. National Action Plan for total eradication of manual scavenging should be speedily implemented by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation to ensure rehabilitation of remaining scavengers by 2007 ;
6. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should take up a concerted drive on reproductive health issues in those districts where the literacy level of SC girls is below 33% ;
7. There is a strong need for a separate strategy for Adivasi areas in each of the sectors health services, education, developing water resources, creating infrastructure in minor irrigation, roads, telecommunications, electricity, PDS, etc. with a view to bringing Adivasi areas at par with the rest, it is recommended that each sectoral Ministry should, in consultation with Ministry of Tribal Affairs, have a separate strategy for development of STs, and creation of infrastructure in Adivasi areas.
8. There is a need to focus activities at the district level under a separate and suitably devised strategy exclusively for STs. Since the ITDPs/ITDAs are functioning in each Adivasi dominated district (195 in numbers) it is suggested that the funds from the sectoral Ministries are also routed through the ITDAs who have to prepare the area-based ITDAwise plans. A separate cell within the DRDA is also necessary to devise a strategy focused on STs and then implement the same by pooling funds from all the sectors.
9. The norms for Adivasi areas for achieving infrastructure development should be more liberal, say one-third of those fixed for other areas. Although these norms provide for a higher population norm for Plain Areas as compared to Hilly/Adivasi Areas, there is a need to lower such norms further to improve the prospects of Adivasis who live in small clusters as such clusters might never be able to fulfil such norms. This should include health, roads, electricity, post offices, etc.
10. The field of education and health coverage needs priority attention. Health and Education are highly dependent on availability of staff in the remote Adivasi areas. However, teachers, doctors and other paramedical staff are reluctant to serve in Adivasi areas. As a result even if rudimentary infrastructure is available, the personnel are not available. It is therefore essential that locally available doctors, para- medical staff and teachers are recruited on contract basis. This would at least ensure availability of medical personnel in such areas. This would have to be adopted as a policy measure.
11. The persistent problems of low literacy and high drop-out rates may be tackled through

### **Asset Creation for Minor Irrigation on Lands for Dalits**

- 1) Subsidy for free boring should be on actual cost basis
- 2) Constitute self-help groups of SCs and STs farmers – who can be given loans for purchase of pumping sets in joint ownership.
- 3) In ST/SC population villages, identified in every district where major / medium irrigation works / canals /distributaries etc. are not available. It is necessary to take up Command Area Development (CADA) and On Farm Development (OFD) type works.
- 4) In every SC /ST dominant village create at least one minor – irrigation work – pond, bandhi, taal etc. should be taken up.

- 5) Create water sharing alliances between Dalits and non-Dalits-by NGO driven persuasive action. Use moral suasion to bring about social change.
- 6) A central sector scheme for funding a programme of consolidation of land holdings should be formulated by the Ministry of Rural Development with special emphasis on the States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Tamil Nadu;

### **ABSENCE OF PARTICIPATION**

There is virtually no involvement of Scheduled Castes themselves in formulation of programmes or in their implementation, other than what their political representatives contribute to their role as legislators. The only structural consultation with representatives of Scheduled Caste is done at the time when a new Five Year Plan is to be prepared and some scheduled caste intellectuals/leaders are associated in the working group for this purpose. SCs representatives are no doubt associated in some committees but they are marginal to the decision making process. By and large, however, the entire planning is done by others for them. Even the prioritization of schemes and programmes are decided by others, mostly non-SCs. There are also no institutional arrangements which give SCs a say in the management of welfare institutions entirely catering to their interests. The resultant mismanagement is rampant. But their minority position as also their subdued status prevents them from openly placing their grievances. Participatory structures have not been created where SCs themselves can freely deliberate on development issues concerning them. – **Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, India, Page 175**

- 7) Central Government should meet some portion of the cost of modernisation and computerisation of land revenue administration;
- 8) State Governments should determine the acreage of un-irrigated lands owned by Dalits and should also project realistic estimate for providing irrigation facilities.
- 9) The data base relating to un-irrigated lands owned by Dalits and the cost of providing irrigation facilities should be collated by the Ministry of Water Resources in consultation with State Government and Planning Commission.
- 10) The nodal Ministry at the Central level should be the Ministry of Water Resources, which should obtain quarterly progress reports from the State Governments.
- 11) A block-wise programme of minor irrigation for Dalits held lands should be prepared by the State Governments in 150 identified districts in the first phase.
- 12) The Planning Commission and Ministry of Water Resources should lay down that funds released for minor irrigation for Dalit lands cannot be diverted and should be placed at the disposal of implementing department within a week of receipt by the State Governments.
- 13) National Policy on Assignment of Water Rights should be formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources through 'Paani Pachayat' mechanism.

