



“शिक्षा मानव को बन्धनों से मुक्त करती है और आज के युग में तो यह लोकतन्त्र की भावना का आधार भी है। जन्म तथा अन्य कारणों से उत्पन्न जाति एवं वर्गगत विषमताओं को दूर करते हुए मनुष्य को इन सबसे ऊपर उठाती है।”

– इन्दिरा गाँधी



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“Education is a liberating force, and in our age it is also a democratising force, cutting across the barriers of caste and class, smoothing out inequalities imposed by birth and other circumstances.”

– Indira Gandhi

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BLOCK 4 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We define social development in its broadest social terms as an upward directional movement of society from lesser to greater levels of energy, efficiency, quality, productivity, complexity, comprehension, creativity, choice, mastery, enjoyment and accomplishment. Development of individuals and societies results in increasing freedom of choice and increasing capacity to fulfill its choices by its own capacity and initiative. Growth and development usually go together, but they are different phenomena subject to different laws. Growth involves a horizontal or quantitative expansion and multiplication of existing types and forms of activities. Development involves a vertical or qualitative enhancement of the level of organization. Social development is driven by the subconscious aspirations/will of society for advancement. The social will seeks progressive fulfillment of a prioritized hierarchy of needs – security of borders, law and order, self-sufficiency in food and shelter, organization for peace and prosperity, expression of excess energy in entertainment, leisure and enjoyment, knowledge, and artistic creativity. Development of society occurs only in fields where that collective will is sufficiently strong and seeking expression.

Unit 1, **Development of Scheduled Castes**, focuses on various issues relating to the Scheduled Castes population. The Scheduled Castes occupy the lowest rung in the ladder of the hierarchy of caste stratification in India. It has been pointed out that ...'the caste-Hindus considered the Scheduled Castes as those ordained by God to serve the higher castes in unpleasant, disgraceful and menial tasks... and about 90 per cent of these castes live in rural India and are illiterates'. More than 75 per cent of the Scheduled Castes population is engaged in agriculture and most of them are landless labourers. It also discusses the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes population, and describes the policy measures undertaken by the Government of India for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes in India.

Unit 2, **Development of Scheduled Tribes**, describes various Tribes in general and Scheduled Tribes in particular, it also tries to understand the changes taking place and overall conditions of Scheduled Tribes. It also explains the Constitutional provisions and other developmental Schemes for them, and points out the problems related to development in order to plan better.

Unit 3, **Youth Development**, unit discusses and defines the youth and their characteristics. It also explains the role and status of youth in development, and tries to define the youth, crime and terrorism.

UNIT 1 DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES

Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Scheduled Castes-Concept and Population
- 1.3 Measures for Upliftment of Scheduled Castes
- 1.4 Development of Scheduled Castes - A Status Review
- 1.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 1.6 References and Selected Readings
- 1.7 Check Your Progress - Possible Answer

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Religion and caste are considered fundamental units of the social structure of Indian society. Any discussion on Indian society and its people without taking their religion and caste into consideration is incomplete. Both religion and caste have played a unique role in the socio-economic life of the people through the ages. Mandelbaum, while emphasizing the importance of caste in his comprehensive study on India, has observed a positive correlation between castes (*Jatis*) and status identification:

...a villager identifies closely with *Jati* because much of his social world is encompassed within it and because his concept of himself is a part of his *Jati's* idea of what kind of people they are ...coupled with his self-identification is his constant identification by others as one of his *Jati*. *Jati* is a principal referent in village life and although one villager deals with another in terms of grosser categories, *Jati* is nonetheless as the basis of reference.

The caste system was in principle rigid and inter-caste mobility was not possible except in certain rare circumstances. A well-known sociologist has drawn attention to six main features of the caste system: (i) Segmental division of society, (ii) hierarchy of groups, (iii) restrictions on feeding and social intercourse, (iv) civil and religious disabilities and privileges of different sections, (v) lack of unrestricted choice of occupation, and (vi) restrictions on marriage.

