

## **An Analysis of Scheduled Caste Women In Coimbatore District, To Find Out The Scheduled Caste Social Welfare**

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### **Abstract**

Sustainable development of all nations is crucial factors which is possible through women empowerment. Women empowerment is must to all the counties, it is has become the slogan and motto and it may social reformers. Experts and leaders are agreed that the half of the population is deprived of basic human rights life social dignity, the term development itself requires a definition. India is a welfare State, committed to the welfare and development of its people and of vulnerable sections in particular. Socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes have received special focus over the years for their social and economic advancement. The main objectives of the present study are: (i) to study the socio-economic status of the SC women in Coimbatore district ; (ii) to examine the social empowerment of the Scheduled Caste women in Coimbatore District and (iii) To give suggestions to the development of social empowerment of scheduled caste women in Coimbatore District. Social empowerment meant that removal of all the existing socially induced inequalities, disparities and other persisting problems besides providing easy access to basic minimum services. Researcher prepared questionnaire and issued to 200 scheduled caste women, out of it 185 were collected back. All the questionnaire were taken for analysis. Percentage analysis used to present the socio economic details of the sampler respondents and chi square adopted to find the association between the variables. The study concluded that women should get marriage after 22 years and they are in need of higher education, it will help for Inter caste marriage and remarriage. Inter caste marriage and remarriage helps the scheduled caste women to improve their social status. Already Government having some plans to develop the scheduled

caste people, in addition Government should insist the inter caste marriage and remarriage to their social development.

**Keywords :** Social empowerment, scheduled caste women and remarriage.

## Introduction

Sustainable development of all nations is crucial factors which is possible through women empowerment. The entire world has the issues being discussed in many formal and informal campaigns. Half of the total populations are women in the world and their contribution to the economy, culture, politics, health and education is a great important in the building up of all nations. Women empowerment is must to all the counties, it has become the slogan and motto for a social reformers. Experts and leaders are agreed that the half of the population is deprived of basic human rights, and social dignity The term development itself requires a definition. Swami Vivekananda quoted that there is no change for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved.

The prevalence of psychological conflict, which consists of tension in social, economic, political and ritual aspects of social life, exists in great degree between scheduled castes and upper castes. Brahmins consider ideological reason such as the theory of *karma* or nature of food for non-acceptance of scheduled castes whereas scheduled castes consider material conditions such as poverty as responsible for their non-acceptance by the Brahmins. Except for the use of drinking water wells and entry to temples, scheduled castes, do not seem to be willing to have social interaction with other castes on the basis of equality in any great measure. Scheduled Castes are hesitant to have any relations with other castes also due to fear of ill-effects God might cause if they relate with higher castes in terms of socialisation.

India is a welfare State, committed to the welfare and development of its people and of vulnerable sections in particular. The preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Rights and specific sections, viz., Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India, stand testimony to the commitment of the State to its people. Socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes have received special focus over the years for their social and economic advancement. Government has taken several steps for framing appropriate policies needed to design and implement various welfare programmes for achieving the objective of creating favourable environment to ensure speedy socio economic development

of SCs/ STs. For the well being of these communities, special target-oriented programmes are being implemented by earmarking funds, providing subsidies, offering reservations in employment and educational institutions etc.

Empowerment of women has become a universal problem, for, two-thirds of world's illiterate are women. Of the world's 1.3 billion poor, nearly 70 percent are women. Between 75-80 percent of the world's 2.7 million refugees are women and children. Only 24 women have been elected as heads of governments during the last century. Two-thirds of 130 million children all over the world, who are not in schools, are girls. In many countries, women work approximately twice the unpaid time men do. Rural women produce more than 55 percent of all food grown in developing countries.

Keeping in view the above universal facts, there is a greater need for the empowerment of women and the State is taking all steps to emancipate the socio-economic conditions of women. Rural women are subjected to many hindrances, which impose limitations on their potential. In general, rural women have low level literacy which affects their attitude towards social mobilisation. Education liberates them from the clutches of ignorance and superstition.