### **Viable Livelihood Strategies for Dalits**

- 1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has extended reservation policy in grantee

- voluntary organisations. This should be extended to NGOs in other sectors as well.
- 2) Affirmative action, outside public sector, should be initiated by a process of dialogue and consultation by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
  - 3) Implementing 50% reservations for Dalits (SCs and STs) in all livelihood generation programmes such as NREGA, food for work programme, employment schemes etc.
  - 4) The State Governments need to formulate area/cluster based plans for each ITDP/ITDA indicating the viable livelihood programmes, most crucial for Scheduled Tribes including infrastructure incidental thereto, like settled agriculture including land development, irrigation, dairy and animal husbandry, fisheries, afforestation including forest regeneration, housing, education, basic primary health facilities, safe drinking water besides programme for skill upgradation and vocational training, etc. The concerned central Ministries need to extend support under the schemes available with them to each ITDP/ITDA as per ITDA wise approved plan only.
  - 5) For the literate segments of Dalit population, there should be greater thrust on vocational training. The accredit institutions like ITI, NIRD, Food and Craft Institution, Institute of Fashion Design etc. can devise special courses for the target groups, keeping in pace with the modern times. While devising the course the market viability and the potentiality of the target group will have to be dovetailed.
  - 6) For the semi- literate group, the traditional art and craft can be a put to use as a motif in textile printing etc. The strength of the traditional skills is that they are handmade and, therefore, has a tremendous global potential amongst the elite.
  - 7) Product Development Skill Enhancement training so that products suit the current market, through vocational training programmes, which in turn have been developed on well researched ideas. A short-term action plan which will yield result at the earliest possible time for e.g. the vocational courses can be devised by taking basic and necessary components from the existing courses followed by immediate accreditation of the course.
  - 8) In order to provide sustainability of the programme, a strong market chain will have to be evolved thereby establishing backward and forward linkages backed by aggressive marketing. Develop value addition including packaging, for these products thereby ensuring remunerative prices and an assured as well as expanding market base.
  - 9) For all these activities, the financial resources up to training and market development can be organised through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment / Ministry of Tribal Affairs through enhancement in their existent programmes. For the actual enterprise, it would be better to introduce institutional finance. Here, the National SC/ST Finance Development Corporation can contribute in conjunction with institutional financiers and their associates.
  - 10) Agriculture should be made broad based to include horticulture, floriculture, and dairying can also become highly remunerative option for them.
  - 11) The successful models of providing like wadi programme livelihood, creation of check dams, lift irrigation, minor irrigation, water harvesting systems, animal husbandry and dairying etc should be replicated.
  - 12) Aquaculture can, on small scale, supplement the nutrition of the Adivasis, provided that the species are properly selected.
  - 13) Afforestation in long run can become an income-giving proposition. However, if we can tie-up with organizations like Central Research Institute on Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), which has its field organisations in Adivasi concentrated States like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Assam and other States, there is a possibility of creating jobs for Adivasi youth as para-technical workers in dry land agriculture in the rain fed agriculture technology to help the farmers.
  - 14) For the Adivasi solely dependent on MFP, lack of harmonious relationship between them and the Forest Department of the States is the main reason, which hinders in tapping the potential of

MFPs and, therefore, both should work in unison. The foremost strategy is to introduce them to the process of value addition with back up training.

- 15) Model legislation conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce on people from weaker sections working in forests, should be prepared in consultation with concerned ministries.
- 16) The industries should be persuaded to award a share of their outsourcing jobs to Dalits.
- 17) 15% to SCs and 7.5% share to STs may be considered in respect of awarding the tenders from Government and PSUs like Railway supply/CSD, etc.
- 18) Before granting essential facilities i.e. electricity connection/water supply/bank loans etc, the companies under private sector should give an undertaking that they will follow the reservation policy of the State Government in their private company.
- 19) The possibility of picking up potential workers in skilled category on the basis of promising talent exhibited at a very young age (say 7th class students) can be explored. Industries and companies can organize talent search amongst ST youths to detect promising trends with in them. After screening them, the best among them can be selected and trained for skilled area employment by the company, along with providing education upto the higher secondary level. Such an engagement would require mutual commitment also, and if required, the costs can either be shared by the government or recovered from the candidate post employment. Training and placement is happening in many sectors even today, either by specialised training institutions or by the companies themselves. They need to enable trainees at a young age is because the young mind and hands absorb training faster and retain longer.
- 20) Encouragement to employees from under-represented groups to apply for promotion and getting financial assurance for merit - upgradation.
- 21) Privately run schools/colleges which have received any kind of aid/support/land at concessional rates/tax rebates etc. by the Government should also follow the reservation policy of the Government.
- 22) Training for promotion or skill training for employees of under- represented groups who lack particular expertise should be imparted including language training.