The Scheduled Castes occupy the lowest rung in the ladder of the hierarchy of caste stratification in India. It has been pointed out that ...'the caste-Hindus considered the Scheduled Castes as those ordained by God to serve the higher castes in unpleasant, disgraceful and menial tasks... and about 90 per cent of these castes live in rural India and are illiterates'. More than 75 per cent of the Scheduled Castes population is engaged in agriculture and most of them are landless labourers. While discussing the low position of these depressed classes, Blunt said, 'at all times, the Brahmin priesthood has endeavoured to keep them segregated, not only from Hindu society, but from the Hindu religion and the Hindu ceremonial; they were not allowed to hear, much less study the Vedas; they must not enter the temples; they must carry on all ceremonies without using

Mantras and no Brahmin would carry out any domestic ceremony for them. However, in the past, they were considered untouchables and ostracized by the caste-Hindus. They were not allowed to enter religious and public places. Even, their children were not allowed to receive education along with the children of caste-Hindus.

After studying this unit, you should be able to

- Explain the meaning and give the figure of Scheduled Castes population
- Discuss the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes population
- Describe the policy measures undertaken by the Government of India for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes in India.

1.2 SCHEDULED CASTES- CONCEPT AND POPULATION

The historical background of the term, 'Scheduled Castes', can be traced to the Government of India Act, 1935. Prior to the Act of 1935, the Scheduled Castes were primarily known as 'Depressed Classes'. The Government of India Act defined the term as follows: 'the "Scheduled Castes" means such castes, races and tribes, corresponding to the classes of persons formerly known as the "depressed classes", as His Majesty in Council may specify. Moreover, the Indian Independence Act, 1947, defined the term as, "the Scheduled Castes" mean such castes, races or tribes or parts or groups, which appear to the Governor-General to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as the "depressed classes" as the Governor-General may by order specify.

The criteria for determining the social and economic backwardness, as given in the presidential order are:

- i) they occupy a low position in the Hindu social structure and caste hierarchy of Hindu social organization;
- ii) there is lack of general educational development amongst the major section of this community;
- iii) their representation in government services is inadequate;
- iv) they are inadequately represented in trade, commerce and industry; and
- v) they also suffer from social and physical isolation from the rest of the community.

In order to safeguard the interest of Scheduled Castes, who suffer from all sorts of deprivation, the constitution provided special concessions to enable them to catch up with the rest of the Indian people, in the process of social and economic development.

Under the provisions of Article 341 of the Indian Constitution, the President of India, in consultation with the Governor of the State, notifies the schedule of such castes, which are to receive certain benefits including reservations in employment in respect of each State and Union Territory. The people belonging to the castes, scheduled for this purpose, are known as Scheduled Castes persons. Therefore, Upadhyay has rightly considered the term 'Scheduled Castes' as both a legal and a social concept.

Different states have declared different castes as Scheduled Castes, according to their state-specific social status and menial jobs. For instance, those doing menial jobs are known as Bhangi in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Delhi; as Rukhi in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; as Balmiki in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana; and as Hadi in Orissa, Goa, Daman and Diu etc. Ten castes account for nearly half the Scheduled Castes population of the country. They include Chamars, Adi Dravida, Pasi, Madiga, Dusadh, Mala, Paraiyan, Dhobi, Adi Karnatak and Mahar. The example of Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand is given in Table-I