Concepts like India shining and socio-economic development cannot be translated into reality without the participation and empowerment of rural downtrodden women, particularly the scheduled caste women who constitute the largest number living below the poverty line. Unless the light of knowledge dawns on the women folk of the countryside, India cannot hope to join the community of developed nations. The present study focuses on the Empowerment of Scheduled Caste women of Coimbatore district. The present study attempts to evaluate the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste women of Coimbatore district and the need to empower them in the overall context of empowering women.

## **Objectives of the Study**

The main objectives of the present study are:

1. To study the socio-economic status of the SC women in Coimbatore district.
2. To examine the social empowerment of the Scheduled Caste women in Coimbatore District.
3. To give suggestions to the development of social empowerment of scheduled caste women in Coimbatore District.

## **Social Empowerment**

Social empowerment meant that removal of all the existing socially induced inequalities, disparities and other persisting problems besides providing easy access to basic minimum services. Social change was a dynamic process and when a section of society, particularly the weaker sections like the SCs/STs and women was to be conferred the right to property, literacy and equality in the political process, it resulted in radical transformation in social practices in a society where money had retained a ceremonial character that was obligatory and effective, as described by Mauss (1990). In rural India, it would also mean breaking up of “Jajmani” system (a feudalistic system of prescribed, hereditary obligations of payment and of occupational and ceremonial duties between two or more specific families of different castes in the same locality). Empowering women would challenge the 'patriarchal' structure of the society where conferment of property rights, particularly land title and literacy were considered to be the domain of male members of the society.

Unlike political and economic empowerment, which could be introduced using a 'top down' approach, the social empowerment of the weaker sections and women cannot be thrust down but had to evolve and emerge from within. Constitution of India guarantees the following:

### **Need for Social Empowerment**

Social empowerment plays a vital role for the achievement of the following:

- ✓ Equal status, participation and powers of decision-making of women in household.
- ✓ Participation and powers of decision-making in community and village.
- ✓ Breaking social, cultural and religious barriers to equalize development of women/girls.
- ✓ Increased status, participation and powers of decision-making in democratic institutions.

### **Social Empowerment of Scheduled Caste women**

Development alone cannot bring peace, prosperity and progress unless social justice and equality are ensured. It had been realized that development programs had bypassed women who constituted about half of the population of the country. The international conferences, conventions and legal enactment highlighted the imperative need for the gender equality and social empowerment. The Scheduled Castes Women, who are mainly less empowered and

engaged in the unorganized sector of economy, are still living below the poverty line and suffer due to their overall backwardness. Almost all persons engaged in jobs like sweeping, scavenging and tanning were from Scheduled Castes. About two third of the bonded labour are from Scheduled Castes. Literacy among the Scheduled Castes is extremely low. Most of the Scheduled Castes live below the poverty line and are victims of social and economic exploitation.

The indicators of social empowerment of Scheduled Caste women included the base of inequality, ratios, life expectancy rates and fertility rates which showed the general status of women in terms literacy, economic growth, availability of health care and birth control facilities, educational status of women, age at marriage and participation of women outside home. Gender inequality was a worldwide phenomenon and leaving aside some Nordic nations, gender inequality base reflects very poorly for almost all major countries in the world. Sex ratio was against women in Asia and even though life expectancy had gone up around the world including in Asia, it had not improved the overall status of women in much of the world. Same was the case with fertility rates which had declined in some regions including Asia but the positive impact of this change on women around the world was not as much as that was desired. Glaring gender gap existed in terms of literacy rates though it was narrowing across Asia. The figures for female literacy rates were not at all encouraging in the developing world.

## **Sampling, tools and techniques**

The researcher conducted this present study in Coimbatore District, convenient sampling method adopted to collect data from the sampler respondents. Researcher prepared questionnaire and issued to 200 scheduled caste women, out of it 185 were collected back. All the questionnaire were taken for analysis.

Percentage analysis used to present the socio economic details of the sampler respondents and chi square adopted to find the association between the variables.

## **Type of house used by the respondents**

An attempt has been made to know the type of house the respondents lived in. For the purpose of this study, it has been classified into three categories viz., own, rented and leased. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 1 : Type of House used by the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Type of house	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Own	113	61.08
2	Rented	68	36.76
3	Leased	4	2.16
	Total	185	100

*Source : Primary data*

It could be surmised from the above table that one hundred and thirteen (61.08%) respondents dwell in their own house, sixty eight (36.76%) respondents are living in rented house and remaining four (2.16%) respondents live in leased house. It is noted from the analysis that majority (61.08) of the respondents are dwelling in their ownhouse. The reason why most of the respondents resided in their own house can be attributed to the fact that the scheduled caste people find it difficult to find houses for rent even today. And many of them prefer staying with their own community people for safety and security reasons. Since there are many schemes from the government, many scheduled caste women utilize these benefits and prefer staying in own houses in the colonies.

