

Intergenerational social mobility of the Scheduled Caste people : A study on Kaliapani Development Block under Jorhat District, Assam

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Abstract

Education Occupation, income, etc are some of the determinants that help us to know the social mobility of a group of people. Among these education and occupation plays a significant role in determining social mobility. The present paper attempts to examine the intergenerational educational and occupational mobility of the Scheduled Caste people of Kaliapani Development Block under Jorhat district of Assam. The study of intergenerational mobility on SC people has become immensely important because SC communities are considered as the deprived sections of society. Different positive attempts have been made by the Government for their development and that have brought changes to the lives of them. The findings from analyzing a set of primary data with the outflow mobility table reveal that the intergenerational educational and occupational mobility has been occurred of the SCs of the study area which leads to great change and development and supposed to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Social mobility is the movement of an individual or a group in a social structure. It is indicative of social change and social progress. Social mobility is a parameter that reflects the changes that occur in social and economic classes over generations. It means the transformation in the social status of an individual or a group. Intergenerational Mobility refers to Mobility across the generations i.e. parent's generation to children's generation i.e. a child's position is compared to his/her father's position. Thus intergeneration educational mobility refers to change of educational attainments between parents and children, intergenerational occupational mobility to change of occupational status between parents and children. In our society it has been found that some ethnic groups are excluded from the process of development in terms of educational attainment and income earning opportunities due to various forms of discrimination. This exclusion or backwardness prevails across generation to generation. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) are among the most socially excluded and educationally disadvantaged groups in India. Scheduled Castes are the terms of reference listed in the Indian Constitution. The terms SCs are now used to refer to the communities listed in the Government Schedule as 'outcastes'. The notion of 'outcastes' is premised upon the Hindu caste system, which divides society into the four broad categories of Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaishyas (traders), and Shudras (menial workers). The castes of Ati Shudras (performing the most menial tasks) were designated as outside the fourfold caste system, and it is these 'outcastes' that are today referred to as Scheduled Castes. Scheduled Castes have also been referred to as

'untouchables' by Hindu caste society and as 'Harijans' (children of God), a term popularized by Mahatma Gandhi. There are about 3,000 castes and more than 25,000 sub castes in India.¹

Historically, SC communities were systematically segregated from the rest of the village and were denied access to education, housing and land. Public places such as temples, wells for drinking water, restaurants, toilets, and many other civic facilities were also out of bounds for them (Alexander, 2003).² As per Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Order Act 1976, the number of Scheduled Castes in Assam is sixteen (16). The Scheduled Castes of Assam, according to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Order Act, 1976 are,

(1) Bansphor (2) Bhuiumali, Mali (3) Brittal Bania, Bania (4) Dhupi, Dhobi (5) Dugla, Dholi (6) Hira (7) Jalkeot (8) Jhalo Malo, (9) Kaibartta, Jalia (10) Lalbegi (11) Mahara (12) Mehtar, Bhangi. (13) Muchi, Rishi (14) Namasudra (15) Patni (16) Sutradhar.³

The total population of Assam in 2011 Census has been 3,12,05,576. of them, 22,231,321 persons are Scheduled Castes (male 11,45,314 and female 10,86,007), c The Scheduled Castes of Assam, like in other parts of the country, occupy the lowest rank in the caste hierarchy. In hierarchy of unequal relationships, the Scheduled Caste is at the bottom and hence socially inferior to all other in the entire community. After independence, different attempts has been made for ensuring equality of opportunity and universalization of elementary education by the nation.

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It is hoped that the different attempts made by the Government through equalization of educational opportunities affects positively on SCs of Assam on their education and occupation. constituting 7.15 per cent of the total population of the state.⁴

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Educational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent's Father (RF).
2. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Educational Mobility of Respondent's Father's to Respondent. (R).
3. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Educational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent (R).
4. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent's Father (RF).
5. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility of Respondent's Father's to Respondent. (R).
6. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent (R).