Table 1: Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand

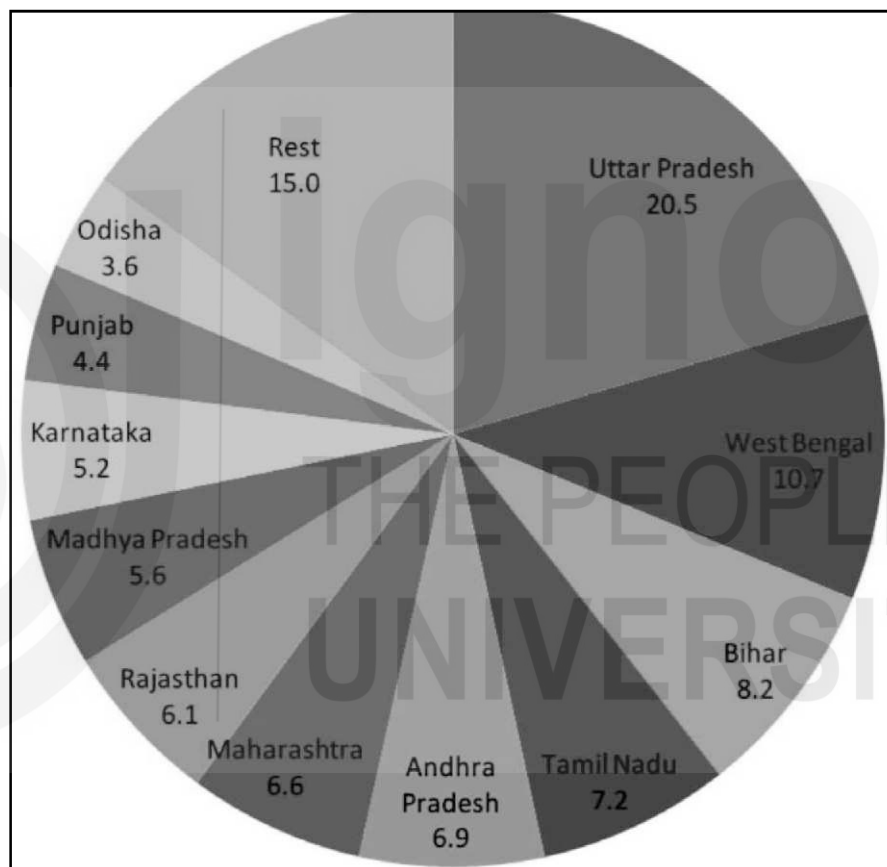
Sl No.	Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand
1.	Bantar
2.	Bauri
3.	Bhogta
4.	Bhuiya
5.	Chamar, Mochi
6.	Choupal
7.	Dabajar
8.	Dhobi
9.	Dom, Dhangad
10.	Dusadh, Dhari, m Dharhi
11.	Ghasi
12.	Halalkhor
13.	Hair, Mehtar, Bhangi
14.	Kanjar
15.	kuraiar
16.	Lalbegi
17.	Musahar
18.	Nat
19.	Pan, Sawaso
20.	Pasi
21.	Rajwar
22.	Turi

Source: Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950

As far as the Scheduled Castes population is concerned, they constitute 16.21 percent of the total population in India. Punjab has the highest percentage of population 28.9 and Mizoram has the lowest percentage of population 0.03. Koch district of Bihar has the highest percentage of Scheduled Castes population.

Table 2: Scheduled Castes & population Status

Type	State/ Percentage
State with highest proportion of Scheduled Castes	Punjab (28.9%)
State with lowest proportion of Scheduled Castes	Mizoram (0.03%)
UT with highest proportion of Scheduled Castes	Chandigarh (17.5%)
UT with lowest proportion of Scheduled Castes	D & N Haveli (1.9%)
District with highest proportion of Scheduled Castes	Koch-Bihar (50.1%)
District with lowest proportion of Scheduled Castes	Mizoram (0.01%) Lawngtli

**Graph 1: State-wise scheduled caste population and its percentage to total population- 2011 census**

Source: <http://www.google.co.in/url?url=http://censusindia.gov.in/2011>

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What do you mean by the Scheduled Castes?

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2) Give the examples of Scheduled Castes of a few states?

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1.3 MEASURES FOR UPLIFTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES

You might be aware that the government of India as well as the state governments of different states have implemented various developmental measures for the socio-economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes. These measures can be categorized as constitutional and non-constitutional measures.

1.3.1 Constitutional Measures

The quota or reservation system in government jobs is a pioneering and one of the most important measures aimed at helping raise the economic status of the Scheduled Castes. The Constitution of India provides a number of safeguards for their welfare. Article 15 of the Constitution advocates that ‘no citizen shall on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to: (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, road, places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of general public’. Article 17 of the Constitution declares that ‘the practice of untouchability is abolished and its practices in any form are strictly forbidden and punishable by law’. This Article has been further strengthened by the Untouchability Offence Act, 1955, which imposes severe punishment, including imprisonment, on those who practice it.

The government has rightly recognized the need for the education, employment and economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes for raising their quality of life in society. Article 16 assures ‘equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state’ and also that ‘nothing in this Article shall prevent the state from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward classes of citizens, which in the opinion of the state is not adequately represented in the services under the state’. Although, the provisions under Article 46 are not obligatory for the government, yet some economic measures have been taken to uplift the status of the downtrodden, including certain benefits such as allotment of land, house sites, building materials and monetary aids.