## **Financial Mechanism**

- 1) There is an immediate requirement of separate earmarking of funds as per TSP/SCP approach and integrating resources within schemes of all Ministries for better targeting of efforts.
- 2) Keeping the urgent necessity of providing nutritional supplements regularly and effectively in Dalit population dominated areas. Ministry of Food and Public Distribution, create a separate focused strategy involving SCs and STs and their organisations in programmes of PDS, especially in areas chronic for malnutrition and hunger.
- 3) For the development of the Dalit areas, area/cluster based approach should be adopted for development. This should include viable livelihood programmes most crucial for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (STs), including necessary related infrastructure, for example, agriculture including land development, irrigation, dairy and animal husbandry, fisheries, afforestation including forest regeneration, housing, education, basic primary health facilities, safe drinking water, besides skill upgradation and vocational training.
- 4) A separate institutional mechanism needs to be created under PMO or Planning Commission for planning, implementation and monitoring projects/ programmes for Dalit Development.

## FUTURE STRATEGIES: ACTION AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

The problem of lack of monitoring in development programmes as a whole is endemic and the failure of many programmes to reach the target groups is usually attributed to this deficiency. But there is no areas where lack of monitoring so conspicuous by its almost total absence as in the case of Scheduled Caste (and Scheduled Tribe) Development. This is precisely the explanation why instances of non-utilisation, wrong utilization, diversion of funds, non-delivery of benefits and even cornering of benefits by non-eligible persons keep on occurring all over the country.

**– Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, India, Page 174**

The level of development in a society determines the quality of life enjoyed by its people. Development measures affect day to day life intimately and the degree of access on an individual or group to basic amenities and services reflect its relative status in the society. Therefore, the constitutional commitments to ensure equality in social relations can at once be tested through distributional aspects of development. This is much more in case of Dalits (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) than in any other group for the simple reason that they under the oppressive stronghold of caste based social order compelled to live in a sub-human existence. In previous chapters, while assessing the status of Dalits vis-à-vis MDGs, a number of problem areas have been identified.

There are many areas where action agenda really need to focus. These areas are:

- 1) Adequate investment of public resources
  - a. Government shall commit substantial funds as per norms set for the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan.
  - b. Immediate reversal of budgetary trends of reducing allocations to the Dalits
  - c. Financial stringency and other competitive commitments not to affect or dilute government spending on the developmental schemes of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- 2) Checking non-utilisation, wrong utilisation and diversion of earmarked, allocated or committed funds for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- 3) Improvement in Development Planning by :
  - a. Priority needs of Dalits – targeting 8 MDGs and their 18 targets
  - b. Targeted interventions in the traditional occupation having large participation from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
  - c. Serious efforts to identify the extremely vulnerable sections within the Dalits and creating schemes catering to their requirements.
  - d. Health issues of the Dalits are specifically addressed
  - e. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women to be focus of gender budgeting
  - f. Attention to Dalit child labour and schemes to liberate them
  - g. Innovative schools addressing needs of the Dalits
  - h. Ensuring in built component for dalits in Employment Generation Programmes such as

## NREGA

- 4) Adequate Monitoring of Development Plans
- 5) Responsive Delivery Mechanism
- 6) Sensitisation of Civil Society, development organisations, NGOs and community based organisations
- 7) Participatory formulation of Development Policies, Planning, and Schemes.
- 8) Awareness and Educational Programme among the Dalits
- 9) Mobilisation of Dalits for Advocacy and Lobbying
- 10) Education of the Dalit elected representative from Panchayat to Parliament

There is however, a need to focus on some core areas such as Land and agrarian reforms. The existing agrarian reform legislation should not be undermined to serve the interests of large landholdings of landlords and agribusiness. This land Reform would be helpful in achieving the attainment of three major goals namely MDGs 1, MDGs 7 and MDGs 8. The Land Acquisition Act should be amended or new legislation adopted, to recognize a justifiable right to resettlement and rehabilitation for all displaced or evicted persons, including those without formal land titles and including women

Minimum wage legislation and the Employment Guarantee Act should be fully enforced. Decisive action must be taken against widespread evasion, particularly for agricultural labour and the informal sector. The minimum wage should be indexed to the cost of a basic food basket, which must be sufficient to purchase the minimum daily calorie requirement. The focus should be given for effective implementation of national Rural Guarantee Act 2005 in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in selected 200 district of India.

The MDGs Campaign offers an excellent opportunity to demand from Central and state Governments for a White paper on the implementation of Special Component Plans (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) by every department and creates mechanisms to ensure that proper implementation of SCP and TSP becomes a powerful instrument in the manifold empowerment of Dalit communities in India.