III. METHODOLOGY

Data from 130 randomly selected households from 6nos. of purposively selected SC villages of Kaliapani Development Block in Jorhat district of Assam is used for the study. One male member of each sample household who is above eighteen years of age is selected for administering the tool for data collection. A total of 868 household were listed from the villages and its 15% is randomly selected for the study. Data was collected through a Mobility Survey Schedule designed especially for this study.

Intergenerational mobility research has mainly used two methodological approaches. First one is using cross tabulation to represent individual characteristics with that of their parents and computing a mobility matrix, based on which the proportion of people exhibiting upward mobility is calculated. This method has been used by Driver(1962), Erikson and Goldthorpe (1992,2002),Chen and Dai(1995), Biblarz et al. (1996), Kumar et al. (2002a, 2000b) Behrman et al.(2001)and Beller and Hout (2006). This is basically a descriptive approach without analysing the impact of other variable on such transition. When computed separately across social groups, it provides measures of upward mobility for each group, which then can be compared. Second method is regressing a child's educational and occupational characteristics on those of the parents along with a set of other control variables (Majumder, 2010). In the present study outflow mobility table is used to study the intergenerational Social mobility.

III.01 Categories of Education

Educational level is categorized into the following categories

- 1) Illiterate 2) primary 3) Middle 4)Secondary 5)Higher

Secondary 6) Graduate 7) Professional Graduate 8) Post Graduate 9) Research.

Education here refers to the formal education the respondent and their father and grandfather received.

III.02 Categories of Occupation

Occupation is categorized into the following categories

- 1) Manual Labour 2) Semi Skilled Labour 3) Last grade/Equivalent 4) Clerical and Equivalent 5) Business III(Small shops owners, LIC Agents, Commission Agents, Mediators etc.) 6) Business II(Retailers and Traders) 7) School Teachers 8) Business I(Manufacturing and Wholesale) 9) Professionals(Doctor, Engineers, Lawyers, Artists, Architects, Professors) 10) Administration(Gazetted Officers, MPs and MLAs).

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

IV.01 Objective no. 1

1. To find out the extent of Intergenerational Educational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to

(RF) (RFF)	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher secondary	Graduate	Professional graduate	Post graduate	Research	Total
Illiterate	18	39	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	67
Primary	3	16	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	38
Middle	0	2	10	5	4	1	0	0	0	22
Secondary	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Higher secondary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Post graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21	57	33	12	6	1	0	0	0	130

Respondent's Father (RF).

Table 1 : Educational mobility of respondents' Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent's father (RF)

Outflow analysis

Upward Mobility

$80/130 \times 100 = 61.6\%$ of Respondent's Father (RF) experienced upward educational mobility from the Respondents' Father's Father (RFF)

No Mobility

$45/130 \times 100 = 34.66\%$ of Respondent's Father (RF) are immobile

Downward mobility

$5/130 \times 100 = 3.85\%$ of Respondent's Father (RF) experienced downward educational mobility from the Respondents' Father's Father (RFF)

⁽⁴⁾Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

The outflow table reflects that 61.6% RF experienced upward educational mobility from RFF. 34.66% RF experienced no mobility in education while 3.85% experienced downward mobility. In original generation (RFF) 48.46% were educated up to secondary or below but in RF generation 83.85% were educated up to graduate and below.

IV.02 Objective No 2.

To find out the extent of Intergenerational Educational Mobility of Respondent's Father's (RF) to Respondent. (R).

Table 2 : Educational mobility of respondents' Father's (RF) to Respondent (R)

(R) ⇨ (RF) ⇩	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher secondary	Graduate	Professional graduate	Post graduate	Research	Total
Illiterate	0	12	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	21
Primary	0	18	20	15	2	2	0	0	0	57
Middle	0	0	4	16	7	3	2	1	0	33
Secondary	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	1	0	12
Higher secondary	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	6
Graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Professional graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Post graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	30	27	35	16	12	5	4	1	130

Outflow analysis

Upward Mobility

$108/130 \times 100 = 83.08\%$ of Respondent (R) experienced upward educational mobility from the Respondents' Father (RF)

No Mobility

$22/130 \times 100 = 16.923\%$ of Respondent(R) are immobile

Downward mobility

None of the Respondent (R) experienced downward educational mobility.