Educational disparities between the Scheduled Castes and caste – Hindus are glaring. The Indian Education Commission, 1964-66, while emphasizing the importance of education for the Scheduled Castes and backward classes, recommended that : (a) the existing programme for the education of Scheduled Castes should continue and be expanded; and (b) greater efforts were needed to

provide educational facilities. The Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 46, states that ‘the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation’. The National Policy on Education, 1968, urged that ‘effort should be made to protect the educational interest of the minorities. The National Policy on Education, 1986 emphasized equal opportunity for all, not only in access but also in the conditions for success. The policy document advocated the need for special care for the education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, through reservation facilities in institutions of higher education. It also suggested financial incentives for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in schools. Moreover, scholarships are also given to students of these communities for their post-matric education. In addition, hostel facilities and reimbursement of additional boarding charges are met by the state.

As far as, political participation is concerned, the Indian Constitution provides for assured access of Scheduled Castes to different democratic institutions. Article 330 of the Constitution ensures reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha, while Article 332 provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies in the states. Reservation of seats, right from village panchayat up to the level of the Parliament has integrated the Scheduled Castes into the political mainstream of the nation.

Article 338 of the Constitution provides for a National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

Some of the main duties of the Commission are:

- i) To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the SCs under the Constitution for or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;
- ii) To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs.
- iii) To participate and advise on the placing process of socio-economic development of the SCs and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State.

Some political commentators have rightly pointed out that there are five major areas of progress of Scheduled Castes, thanks to the Constitutional measures of protective discrimination: (1) access to religious and other public places and lessening of ritual and social distancing; (2) integration of all-caste groups, including Scheduled Castes in schools, colleges and universities; (3) share of political power; (4) residential de-segregation; and (5) occupational mobility.

1.3.2 Non-Constitutional Measures

As you are aware that the Government of India has formulated and implemented many developmental programmes from time to time for the socio-economic upliftment of the Scheduled Castes in India. A few important measures taken for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes are as follows:

- i) **Rural Development Programmes:** Two important programmes, Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers' and Agricultural Labourers' Development Agency (MFALDA), aimed at benefiting the poorest of the poor, were launched during the seventies by the government. Moreover, different rural development schemes, such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRD), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) etc., aimed at economic and social upliftment of the poorest of the poor, the backward and downtrodden, were also launched in different Five Years Plans. Taken together, all these are designed to help the Scheduled Castes to improve their economic conditions.
- ii) **Scheduled Castes component Plan:** The component plan launched for the Scheduled Castes during Sixth Five Year Plan intends to comprehensively cover the economic, educational and social development along with the fulfilment of minimum needs. The component plan seeks to improve the living conditions of scheduled Castes through provision of drinking water supply, link roads, house-sites, primary schools, health centres, veterinary centres, community halls, etc. in the Scheduled Castes habitations.
- iii) **Pre-Matric & Post Matric Scholarships:** The objective of pre-matric scholarship is to provide assistance to the children of those Scheduled Caste families engaged in unclean occupations such as scavenging, tanning etc. While the post-matric scholarship intends to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Castes students to pursue post-matriculation courses in recognized institution within India. Besides, there is free supply of text books, stationary, and uniforms to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.
- iv) **National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation:** The setting up this corporation primarily intended to act as a catalytic agent in developing schemes for employment generation and financing pilot projects.
- v) **The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis** was constituted on 12th August, 1994 for a period of 3yrs under the provision of the National Commission for Safai Karamchari Act, 1993 to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of Safai Karamcharis. The Commission is also empowered to investigate specific grievances as well as matters relating to implantation of programmes & Schemes for welfare of Safai Karmachoris
- vi) **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna** from 2008 for the construction of hostels for students belonging to SCs to attain quality education. The objective of the Scheme is to provide residential accommodation facilities to SC Boys & Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges & universities.
- vii) **Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for Welfare of Schedules Castes:** The objective of this scheme is to utilize and engage the capable and reliable Voluntary Organizations towards socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes. Under this scheme, Government of India gives Grants-in-aid to the extent of 90% to the Voluntary Organization working in the areas of education health care nutrition and skill development.

- viii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship** This scheme was launched in 2005-06 for Scheduled Caste student for pursuing higher study leading to M. Phil/ PhD courses.
- ix) Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna:** This is a centrally sponsored scheme for over 71,400 villages in the country having more than 40 percent of SC population. It was launched in 2009-10 for the integrated development of these villages as modal villages. The integrated development includes all basic infrastructure facilities and facilities for human development.
- x) Coaching facility for Scheduled Castes** The government has provided pre-examination coaching centre for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to enhance their representation in Central Government services and public sector undertakings.
- xi) State Government Measures** Besides central government various state governments have launched schemes for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes. One of the illustrious schemes called “Ambedkar Village Scheme” launched by Uttar Pradesh government in the year is described below.