### **Lack of Awareness**

Scheduled castes themselves are very weak and powerless by virtue of low status and position they occupy in society. This affects their capacity to articulate and assert. As a group also they are unable to exert any pressure on apparatus which deals with policies and programmes. But they also suffer from the handicap of lack of knowledge and awareness about programme themselves which affects the quality of their participation. This lack of knowledge is not merely confined to an ordinary SC villager, but also extends to SCs who are members of Panchayat or even educated youth. There are no major programmes which create this kind of awareness on a regular and continuing basis. – **Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes: Policy and Performance, National Human Rights Commission, India, Page 176**

The Right to Information Act should be respected in relation to all programmes, including making

publicly available all information on entitlements. This should include eligibility criteria under the Public Food Distribution System at the level of the fair price shops. Corruption must be challenged at all levels of the system and all public officials and shop licensees held accountable for any diversion of resources.

It is important to acknowledge that SCs / STs have representations from Panchayat to Parliament proportionate to their share in the population. They could be the most powerful voice in advocacy and lobbying efforts with the government to ensure achievements of MDGs vis-à-vis dalits and Adivasis. Currently there are more than 2.5 lakh Panchayats in India having same number of elected Dalit Panchayat members who represent the interests of the Dalits. They, however, being in minority in all Panchayats and also due to non-existing support structure are unable to take up the cause of the Dalits boldly. It would be worthwhile to explore the formation of organisation of elected Dalit Panchayat members. This organisation could become instrumental in providing necessary security, confidence and support to take up the cause of the Dalits.

It has been the experience of National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR), a confederation and a network of more than 300 grass root Dalit organisations across the country that schemes and programme need stake building by the beneficiaries. Unfortunately despite all good intentions by the government authorities this stake building has hardly taken place, which results in under utilisation, non-utilisation, wrong utilisation and diversion of allocated budget. NACDOR has also observed that the Dalit women and girls are facing multiple burdens. Though, the focus has been targeted under MDGs – Gender equality, but Dalits women have remained out of this target in Govt. interventions. It is a well known fact that majority of the victims of the poverty come from SCs / STs Communities and hence the children of these communities face are highly marginalised in the context of MDGs. However unless the children of SCs / STs are specially targeted they will remain ignored vis-à-vis MDGs / NDGs / NCMP.

The government of India passed important legislation which is the ‘Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act - 1989’. One of the main aims of this legislation is to ensure that government officials protect the rights of the Dalits. In case they fail to do so, they are liable to be penalised for their inaction. Often the above act is not used / the police and the state machinery try to dissuade / obstruct the victims from seeking redressal under the above Act. A greater thrust needs to be made by all concerned that the provisions of this act get invoked in cases where rights of Dalits are being violated.

Even though the basic perspective of this paper has restricted itself to dalits and the MDGs campaign in India, the Millennium Development campaign offers also to forums such as the South Asian Dalit Forum on MDGs to take up the above perspectives at the South Asian, Asian and even global level. A Dalit-focused approach to MDGs is bound to offer innumerable benefits not only to dalits, but also to the very success of the Millennium Development Campaign.

The above programmes, however, urgently requires a mass mobilisation, and action from community groups. There is an urgent need of canvassing the MDGs / NDGs / CMP target from Parliament to Panchayat level. This become all the more important as the government of India as decided to implement three important programmes such as NREGA, NRHM and Right to Education covering at least seven MDGs.

## VALUES OF THE MDG INDICATORS FOR AVAILABLE PERIODS

S. No	Indicator	Year	Value	Year	Value	MDG Targets
1	Proportion of population below poverty line (%)	1990	37.5	1999-2000	26.1	18.75
2	Undernourished people as % of total population	1990	62.2	1999-2000	53	31.1
3	Proportion of under – nourishment children	1990	54.8	1998	47	27.4
4	Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds	1990	64.3	2001	73.3	100
5	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	1990-91	071	2000-01	0.78	1
6	Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education	1990-91	0.49	2000-01	0.63	1
7	Under the five mortality rate (per 1000 live birth)	1988-92	125	1998-2002	98	41
8	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live birth)	1990	80	2003	60	27
9	Maternal Mortality rate (per 100,000 live birth)	1991	437	1998	407	109
10	Population with sustainable access to an improved water source, rural (%)	1991	55.54	2005	90	80.5
11	Population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban (%)	1991	81.38	2001	82.22	94
12	Population with access to sanitation urban (%)1994	1991	47	2001	63	72
13	Population with access to sanitation rural (%)	1991	9.48	2005	32.36	72
14	Death due to malaria per 100.000	1994	0.13	2004	0.09	
15	Deaths due to TB per 100,000	1999	56	2003	33	
16	Deaths due to HIV/AIDS	2000	471	2004	1114	

## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) - INDIA COUNTRY REPORT-2005 RELEASED<sup>5</sup>**

1. Shri G. K. Vasan, Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the first Millennium Development Goals - India Country Report for the year 2005 on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006 in a simple function at Delhi. The Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2000 reaffirmed its commitment to the right to development, peace, security and gender equality, to the eradication of many dimensions of poverty and to overall sustainable development. These are intended for the Member Countries to take efforts in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, hunger, lack of education, gender inequality, infant and maternal mortality, disease and environmental degradation. The Millennium Declaration adopted 8 development goals, 18 time-bound targets and 48 indicators.
2. The Millennium Development Goals are:

**MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;**

**MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education;**

**MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women;**

**MDG 4: Reduce child mortality;**

**MDG 5: Improve maternal health;**

**MDG 6: Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases;**

**MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability; and**

**MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development.**

3. This First Country Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) captures India's achievements, challenges and policies with reference to the goals and targets and reveals that there have been substantial improvements in the lives of people of the countries over the years. This has been possible due to the planned implementation of programmes despite the enormous and complex problems and diversities of our nation. The Central and State Governments have set up goals more ambitious than the MDGs. With the well thought out planning, comprehensive development strategies devised in the national policy, and matching implementation process, it is hoped that India will be able to meet the challenges and achieve all the MDG targets much earlier than the targeted dates.
4. India's position with reference to the various Goals is given below:
  - (i) To achieve the Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, India must reduce by 2015 the proportion of people below poverty line from nearly 37.5 percent in 1990 to about 18.75 percent. As on 1999-2000, the poverty headcount ratio is 26.1

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<sup>5</sup> MINISTRY OF STATISTICS and PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA Dated the 13th February 2006 PRESS NOTE – 3/2006

percent with poverty gap ratio of 5.2 percent, share of poorest quintile in national consumption is 10.1 percent for rural sector and 7.9 percent for urban sector and prevalence of underweight children is of the order of 47 percent. National Rural Employment Act is a positive step to reduce the poverty ratio further.

- (ii) To achieve universal primary education under Goal-2, **India** should increase the primary school enrolment rate to 100 percent and wipe out the drop-outs by 2015 against 41.96 percent in 1991-92. The drop-out rate for primary education during 2002-03 is 34.89 percent. The gross enrolment ratio in primary education has tended to remain near 100 percent for boys and recorded an increase of nearly 20 percentage points in the ten years period from 1992-93 to 2002-03 for girls (93 percent). The literacy rate (7 years and above) has also increased from 52.2 percent in 1992-93 to 65.4 percent in 2000-01.
- (iii) To ensure gender parity in education levels in Goal-3, India will have to promote female participation at all levels to reach a female male proportion of equal level by 2015. The female male proportion in respect of primary education was 71:100 in 1990-91 which has increased to 78:100 in 2000-01. During the same period, the proportion has increased from 49:100 to 63:100 in case of secondary education.
- (iv) Goal 4 aims at reducing under five mortality rate (U5MR) from 125 deaths per thousand live births in 1988-92 to 42 in 2015. The U5MR has decreased during the period 1998-2002 to 98 per thousand live births. The infant mortality rate (IMR) has also come down from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 60 per thousand in 2003 and the proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles has increased from 42.2 percent in 1992-93 to 58.5 percent in 2002-03.
- (v) To achieve Goal-5, India should reduce maternal mortality (MMR) from 437 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 109 by 2015. The value of MMR for 1998 is 407. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has been continuously increasing, (from 25.5 percent in 1992-93 to 39.8 percent in 2002-03) thereby reducing the chances of occurrence of maternal deaths.
- (vi) In so far as Goal-6 is concerned, though **India** has a low prevalence of HIV among pregnant women as compared to other developing countries, yet the prevalence rate has increased from 0.74 per thousand pregnant women in 2002 to 0.86 in 2003. This increasing trend needs to be reversed to achieve MDG 6. The prevalence and death rates associated with malaria are consistently coming down. The death rate associated with TB has come down from 67 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990 to 33 per 100,000 population in 2003. The proportion of TB patients successfully treated has also risen from 81% in 1996 to 86% in 2003.
- (vii) Goal-7 aims at ensuring environmental sustainability. As per assessment made in 2003, total land area covered under different forests has been 20.64% due to Government's persistent efforts to preserve the natural resources. The reserved and protected forests together account for 19% of the total land area to maintain biological diversity. The energy use has declined consistently from about 36 kilogram oil equivalent in 1991-92 to about 32 kilogram oil equivalent in 2003-04 to produce GDP worth Rs. 1000. The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation is to be halved by 2015 and India is on track to achieve this target.