The outflow table reflects that 83.08% (R) experienced upward educational mobility from (RF). There is none who experienced downward mobility. Majority from (RF) generation were educated up to secondary level, but in (R) generation the educational trend is high up to graduation level.

IV.03 Objective No. 3

To find out the extent of Intergenerational Educational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent (R).

Table 3 : Educational mobility of respondents' Father's (RF) to Respondent (R)

(R) ⇨ (RF) ⇩	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher secondary	Graduate	Professional graduate	Post graduate	Research	Total
Illiterate	0	30	17	12	8	0	0	0	0	67
Primary	0	0	10	16	7	2	3	0	0	38
Middle	0	0	0	7	1	10	2	2	0	22
Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Higher secondary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Post graduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	30	27	35	16	12	5	4	1	130

Outflow analysis

Upward Mobility

$130/130 \times 100 = 100\%$ of Respondent (R) experienced upward educational mobility from the Respondents' Father (RF)

IV.04 Objective No. 4 : To find out the extent of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent's Father (RF).

Table 4 : Occupational mobility of respondents' Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent's father (RF)

RFF ⇨ RF ⇩	No Job	Manual Labour	Semi Skilled labour	Last Grade	Clarithal & equivalent	Business III	Business II	School Teacher	Business I	Professional	Total
No Job	0	10	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	19
Manual Labour	7	32	5	5	5	6	4	0	0	0	64
Semi Skilled labour	1	0	9	7	4	2	0	1	0	0	24
Last Grade	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Clarithal & equivalent	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4
Business III	0	0	0	0	1	3	9	2	1	0	16
Business II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Teacher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	42	18	14	12	15	14	6	1	0	130

Outflow analysis**Upward Mobility**

$77/130 \times 100 = 59.23\%$ of Respondent's Father (RF) experienced upward occupational mobility from the Respondents' Father's Father (RFF)

No Mobility

$44/130 \times 100 = 33.85\%$ of Respondent's Father (RF) are immobile in respect of occupation.

Downward mobility

$9/130 \times 100 = 6.92\%$ of Respondent's Father (RF) experienced downward occupational mobility from the Respondents' Father's Father (RFF)

The outflow table reflects that 59.23 RF experienced upward occupational mobility from RFF. Majority of RFF and RF are choosing manual work as their occupation.

IV.05 Objective No 5 : To find out the extent of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility of Respondent's Father's to Respondent. (R).

Table 5 : Occupational mobility of respondents' Father (RF) to Respondent (R)

R RF	No Job	Manual Labour	Semi Skilled labour	Last Grade	Clarial & equivalent	Bussiness III	Bussiness II	School Teacher	Bussiness I	Professional	Total
No Job	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Manual Labour	0	18	10	6	4	4	0	0	0	0	42
Semi Skilled labour	0	1	5	6	3	2	0	1	0	0	18
Last Grade	0	3	0	3	5	1	0	2	0	0	14
Clarial & equivalent	0	0	0	4	3	2	2	1	0	0	12
Bussiness III	0	0	0	0	3	3	7	1	1	0	15
Bussiness II	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	6	1	0	14
School Teacher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	6
Bussiness I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Professional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	29	15	20	22	14	10	15	4	1	130

Outflow analysis**Upward Mobility**

$77/130 \times 100 = 57.69\%$ of Respondent (R) experienced upward occupational mobility from the Respondents' Father (RF)

No Mobility

$38/130 \times 100 = 29.23\%$ of Respondent (R) are immobile in respect of occupation.

Downward mobility

$17/130 \times 100 = 13.08\%$ of Respondent (RF) experienced downward occupational mobility from the Respondents' Father (RF)

The outflow table reflects that 59.23 RF experienced upward occupational mobility from RFF. Like RF generation majority of R generation choosing manual work as their occupation.