## **Type of vehicle owned**

An attempt has been made to know the type of vehicle owned by the respondents. For the purpose of this study, it has been classified into five categories viz., cycle, moped, motor cycle, auto and car. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 2 : Type of vehicle owned**

Sl. No.	Vehicle Owned	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Cycle	116	62.70
2	Moped	49	26.49
3	Motorcycle	14	7.57
4	Auto	0	0
5	Car	6	3.24
	Total	185	100

*Source : Primary data*

It could be observed from the above table that one hundred and sixteen (62.70%) respondents owned cycle, forty nine (26.49%) respondents owned moped, fourteen (7.57%) respondents owned motorcycle and remaining six (3.24%) respondents owned a car. It is found from the analysis that majority (62.70%) of the respondents owned cycle. The result shows that

high usage of bicycle among the scheduled castes shows their low economic status due to their poverty and the distribution of free cycles by the government.

## Respondents' Smoking and Drinking Habits

An attempt has been made to know the respondents who smoke and drink.

The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 3 : Smoking and Drinking habit**

Sl. No.	Habit	Smoking	Drinking
1	Yes	8 (4.32%)	21 (11.35%)
2	No	177 (95.68%)	164 (88.65%)
	Total	185	185

*Source : Primary data*

It could be identified from the above table that eight (4.32%) respondents smoke and twenty one (11.35%) respondents drink. On the other hand, one hundred and seventy seven (95.68%) respondents do not smoke and remaining one hundred and sixty four (88.65%) respondents do not drink. It is stated from the analysis that majority of the respondents do not smoke and drink.

Majority of the scheduled caste women are having basic level of education and also adapt to the society and make use of the facilities offered by the government and do not smoke and drink. But, minimum percent of the scheduled caste women drink and smoke due to their physical work with timeless job and also lack of education.

## Level of Acceptance towards Equal Treatment to Girls and Boys

An attempt has been made to know the level of acceptance towards equal treatment to girls and boys children. For the purpose of this study, it has been classified into five categories viz., strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 4 : Level of Acceptance towards Equal Treatment for Girls and Boys**

Sl. No.	Particulars	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
<b>Educational Aspects</b>						
1	Level of education	160	21	4	0	0

		(86.49%)	(11.35%)	(2.16%)		
<b>2</b>	Medium of education (Tamil / English)	149 (80.54%)	30 (16.22%)	6 (3.24%)	0	0
<b>3</b>	Sending for a job	109 (58.92%)	61 (32.97%)	9 (4.87%)	5 (2.70%)	1 (0.54%)
<b>Behavioural Aspects</b>						
<b>1</b>	Dressing pattern (Traditional / Western)	54 (29.19%)	64 (34.59%)	30 (16.22%)	34 (18.38%)	3 (1.62%)
<b>2</b>	Visiting relatives / friend's place alone	39 (21.08%)	55 (29.73%)	9 (4.87%)	58 (31.35%)	24 (12.97%)

**Note :** SA–Strongly Agree; A–Agree; N–Neutral; DA–Disagree; SDA–Strongly Disagree

It could be observed from the above table that the respondents strongly agreed towards the education related factors like level of education (86.49), medium of education (80.54) and sending for a job (58.92). On the other hand, for the behavioural aspect, (29.19%) the respondents strongly agreed for equal treatment in the type of dressing and strongly disagreed regarding visiting relatives friends' place alone. The respondents treated their children, both boys and girls, in an equal way to show their equal opportunity in all the ways of life due to their broad way of thinking and not showing inferiority towards the girl child. Even though, both the gender are having rights and equality in all, the girls are not allowed to stay in other places due to lack of safety.

