

A Minor Research Project on

**Economics of Inclusive Growth: A Case Study of SC's in
Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka State**



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by

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ECONOMICS OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH: A CASE STUDY OF SCs IN DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

The basic objective of economic policy is to achieve rapid economic development of a country by which it is possible to raise the standard of living of its people. The economic development of a country is a process by which the real national income of a country increases at a rate faster than the rate of growth of population. So that there is a steady increase in the percapita real income and standard of living of the people in the country.

India today is the world's fourth largest economy of around a billion dollars. Economic reforms have accelerated the pace of integration of the economy with the rest of the world. India will become a middle income country in terms of the current World Bank threshold level of per capita income of \$875 growth, though crucial for reducing the level of poverty and improving living standards of our people, is not enough by itself. It needs to be more inclusive, more widespread and accompanied by moderate inflation.

The Scheduled Castes constitute an important segment of Indian economy. They are stigmatized people and on this account the total inclusive growth of Indian economy is geo-paradise and precarious. The total population of India, according to 2011 census, is 1.22 billion, out of which Scheduled Castes consist of 16,66,35,700 million (16.2%). The data shows that the number of these people is substantially higher. India has witnessed, in the last four years, a GDP growth rate of 8% per annum but this has not translated into any substantial reduction in poverty. The rich and poor gap has increased and poverty reduction figures of India are now lower than those of Bangladesh. More than 300 million people in India still live in deep poverty at less than a dollar a day while another 350 million people live on less than two dollars a day.

There are disparities among regions, states, sectors and communities. Among the states, the north eastern and the central regions, which have large tribal populations, are lagging behind. Among the sectors agriculture fallen behind industry and the service sector. Although some of the poorest states are rich in natural and forest resources, the pre dominantly tribal population is unable to take advantages of this large section of Scheduled Castes (SCs) still do not have access to many job opportunities, government benefits, education, financial inclusion, health and human development.

Inclusive growth by its very definition implies an equitable allocation of resources with benefits accruing to every section of society. The benefits of economic development should not be restricted to a selected few. Even the poorest Indian should get a chance to move into the modern high productivity sectors. Critiques argue that inclusive growth in India remains a mirage and fruits of growth do not reach the hands and mouths of the grass roots. At micro level, inclusive growth aims to help accelerate poverty reduction: reduction of inequality, not limited to income inequality, but access to financial market, women empowerment and like. Mangalore Taluk of Karnataka is witnessing a tremendous growth in economic and social infrastructure and industrialization is taking place at an alarming rate. Although agricultural sector is the crucial sector influencing the performance of other sectors in the Dakshina Kannada economy, it faces with a variety of complex problems.

There are good number of SCs who were deprived of economic and social services. Therefore, a systematic and scientific study in analysing the quality and effectiveness of basic services including education, health care, water supply, women empowerment and job opportunities for SCs in Mangalore Taluk will be a typical case study of the problem.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

This is a study of economics of inclusive growth: a special case study of Scheduled Castes in Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka State. Its specific objectives are

- To analyse the growth of the SCs over the period in the Taluk.
- To analyse their socio-economic demographic and psychographic status.
- To examine their role in the process of growth and development of the region.
- To highlight the problems encountered by the SCs.
- To examine the welfare measures adopted by the government and its impact on SCs in the study area.
- To investigate social opportunity function of SCs in the region.
- To suggest measures for the inclusive growth of SCs in the study area.

HYPOTHESIS:

The road map to inclusive growth requires social justice that can be delivered through effective economic and social infrastructures. Inclusive growth should focus not only on distribution of economic gains but also on empowering grassroots people in enjoying their social life at creating employment opportunities.

In this background, the hypotheses of the study are:

- Inclusive growth and social opportunity function are dependent.
- Inclusive growth and women empowerment are dependent.
- Inclusive growth reflects reduction in poverty of the grass root.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The components or elements of inclusive growth process are multifaceted and covers a variety of sectors like agricultural sector, poverty alleviation measures, social infrastructure, economic infrastructure, regional imbalances, and environmental sector and so on. This study focuses on analyzing the impact and effectiveness of economic and social infrastructures on SCs in Mangalore Taluk of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka and it does not take into account all components of growth process. This area is chosen for the study because Mangalore is one of the fastest growing districts of the State and it is also one of the industrial, commercial and banking hub of the country. Despite this, it is found that there are good number of people who are considered to be downtrodden. Hence this study is confined to Mangalore Taluk of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka so as to have a systematic and scientific study of economics of inclusive growth and analyse the conditions of excluded population in the region.

METHODOLOGY:

This study is based on primary and secondary data.

While secondary data are used in analysing the composition, growth, role of SCs in the economy and welfare measures adopted to reduce poverty, primary data are used to focus on impact and effectiveness of social and economic infrastructure on living condition of SCs in the study area.

A structured questionnaire will be administered on SCs in Mangalore Taluk of D.K district so as to elicit required data and information.

Statistical tools and techniques will be made use of in testing the relationships between variables and in interpreting the results.