Ambedkar Village- Its Features

The Ambedkar Village scheme was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government for the development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the state. The scheme has been in existence in the state since 1990-91. Villages with more than 50 percent of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes population were selected and considered for promotional and developmental programmes under the Ambedkar Village scheme. The total number of Ambedkar villages which were 9,493 in 1990-91, have arisen to 11,218 in 1995-96 and continue to increase.

Identified Activities for Ambedkar Village

The identified activities to be performed by different departments for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the state are listed below:

Departments		Identified Activities	
1	Public Works	1	Connecting Ambedkar village with the main road of the town.
2	Electricity	2	Electrification of the village
3	Rural Development	3	Effective implementation of following activities:
			i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
			ii) TRYSM
			iii) Indira Awas Yojana
			iv) Million Well Scheme
			v) Jawahar Rozgar Yojna
			vi) Improved Cooking Chulha Scheme

4	Urban Development	4	Making provision of safe drinking water in the Village
5	Education	5	i) Opening and functioning of primary school
			ii) Launching Total Literacy Programme
			iii) Launching 'Education for All' Programme
			iv) Opening and launching of non-formal education centres
6	Social Welfare	6	i) Implementation of Farmers Pension Scheme in the Village
			ii) Implementation of Student Scholarship Scheme
7	Women and Child Welfare	7	i) Opening Anganwadis and Balwadis
			ii) Implementation of Widow Pension Scheme
			iii) Launching Women and Child Development Scheme
8	Revenue	8	i) Distribution of agricultural land
			ii) Distribution of surplus land above ceiling
			iii)
			iv) Distribution of patta for fish cultivation
			v) Distribution of patta to blacksmiths
9	Health and Family Welfare	9	i) Immunization of new born children
			ii) Construction of sub centres in the villages
10	Panchayati Raj	10	i) Filling of pits and construction of village roads
			ii) Construction of Sulabh Sauchalaya
11	Dairy Development	11	i) Women Dairy Yojana
			ii) Minor Intensive Dairy Yojana
12	Animal Husbandry	12	i) Immunization of animals
			ii) Artificial fertilization of animals
13	Excise	13	Prohibition of wine shops in Ambedkar village
14	Handicap Welfare	14	i) Handicap Pension Scheme
			ii) Provision of equipment and instruments to handicapped
15	Minor Irrigation	15	Free boring of well
16	Cotton Development	16	Development of cotton industry

Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

- 1) What are the measures taken for the educational upliftment of Scheduled Castes in India?

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- 2) Name a few constitutional measures taken for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes in India?

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1.4 DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES - A STATUS REVIEW

It is an established fact that despite several policy measures the conditions of the Scheduled Castes has not been adequately improved in India. The various conditions with regard to their employment, education, poverty and livelihood, health are discussed below.

Employment Status

The large percentage of Scheduled Castes population is residing in rural areas and is engaged in agriculture and its related sectors mainly as labourers. As far as the government job is concerned, they are largely concentrated in class three and four jobs. Their representation in PSUs is meagre. Even if reservation is there, it is observed the benefit of employment in government and public sector has largely been gone to the creamy layer of the Scheduled Castes. A majority of impoverished Scheduled Castes have not available the opportunity because of low literacy and lower level of education among them.

Table 2: Representation of Scheduled Castes in Central Government Services

	SCs		Non SCs/STs		All	
	1979	2004	1979	2004	1979	2004
Total Government Jobs (Percentage)	787937	930806	4226481	4137474	5259783	5445618
Share in Total (Percentage)						
Government	56.95	58.04	58.49	60.85	57.59	60.04
PSUs	35.95	25.42	30.04	22.81	31.97	23.78
Bank	7.10	14.36	11.47	14.06	10.44	13.94
Insurance	0.00	2.18	0.00	2.27	0.00	2.25
Compound Annual Growth (%) in total Government jobs 1979-2004		0.67		-0.09		0.14

Source : S. Thorat and C. Senapati, 2006, 'Reservation Policy in India-Dimension and Issues', Working paper series Vol. 1, No. 2, IIDS, New Delhi

Poverty and Living Conditions

The poverty among the Scheduled Castes population is higher as compared to their counterpart General Caste population. Landlessness lack of employment opportunities, engagement in sporadic casual labour activities and menial jobs, less wage rate and discrimination in the labour market are a few factors responsible for low per capital income and higher poverty rate among the Scheduled Castes population. The Table-3 shows that only 34 percent of Scheduled Castes households have toilet in their houses.