- (viii) Goal-8 is regarding the developing global partnership for development. It is basically meant for the Developed Countries to provide development assistance to developing countries.. The Government of India holds the following views regarding the role of the developed countries in achieving this goal:
- (a) The financial support needed to achieve the targets under this Goal had been estimated for the least developed land locked and small countries by a high-level panel on 'Financing for Development at an additional amount of US \$ 50 billion which would be required for this purpose every year till 2015.
  - (b) However, a huge gap still exists for those countries between the development assistance required to meet the MDGs and what has been pledged by the developed countries so far.
  - (c) Recent months have seen new commitments toward reaching the internationally accepted 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) target. We have reminded that these potential increases still leave development assistance donor countries as a group well short of 0.7 percent.
  - (d) It is also a matter of satisfaction that actual disbursements of ODA, in recent years, have shown a welcome reversal of the declining trend that lasted for almost a decade since the early 1990s. In this regard, it is important to realize that unless aid commitments translate into actual delivery, securing MDGs will remain elusive goals. We do hope that all the developed countries would scale up the ODA to realize the goals reaffirmed at the Monterrey Consensus.
  - (e) It has also been our consistent position that additional resources for implementing the development agenda should be channelized through the existing multilateral agencies. Moreover, allocations must be based on pre-defined and transparent criteria. Our own development experience clearly indicates that, ultimately, it is the availability of untied additional resources for use in accordance with national development strategies, which is most beneficial for recipient countries.
  - (f) To deal with the problems of debt, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative was launched by the World Bank and IMF and endorsed by 180 governments. In regard to the HIPC Initiative, India is of the view that the Initiative should be met by additional funding from the developed countries and the flow of concessional assistance to other countries should not be reduced. India also opposes the concept of "equitable burden sharing" since some of the non-Paris Club creditor countries are themselves poor countries.
  - (g) We have supported the G8 initiative on irrevocable debt cancellation for the HIPC countries which has now been adopted by IMF and the World Bank as the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). We have always been supportive of all efforts being extended to the low-income countries (LICs), including those in Africa, where debt burdens are serious threats to attainment of the MDGs.
- (ix) With regard to one of the targets of the Goal 8, i.e. in cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications, India has made substantial progress in recent years. The overall

tele-density has remarkably increased from 0.67 percent in 1991 to 9.4 percent in June 2005. Use of Personal Computers has also increased from 5.4 million PCs in 2001 to 14.5 million in 2005 and there are 5.3 million internet subscribers as on March 2005 (2.3 internet users per 100 population and 0.5 per 100 internet subscribers).

5. The National Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Total Literacy Campaign of the National Literacy Mission, 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments providing reservation for women, commitment for women empowerment in the NCMP, National Health Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign and Bharat Nirman are some of the important steps taken by the Government which will help in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

## **Annexure: III**

**Development Indicators on SC, ST, OBCs and Others**

**Annexure: III**

**Development Indicators on SC, ST, OBCs and Others**

INDICATOR	National	Bihar	Jharkhand	Madhya Pradesh	Chattisgarh	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh	Uttanchal
<b>POPULATION</b>								
Scheduled Castes	166,635,700 (16.2)	13,048,608 (15.7)	3,189,320 (11.8)	9,155,177 (15.2)	2,418,722 (11.6)	9,694,462 (17.2)	35,148,377 (21.1)	1,517,186 (17.9)
Scheduled Tribes	84,326,240 (8.2)	758,351 (0.9)	7,087,068 (26.3)	12,233,474 (20.3)	6,616,596 (31.8)	7,097,706 (12.6)	107,963 (0.1)	256,129 (3.0)
General Population	777,648,388 (75.6)	69,191,550 (83.4)	16,669,441 (61.9)	38,959,372 (64.6)	11,798,485 (56.6)	39,715,020 (70.3)	130,941,581 (78.8)	6,716,034 (79.1)
Total	1,028,610,328 (100)	82,998,509 (100)	26,945,829 (100)	60,348,023 (100)	20,833,803 (100)	56,507,188 (100)	166,197,921 (100)	8,489,349 (100)
<b>LITERATES AND LITERACY RATE</b>								
General Population	452,982,691 (68.8)	28,058,787 (50.6)	8,484,653 (61.9)	23,298,737 (71.6)	7,077,574 (71.7)	21,198,715 (65.0)	62,773,482 (58.9)	4,187,355 (73.7)
Scheduled Castes	75,318,285 (54.7)	2,880,895 (28.5)	953,755 (37.6)	4,338,127 (58.6)	1,268,889 (64.0)	4,022,964 (52.2)	12,916,266 (46.3)	783,467 (63.4)
Scheduled Tribes	32,386,821 (47.1)	169,895 (28.2)	2,338,793 (40.7)	3,955,699 (41.2)	2,826,686 (52.1)	2,480,331 (44.7)	29,536 (35.1)	134,960 (63.2)
Total	560,687,797 (64.8)	31,109,577 (47.0)	11,777,201 (53.6)	31,592,563 (63.7)	11,173,149 (64.7)	27,702,010 (60.4)	75,719,284 (56.3)	5,105,782 (71.6)
<b>DROPOUTS (2002-03)</b>								
<b>CLASS (I-V)</b>								
Scheduled Castes	41.47 (1.27) <sup>6</sup>	58.81 (4.65)	-	35.00 (-6.60)	-	53.82 (3.62)	51.02 (-19.39)	-
Scheduled Tribes	51.37 (5.37)	56.72 (6.35)	-	51.30 (-5.74)	-	54.31 (11.04)	30.69 (-3.44)	-
Total Population	34.89 (5.31)	62.31 (-3.21)	-	31.43 (-3.72)	-	56.93 (-0.42)	23.55 (16.01)	-