### Respondents' opinion regarding certain social issues

An attempt has been made to know the respondents' opinion towards certain social issues. For the purpose of this study, it has been classified into eight categories viz., remarriage after separation / divorce, remarriage after being widowed, abolition of dowry, legal marriageable age of girl children (18 yrs & above), treating domestic violence as a criminal act, abolition of female infanticide, property rights for women and prohibition of alcoholism. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 5 : Respondents opinion regarding certain social issues**

Sl. No.	Particulars	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
1	Property rights for women	100	71	6	3	5



		(54.05%)	(38.38%)	(3.24%)	(1.63%)	(2.70%)
2	Legal marriageable age of girl children (18 Yrs & above)	101 (54.59%)	65 (35.14%)	9 (4.87%)	3 (1.62%)	7 (3.78%)
3	Abolition of dowry	85 (45.95%)	58 (31.35%)	14 (7.57%)	11 (5.94%)	17 (9.19%)
4	Remarriage after being widowed	78 (42.16%)	69 (37.30%)	17 (9.19%)	10 (5.40%)	11 (5.95%)
5	Remarriage after separation / divorce	74 (40.00%)	49 (26.49%)	29 (15.68%)	16 (8.65%)	17 (9.18%)
6	Treating domestic violence as a criminal act	118 (63.78%)	45 (24.32%)	12 (6.34%)	7 (3.78%)	3 (1.62%)
7	Abolition of female infanticide	135 (72.98%)	40 (21.62%)	3 (1.62%)	4 (2.16%)	3 (1.62%)
8	Prohibition of alcoholism	114 (61.62%)	57 (30.82%)	7 (3.78%)	5 (2.70%)	2 (1.08%)

**Note :** SA–Strongly Agree; A–Agree; N–Neutral; DA–Disagree; SDA–Strongly Disagree

It could be identified from the above table that the respondents strongly agreed towards the ideas like remarriage after separation / divorce, remarriage after being widowed, abolition of dowry, legal marriageable age of girl children (18 yrs & above), treating domestic violence as a criminal act, abolition of female infanticide, property rights for women and prohibition of alcoholism with 54.05%, 54.59%, 45.95%, 42.16%, 40.00%, 63.78%, 72.98% and 61.62% respectively. It is noted from the analysis that majority (72.98%) of the respondents strongly agreed towards abolition of female infanticide. Majority of the respondents are having knowledge of pragmatism and apply it in life with their broad mind due to education and social awareness.

### Participation in programmes related to Social / Community issues and chance to speak

An attempt has been made to know if the respondents participated in programmes related to social / community issues and whether they were given a chance to speak. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 6 : Participation in programmes related to Social /Community issues and chance to speak**

Sl. No.	Opinion	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	38	20.54

2	No	147	79.46
		185	100

*Source : Primary data*

It could be observed from the above table that thirty eight (20.54%) respondents participated in programmes related to social / community issues and were given a chance to speak and remaining one hundred and forty seven (79.46%) respondents have not participated in programmes related to social / community issues and were not given a chance to speak. It is noted from the analysis that majority (79.46%) of the respondents have not participated in programmes related to social / community issues and were not given a chance to speak. Mainly, due to their self identity and self consciousness they have improved a lot and focused in the society to empower themselves and to uplift their knowledge by participating in many programmes related to social and community issues.

### **Attended training programmes for Upgrading Skills**

An attempt has been made to know the opinion of the respondents regarding the training programmes attended for upgrading skills. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 7 : Attended training programmes for Upgrading Skills**

Sl. No.	Attended training Programmes	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	62	33.51
2	No	123	66.49
	Total	185	100

*Source : Primary data*

It could be identified from the above table that sixty two (33.51%) respondents have attended training programmes like entrepreneur development programme, business development programme, managerial development programme for upgrading their skill and remaining one hundred and twenty three (66.49%) respondents have not attended any training programme for upgrading skill. It is concluded from the analysis that majority (66.49%) of the respondents have not attended any training programme for upgrading skill. Majority of the respondents have not attended the training programmes to improve their skills due to lack of education and poverty.

Hence, they have to use these opportunities to upgrade their skills to uplift their knowledge offered by the government and non- government organizations.

## Awareness about Health Issues

An attempt has been made to know the respondents' awareness about the health issues. For the purpose of this study, it has been classified into seven categories viz., TB, AIDS, breast cancer, Uterus cancer, Diabetes, Dengue and Chickenkunya / BP. The details are furnished in the following table.