Table 3: Household Living Conditions by SC and ST Status, India (2001 to 2011, % of Households)

Amenities	SC 2011	SC 2001	ST 2011	ST 2001	Total 2011	Total 2001
House with concrete roof	21.9	13.1	10.1	6.1	29.6	21.2
Tap Water	41.2	23.1	24.4	20.0	43.5	36.7
Electricity as a source of lighting	59.0	44.3	51.7	36.5	67.2	55.8
Latrine facility within the premises	33.8	23.6	22.6	17.0	46.9	36.4
Connected to drainage	46.6	42.8	22.7	21.8	51.1	46.4
With Bathroom	27.7	22.2	17.2	15.0	42.0	36.1
LPG/PNG	16.9	7.9	9.2	5.3	28.5	17.5

Source : Census of India 2001 and 2011.

Household Assets among SC and ST Household, India (2001 to 2011, % of Households)

Assets	SC 2011	SC 2001	ST 2011	ST 2001	Total 2011	Total 2001
Availing Banking Services	50.9	25.1	44.9	19.1	58.7	35.5
Television	39.1	21.2	21.8	12.0	76.7	31.6
Telephone	3.0	3.4	1.9	2.5	4.0	9.1
Mobile	47.5		31.1		53.2	
Computer/Laptop	6.4	NA	5.2	NA	9.4	NA
Scooter/Motorcycle/moped	12.0	5.3	8.9	4.1	21.0	11.7
Car/Van/Jeep	1.8	1.0	1.6	0.8	4.7	2.5
None of the assets including radio/transistor/cycle	22.6	42.6	37.3	54.0	17.8	34.5

Source : *Census of India 2001 and 2011.*

The lower income and poverty has deeper repercussion in their living conditions. A large percentage of them are living in Kachha houses made up of mud and other low quality materials. Most of them defecate in open places and poor access to potable drinking water. Although the living conditions of Scheduled Castes is improving, yet in most of the States, except a few economically developed states alike Punjab and Haryana, the living conditions in all other States are still to be improved.

Literacy and Education

The literacy and education status of Scheduled Castes is low as compared to other and it is further low in the case of women. Poverty, engagement of children in household activities, cost of education, shyness to intermingle with children of upper castes, unfavourable school environment are a few among many other factors responsible for the low literacy rate among the Scheduled Castes. This low literacy is affecting their employment prospect in government jobs. Therefore, they are mostly found in Group D and *safai karmachari* jobs. This low level of education particularly in technical education like Engineering, Medical, Computer etc., have restricted their opportunities in private and corporate sector. B R Ambedkar once told “coming as I do from the lowest order of the Hindu Society, I know what the value of education is. The problem of raising the lower order is deemed to be economic. This is a great mistake. A The problem of raising the lower order is not to feed them and to make them serve the higher order as is the ancient ideal of this country. The problem of lower order is to remove from them that inferiority complex, which has stunted their growth and made them slaves to others, to create in them the consciousness of the significance of their lives for themselves and for the country, of which they have been cruelly robbed by the existing social order. Nothing can achieve this except the spread of higher education. This in my opinion is the panacea of our social trouble.”

Table 4: Literacy Rate of SC by sex and urban-rural distribution

Year	Rural			Urban			Combined		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
1961	2.52	15.06	8.89	10.04	32.21	21.81	3.29	16.96	10.27
1971	5.06	20.04	12.77	16.09	38.93	28.65	6.44	22.36	14.67
1981	8.45	27.91	18.48	24.34	47.54	36.60	10.93	31.12	21.38
1991	19.45	45.95	33.25	42.29	66.90	55.11	23.76	49.91	37.41
2001	37.84	63.66	51.16	57.49	77.93	68.12	41.90	54.69	34.76
2011	52.60	72.60	62.80	68.60	83.30	76.20	56.50	75.20	66.10
% Increase in 2011 over 2001	39%	14%	23%	19%	7%	12%	35%	38%	90%

Sources: Census of India, Office of Registrar General, India.