<sup>6</sup> Quantity given in the bracket indicates decrease / increase of dropout since year 1996-97

<b>CLASS (I-VIII)</b>								
Scheduled Castes	59.91 (4.59)	83.23 (-0.84)	-	51.89 (1.33)	-	59.67 (11.51)		-
Scheduled Tribes	68.67 (6.50)	83.73 (-0.08)	-	67.47 (1.39)	-	54.31 (11.04)	60.27 (18.88)	-
Total	52.79 (3.66)	79.01 (-2.06)	-	46.94 (2.50)	-	66.60 (0.64)	23.55 (16.01)	-
<b>CLASS (I-X)</b>								
Scheduled Castes	7192 (5.67)	89.36(-0.30)	-	75.44(-25.21)	-	79.95(11.15)	67.40 (7.33)	
Scheduled Tribes	80.29 (3.92)	89.89(-0.17)		82.15(-0.40)		81.17 (10.79)	56.36(-2.78)	
Total	62.58(7.39)	83.60(-0.04)		63.79 (5.17)		75.77 (5.18)	46.31(13.93)	
<b>Fertility Rate</b>								
Scheduled Castes	3.15	3.91	2.86	3.87	2.86	4.34	4.44	3.08
Scheduled Tribes	3.06	2.45	2.30	3.69	2.88	4.31	4.83	4.18
OBC	2.83	3.64	3.05	3.34	2.89	3.80	4.12	1.83
others	2.66	3.13	2.62	2.49	1.88	3.44	3.77	2.42
Total	2.85	3.5	2.76	3.31	2.79	3.78	3.99	2.60
<b>NEO NATAL, INFANT, CHILD MORTALITY and UNDER FIVE RATE</b>								
<b>NEO NATAL Mortality Rate</b>								
Scheduled Castes	53.2	52.8	Break Up not Available	68.2	Break Up not Available	60.3	69.7	Break Up not Available
Scheduled Tribes	53.3	56.3		69.4		58.0	51.1	
OBC	50.8	51.0		58.0		54.7	71.0	
others	40.7	37.2		42.2		49.9	54.1	
Total	43.4	46.5	36.6	54.9	54.7	49.5	53.6	25.7
<b>INFANT MORTALITY RATE</b>								
Scheduled Castes	83	86.3	Break up Not available	101.5	Break Up not Available	98.9	110.0	Break Up not Available
Scheduled Tribes	84.2	81.9		101.0		94.7	83.3	
OBC	76	75.3		92.3		87.5	105.7	
others	61.8	61.2		72.4		81.6	82.3	
Total	67.6	72.9	54.3	86.1	80.9	80.4	86.7	
<b>Child Mortality Rate</b>								
Scheduled Castes	39.5	52.0	Break up Not available	60.7	Break up Not available	46.4	54.1	Break up Not available
Scheduled Tribes	46.3	37.8		87.4		66.6	45.0	

OBC	29.3	34.1		52.3		39.1	40.8	
others	22.2	29.9		24.1		30.1	32.5	
Total	29.3	34.7		56.4	45.4	37.6	39.2	19.2
<b>Under Five Child Mortality Rate</b>								
Scheduled Castes	119.3	133.8	Break up Not available	156.0	Break up Not available	140.7	158.1	Break up Not available
Scheduled Tribes	126.6	116.6		179.6		155.0	124.5	
OBC	103.1	106.8		139.8		123.2	142.2	
others	82.6	89.3		94.8		109.3	112.1	
Total	94.9	105.1		137.6		114.9	122.5	
<b>Unmet Need for Family Planning</b>								
Scheduled Castes	16.8	27.2	19.6	18.6	14.9	19.2	26.5	23.2
Scheduled Tribes	15.9	20.6	20.1	14.5	12.1	18.0	28.6	28.3
OBC	15.7	25.2	21.6	15.8	13.1	17.9	25.6	22.8
others	15.2	21.6	22.7	17.0	19.3	16.7	24.0	20.2
Total	15.8	24.5	21.0	16.2	13.5	17.6	25.1	21.0
<b>Institutional Delivery</b>								
Scheduled Castes	26.8	8.1	12.0	16.1	13.8	14.2	10.2	11.0
Scheduled Tribes	17.1	5.3	4.6	7.3	7.2	15.8	8.8	18.5
OBC	36.1	13.7	15.2	21.9	14.5	18.9	12.8	NA
others	4.01	29.0	NA	38.4	NA	27.9	21.0	NA
Total	33.6	14.6	13.9	20.4	13.8	21.7	15.7	20.6
<b>ANY ANC Check up</b>								
Scheduled Castes	61.1	27.6	NA	61.7	NA	42.0	29.3	NA
Scheduled Tribes	56.5	29.2	NA	43.8	NA	42.1	20.6	NA
OBC	64.6	36.2	NA	63.9	NA	47.2	28.6	NA
others	71.3	49.8	NA	78.6	NA	51.8	42.3	NA
Total	65.4	36.3	41.7	61.1	57.5	47.2	34.3	43.4
<b>Nutritional Deficiency and Anemia Among Women</b>								
<b>Nutritional Deficiency in percentage (weight for Height)</b>								
Scheduled Castes	42.1	46.7	45.0	39.9	48.8	43.7	41.3	35.6
Scheduled Tribes	46.3	41.0	40.9	49.2	55.2	39.6	32.6	NA
OBC	35.8	38.8	43.5	37.4	46.2	38.3	37.3	32.7
others	30.5	32.1	30.9	27.4	27.5	31.5	31.9	47.0
Total	35.8	39.3	41.1	38.2	48.1	36.1	35.8	45.6