IV.06 Objective No.6 :

To find out the extent of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility of Respondent's Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent®.

Table 6 : Occupational mobility of respondents' Father's Father (RFF) to Respondent (R)

R RFF	No Job	Manual Labour	Semi Skilled labour	Last Grade	Clarial & equivalent	Bussiness III	Bussiness II	School Teacher	Bussiness I	Professional	Total
No Job	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Manual Labour	0	10	15	10	10	13	0	3	3	0	64
Semi Skilled labour	0	0	0	10	8	1	3	1	0	1	24
Last Grade	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Clarial & equivalent	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
Bussiness III	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	1	0	16
Bussiness II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Teacher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bussiness I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	29	15	20	22	14	10	15	4	1	130

Outflow analysis**Upward Mobility**

$117/130 \times 100 = 90\%$ of Respondent (R) experienced upward occupational mobility from the Respondents' Father's Father (RF)

No Mobility

$13/130 \times 100 = 10\%$ of Respondent (R) are immobile in respect of occupation from their original generation (FRR).

Downward mobility

None of the Respondent (R) experienced downward occupational mobility.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study shows that among the 130 Respondents Fathers father(RFF) 67 were illiterate; 37 had completed primary school 22 had completed middle school; only 3 were secondary pass; and no Respondents Father's Father was a higher secondary, graduate, professional graduate, post-graduate and above. Among the 67 illiterate RFF 18 had sons (RF) who were also illiterate; 39 had sons who had completed

primary school; 10 had sons who had completed middle school. Among 38 RFF who had completed primary school 3 had sons who were illiterate; 16 had sons who had also completed primary school; 13 had sons who had completed middle school; 6 had sons who were high school pass; and no grandfather with this level of education had a son who had passed higher secondary or above. Among the 22 RFF who had completed middle school 2 had sons who had completed primary school; 10 had a son who had also completed middle school; 5 had sons who had completed secondary school; 4 had sons who had completed Higher secondary; no RFF with this level of education had sons who completed graduation and above. Among the 3 RFF who were high school pass no RFF had sons who were illiterate, primary and middle school passed; 1 had sons who had completed secondary school; 2 had sons who had completed higher Secondary.

Among the 130 Respondents' Fathers (RF) 21 were illiterate; 57 had completed primary school 33 had completed middle school; 12 had completed secondary school; 6 had completed Higher secondary only 1 was graduate; and no Respondents Father's Father was a higher secondary, graduate, professional graduate, post-graduate and above. Among the 21 illiterate RF 18 had sons (RF) who were also illiterate; 39 had sons who had completed primary school; 10 had sons who had completed middle school. Among 38 RFF who had completed primary school 3 had sons who were illiterate; 16 had sons who had also completed primary school; 13 had sons who had completed middle school; 6 had sons who were high school pass; and no grandfather with this level of education had a son who had passed higher secondary or above. Among the 22 RFF who had completed middle school 2 had sons who had completed primary school; 10 had a son who had also completed middle school; 5 had sons who had completed secondary school; 4 had sons who had completed Higher secondary; no RFF with this level of education had sons who completed graduation and above. Among the 3 RFF who were high school pass no RFF had sons who were illiterate, primary and middle school passed; 1 had sons who had completed secondary school; 2 had sons who had completed higher Secondary.

In the same way, out of 130 respondents' Fathers' Father (RFF) 19 were in no job, 64 were in manual labour; 24 were employed in semi-skilled labour; 3 were in last grade job; 4 were in clerical or equivalent job and 16 were in business III; but out of 130 Respondents' Father (RF) 8 were in no job, 42 were in manual labour; 18 were employed in semi-skilled labour; 14 were in last grade job; 12 were in clerical or equivalent job, 15 were in business III; 14 were in business II, 6 were in school teaching and 1 were in business I. In Respondent (R) generation out of 130, 15 were in school teacher, 4 were in Business I and 1 were in professional job. The trend of occupational mobility is also significant like educational mobility among the SCs.

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