Health Status

Health status of Scheduled Castes population is lower as compared to other Caste group of population in India. The impact and maternal mortality among Scheduled Castes is high because of their poor accessibility to qualitative health care services. Many of them particularly living in rural areas are found suffering from asthma and even tuberculosis. Women in general and antenatal and post natal women in particular are suffering from nutritional anaemia and many children are found to be stunted and even wasted. Access to potable drinking water and unhygienic condition has promoted many diseases among them. Because of cost of medicine and lack of purchasing power, many of the diseased persons wait till it cured by itself and in this process it affect many and even find his own graveyard. The National Family Health Survey conducted in 2006 depicts that 72.2 per cent of children are anaemic in Schedule Castes community. The infant mortality is also higher that is 50.7 percent as compared to other Castes group of population.

Table 5: Health Status of Scheduled Castes

S.No.	Indicator	Rate
1	Neo natal mortality	35
2	Infant mortality	50.7
3	Child mortality	15.5
4	Percentage delivered in a health facility	32.9
5	% of children received all basic vaccinations	39.7
6	% of children with anaemia	72.2
7	% of women with anaemia	26.6

Source : National Family Health Survey -3, 2006, IIPS Mumbai

Political Empowerment

The political empowerment of Scheduled Castes will raise their social status in the society. Therefore, B R Ambedkar once said to dalits (Scheduled Castes) that “utilize what little political power is coming into your hands. If you are indifferent and do not try to use it properly, your work will have no end... The sooner you remove the foolish belief that yourwere preordained the better. The thought that your poverty is inevitable and is in born and inseparable is erroneous. Abandon this line of thought of considering yourselves to be slave”. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have reservation in various levels of political institutions. Survey conducted by Tyagi and Sinha(2001) on Panchayati Raj Institutions has following findings:

- i) despite their adequate representation in numerical terms, SCs and STs people have not been able to play an active part in Panchayat;
- ii) SCs and STs people still lack self confidence and because of their low socio economic status, they are more concerned with livelihood activities and do not able to pay attention to increasing their socio political influence through Panchayats; and
- iii) because of lack of education, SCs and STs are not able to assert their views effectively.

Expenditure on Scheduled Castes Development

It is a known fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute the poorest section of Indian Society. A gigantic percentage of them own very little land, have higher percentage of illiterates and suffer more exclusion. The two important schemes i.e. Special Component Plan (SCP) earmarked for the development of Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan earmarked for the development of Scheduled Tribes have not been effectively spread by the government. The figures in Table-5 reveal that the actual expenditure as a percentage of planned expenditure varies from 4.3 percent to 8.1 percent during the year 2004-05 to 2007-08. Thus, it is clear that the stage government have failed to spend money earmarked for Scheduled Castes.

Table 5: Expenditure on Scheduled Castes

Year	Total Planned Expenditure of Central Government excluding assistance to state/UT (in Crores)	Actual Expenditure (in Crores)
2004-05	85,061	3611 (4.3)
2005-06	109,900	6579 (5.9)
2006-07	129,804	8474 (6.5)
2007-08	152,313	12368 (8.1)
2008-09	208,252	14727 (7.0)
2009-2010	243,893	15832 (6.5)

Note – Figures in parenthesis show percentages of total

Source : *Times of India*, Monday, February 22, 2010, P-12

According to Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) a Delhi based think tank, not only the allocation under SCP is below the target, but it has actually declined in the past three year (Table-5).

Check Your Progress 3

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Scheduled Castes are not being adequately empowered despite constitutional provision of reservation in grassroots institutions?

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- 2) Briefly discuss the employment status of Scheduled Castes.

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1.5 LET US SUM UP

Scheduled Castes population constitutes nearly 17 percent of total population in India. The socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes is low as compared to other castes group of population in India. The government of India has initiated several constitutional as well as non-constitutional measures for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes in India. Some of the important development initiatives are Special Component Plan, However, despite these measures; their status has not been sufficiently enhanced.

1.6 REFERENCES AND SELECTED READINGS

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1.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) What do you mean by the Scheduled Castes?

Ans: The Government of India Act defined the term as follows: ‘the “Scheduled Castes” means such castes, races and tribes, corresponding to the classes of persons formerly known as the “depressed classes”, as His Majesty in Council may specify. Moreover, the Indian Independence Act, 1947, defined the term as, “the Scheduled Castes” mean such castes, races or tribes or parts or groups, which appear to the Governor-General to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as the “depressed classes” as the Governor-General may by order specify.

- 2) Give the examples of Scheduled Castes of a few states.