**Table – 8 : Awareness about Health Issues**

Sl. No.	Awareness about health issues	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	TB	75	40.54
2	AIDS	104	56.22
3	Breast cancer	79	42.70
4	Uterus cancer	70	37.84
5	Diabetes	59	31.89
6	Dengue	66	35.68
7	Chickenkunya	79	42.70

*Source : Primary data*

It could be determined from the above table that seventy five (40.54%) respondents were aware about TB, one hundred and four (56.22%) respondents were aware about AIDS, Seventy nine (42.70%) respondents knew about breast cancer and Chickenkunya, seventy (37.84%) respondents were aware about uterus cancer, fifty nine (31.89%) respondents were aware about diabetes and sixty six (35.68%) respondents were aware about dengue. It is found from the analysis that majority (56.22%) of the respondents were aware about AIDS. The scheduled caste respondents are aware about their health issues due to education and schemes like National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, National TB Control Programme, Supply of Drugs and Contraceptives, Immunization to avoid the unwanted habits and to secure their health and that of their family.

## Marriage Customs and Status

When the marriage practices prevalent among the Scheduled caste women in Coimbatore were studied, it was found that majority of scheduled caste women follow endogamy in actual practice of marital alliances. Majority (72.43%) of scheduled caste women insist on endogamy.

These conditions were associated to the interests of the community also, especially when such opinions were liable to vary with respect to the constituent caste or community groups in the study. Here, women belonging to different Scheduled caste communities have not shown any serious difference in this attitude.

In the formulation and practice of these kinds of customs, one's level of knowledge and social acquaintance are very important. Thus education has a powerful role to play in judging these factors. Hence, the data was analysed on the basis of education of the respondents and it was found that among those who insisted on endogamy, the highest percentage of respondents (81.82%) were from among the women educated upto under graduate level in the sample.

**Table – 9 : Level of Education of the respondents and their Attitude towards Endogamy**

Sl. No.	Level of education	Attitude towards endogamy		Total
		Insist on Endogamy	Do not insist on endogamy	
1	No formal education	30 (71.43%)	12 (28.57%)	42
2	Primary education	11 (78.57%)	3 (21.43%)	14
3	Middle school education	24 (68.57%)	11 (31.43%)	35
4	Secondary education	19 (67.86%)	9 (32.14%)	28
5	Higher secondary education	16 (66.67%)	8 (33.33%)	24
6	Under graduate	27 (81.82%)	6 (18.18%)	33
7	Higher education	7 (77.78%)	2 (22.22%)	9
	Total	134 (72.43%)	51 (4.57%)	185

**Chi Square value : 22.491**

**DF = 6**

**Table value = 16.811**

**Sig. at 1% level**

It is interesting to note that the percentage of respondents favouring endogamy decreased as the level of education increased. Only 81.82% of the respondents who were under graduates favoured this idea. As the chi-square test showed significant relationship between the variables at 1% level of significance, it is to be emphasized that there is good association between the level

of education of scheduled caste women and their opinion towards the endogamous marriages. The details are shown in Table 9.

Here, it is quite clear that in matters associated with the real conditions of marriage, especially when this is a condition of social assimilation, the dominant tendency manifested by Scheduled caste women was to be rigid within their own cultural barriers. In other words, the women were not desirous of inviting radical changes in the way of life, particularly by the overthrow of the dominant institutions like marriage but they were willing to welcome changes for the general improvement of their social status.

**Table – 10 : Level of education of the respondents and consultation before fixing marriage**

Sl. No.	Level of education	Consultation before fixing marriage		Total
		Consult	Do not consult	
1	No formal education	32 (76.19%)	10 (23.81%)	42
2	Primary education	11 (78.57%)	3 (21.43%)	14
3	Middle school education	26 (74.29%)	9 (25.71%)	35
4	Secondary education	17 (60.71%)	11 (39.29%)	28
5	Higher secondary education	14 (58.33%)	10 (41.67%)	24
6	Under graduate	24 (72.73%)	9 (27.27%)	33
7	Higher education	6 (66.67%)	3 (33.33%)	9
	Total	130 (70.27%)	55 (29.73%)	185

**Chi Square value : 17.625**

**DF = 6**

**Table value = 16.811**

**Sig. at 1% level**

Under these circumstances, it is highly necessary to enquire into the opinion of these women on matters relating to the idea of consulting them before fixing their marriage. This attitude was quite suggestive of the degree of formation of independent capacity by women for expressing free will and hence such reactions would be an indicator of the development of the

ideological status and personality among women. In the present study, majority (70.27%) of the women admitted that they were consulted before fixing their marriage.