Percentage of women with any Anemia								
Scheduled Castes	56.0	67.0	75.5	505	68.8	47.6	51.9	44.4
Scheduled Tribes	64.9	82.1	85.6	70.3	75.2	58.4	53.6	NA
OBC	50.7	60.9	67.8	52.2	65.1	46.6	51.0	32.7
others	47.6	58.5	59.8	44.0	58.8	47.2	45.2	47.0
Total	51.8	63.40	72.9	54.3	68.7	48.5	48.7	45.6
Childhood Vaccination								
Scheduled Castes	40.2	9.5	Break up not available	17.9	Break up not available	13.4	21.7	Break up not available
Scheduled Tribes	26.4	4.0		11.1		10.3	14.1	
OBC	43.0	11.2		23.6		14.4	16.9	
others	46.8	15.3		40.1		22.8	24.7	
Total	42.0	11.0	6.5	22.4	22.0	17.3	21.2	34.6
BCG								
Scheduled Castes	69.9	30.7	Break up not available	66.5	Break up not available	48.9	54.5	Break up not available
Scheduled Tribes	60.0	36.8		53.8		39.7	35.7	
OBC	71.6	36.7		64.7		53.6	56.2	
others	76.1	50.9		79.4		60.8	61.9	
Total	71.6	37.7	40.6	64.9	74.3	53.9	57.5	74.9
DPT III								
Scheduled Castes	52.7	19.3	Break up not available	33.1	Break up not available	19.5	31.4	Break up not available
Scheduled Tribes	37.5	12.3		18.4		15.7	18.2	
OBC	56.7	24.5		40.0		23.2	32.5	
others	60.4	34.5		60.4		34.2	37.9	
Total	55.4	24.2	18.5	37.0	38.5	26.1	33.9	54.2
POLIO II								
Scheduled Castes	61.3	35.0	Break up not available	58.7	Break up not available	46.1	39.8	Break up not available
Scheduled Tribes	49.0	32.4		42.1		31.5	32.2	
OBC	65.6	44.2		60.0		40.5	43.3	
others	65.6	42.7		68.5		50.3	44.7	
Total	62.8	41.0	31.2	56.7	53.8	44.6	42.3	58.4
MEASELS								
Scheduled Castes	47.6	13.4	Break up not available		Break up not available	23.4	32.9	Break up not available
Scheduled Tribes	34.3	8.0				19.0	23.3	

OBC	50.7	16.0				23.1	27.4	
others	57.1	25.8				34.4	41.3	
Total	50.7	16.6	14.1		35.5	27.1	34.6	48.6
<b>Undernourishment and Anemia among children</b>								
<b>Percentage Children Undernourished ( weight for Age)</b>								
Scheduled Castes	53.5	58.5	57.9	57.5	68.0	56.3	60.3	61.6
Scheduled Tribes	55.9	59.7	61.0	64.5	68.7	59.3	59.4	NA
OBC	47.3	55.8	54.3	55.4	58.7	51.1	53.3	NA
others	41.1	43.1	37.8	40.5	0.0	45.0	45.9	38.0
Total	47.0	54.4	54.3	55.1	60.8	50.6	51.7	41.8
<b>Percentage Children with Anemia</b>								
Scheduled Castes	78.3	83.5	80.2	71.4	90.2	86.6	77.6	NA
Scheduled Tribes	79.8	93.5	95.7	83.9	92.8	80.2	72.9	NA
OBC	72.0	80.2	78.4	73.1	82.7	81.8	71.2	NA
others	72.7	76.8	72.4	70.9		81.3	73.9	NA
Total	74.3	81.3	82.4	75.0	87.7	82.3	73.9	77.4