Decisions on matters relating to social questions like these may be the contribution of education and knowledge. As education wields special respect and consideration in every society, particularly among those sections which were traditionally kept away from the proximity of education, female members who could get the opportunity of getting education naturally got more respect and popularity than other members. Hence, it is important to examine the extent to which the educated members in the study enjoyed these privileges as a token of recognition of their status in society. Accordingly, the data were analysed on the basis of being consulted by the elders. It was found that while 100.0% of highly educated women were asked about their opinion on marriage, only 76.19% of the illiterates were consulted by their parents before fixing their marriage. This showed clearly that compared to those who were relatively poor in education, member who got higher education were given more recognition by others by giving opportunity to express their feelings on important matters. This observation again showed further that acquisition of higher level of education had enabled them to move up in the social situation by enjoying more opportunities and recognition of privileges offered by others in society. Significant relationships of variables found in the Chi-square test also supported that the mode of consultation on marriages by others differ with respect to the education of the respondents. The details are shown in Table 10.

## **Findings**

The following are the findings presented here which were taken from this study

1. Majority (61.08%) of the respondents are having own house.
2. Majority (62.70%) of the respondents are having cycle.
3. Majority of the respondents does not have the drinking (88.65%) and smoking (95.68%) habit.
4. Majority of the respondents are strongly agreed the educational aspects and behavioural aspects.
5. Majority of the respondents are strongly agreed the opinion regarding certain social issues i.e. property rights for women (54.05%), Legal marriageable age of girl children

(54.59%), Abolition of dowry (45.95%), Remarriage after being widowed (42.16%), Remarriage after separation / divorce (40.00%), Treating domestic violence as a criminal act (63.78%), Abolition of female infanticide (72.98%), and Prohibition of alcoholism (61.62%).

6. Majority (79.46%) of the respondents are does not participation in programmes related to social / community issues and chance to speak.
7. Majority (66.49%) of the respondents are does not attended training programmes for upgrading skills.
8. Majority of the respondents are aware of all health issues i.e. (i) TB ; (ii) AIDS ; (iii) Breast cancer ; (iv) Uterus cancer ; (v) Diabetes ; (vi) Dengue ; and (vii) Chickenkunya.
9. Majority (72.43%) of scheduled caste women insist on endogamy. As the chi-square test showed significant relationship between the variables at 1% level of significance, it is to be emphasized that there is good association between the level of education of scheduled caste women and their opinion towards the endogamous marriages.
10. Majority (70.27%) of the women admitted that they were consulted before fixing their marriage. Significant relationships of variables found in the Chi-square test also supported that the mode of consultation on marriages by others differ with respect to the education of the respondents.

## Suggestions

Majority of the scheduled caste women are familiar about the benefits of Government schemes, but majority of the SC women are unaware of the National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC). So, the Government should conduct an awareness programme for creting more awareness about the schemes that will help to enhance the social status of the scheduled caste women.

Drink and smoking leads to decline of their social status in society, so for understanding their unpleasant activities, the government should conduct awareness programme which could help them to recognize the social status and also their forthcoming generation.

Remarriage is based on the family members, social status, life style and etc., the Government should also make the results flexible to increase the social status of the scheduled caste women.

## Conclusion

The study revealed that Scheduled caste women as a whole were found to be still inclined to the traditional pattern of caste order in society. However, it was observed that by the attainment of higher education and economic status, the women in the sample were found to be developing new and a quite different path towards marriage custom, particularly endogamy marriages. Women should get marriage after 22 years and they are in need of higher education, it will help for Inter caste marriage and remarriage. Inter caste marriage and remarriage helps the scheduled caste women to improve their social status. Already Government having some plans to develop the scheduled caste people, in addition Government should insist the inter caste marriage and remarriage to their social development.

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