Ans: Different states have declared different castes as Scheduled Castes, according to their state-specific social status and menial jobs. For instance, those doing menial jobs are known as Bhangi in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Delhi; as Rukhi in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; as Balmiki in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana; and as Hadi in Orissa, Goa, Daman and Diu etc. Ten castes account for nearly half the Scheduled Castes population of the country. They include Chamars, Adi Dravida, Pasi, Madiga, Dusadh, Mala, Paraiyan, Dhobi, Adi Karnatak and Mahar.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) What are the measures taken for the educational upliftment of Scheduled Castes in India?

Ans: The government of India has taken various measures for the educational upliftment of Scheduled Castes in India. Those are offering of Pre-Matric & Post Matric Scholarships and distribution of free books and uni-forms to the SC children. The objective of pre-matric scholarship is to provide assistance to the children of those Scheduled Caste families engaged in unclean occupations such as scavenging, tanning etc. While the post-matric scholarship intends to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Castes students to pursue post-matriculation courses in recognized institution within India. Besides, there is free supply of text books, stationary, and uniforms to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

- 2) Name a few constitutional measures taken for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes in India?

Ans: The Constitution of India provides a number of safeguards for the welfare of Scheduled Castes in India. Article 15 of the Constitution advocates that ‘no citizen shall on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition

with regard to: (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, road, places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of general public'. Article 17 of the Constitution declares that 'the practice of untouchability is abolished and its practices in any form are strictly forbidden and punishable by law'. This Article has been further strengthened by the Untouchability Offence Act, 1955, which imposes severe punishment, including imprisonment, on those who practice it.

Check Your Progress 3

- 1) Scheduled Castes are not being adequately empowered despite constitutional provision of reservation in grassroots institutions-Explain.

Ans: Scheduled Castes have reservation in various levels of political institutions at the grassroots levels, such as in village panchayats, Block Samitis and Zill Panchayats. However, their empowerment is not real. Survey conducted by Tyagi and Sinha(2001) on Panchayat Raj Institutions has following findings:

- iv) despite their adequate representation in numerical terms, SCs and STs people have not been able to play an active part in Panchayat;
 - v) SCs and STs people still lack self confidence and because of their low socio economic status, they are more concerned with livelihood activities and do not able to pay attention to increasing their socio political influence through Panchayats; and
 - vi) because of lack of education, SCs and STs are not able to assert their views effectively.
- 2) Briefly discuss the employment status of Scheduled Castes.

Ans: The large percentage of Scheduled Castes population is residing in rural areas and is engaged in agriculture and its related sectors mainly as labourers. Their employment status is not quite good as compared to the General Castes population. As far as the government job is concerned, they are largely concentrated in class three and four jobs. The figure given in the Table clearly shows that only 17.62 per cent of SCs are represented in Central Government Services and out of the total 16.31 and 21.31 per cent are in Group C and Group D job respectively.

UNIT 2 DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

Structure

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Scheduled Tribes- Meaning and Concept
- 2.3 Process of Change Among the Scheduled Tribes
- 2.4 Social Discrimination and Disabilities of Scheduled Tribes
- 2.5 Major Problems of Scheduled Tribes
- 2.6 Government Measures
- 2.7 Development Policies and Programmes
- 2.8 References and Suggested Readings
- 2.9 Check Your Progress - Possible Answers

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Tribes of India are one of the earliest populations in the land. India can proudly be called the largest “tribal” population in the world. Today there are as many as 698 Tribes across the country. The Tribals are considered the “sons of the soil” and make for 8.2% of the total population of India according to 2001 census. This interprets into 84 million people. Tribes in India are derived from four racial stocks: Negrito (Jarwa and Onge in Andamans), Proto-Autroloid (Munda, Oraon, Gonds in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh), Mongoloid (most Tribes in North-East) and Caucasoid (Toda, Rabari, Gujjar). There is another method of division of Tribes. The NEFA and Eastern India belong to the Mongoloid racial stock, Proto-Austroloid in Central India, Mediterranean-Nordic in the West and Central Himalayas and the Austroloid, Negroid and Alpine stock in South India. The largest tribe is the Gond followed by the Bhils, Meena, Santals and Oraons according to 1981 census. The tribes of India lived across states despite a common background of language. The Santals, Oraons, Mundas and others lived in the original region of Jharkhand extending to the states Orissa, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh. The Gond region extended across Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Orissa. The Bhils inhabited a region that stretched from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The Nagas Lived in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

The Tribes of India, also referred as adivasis (original inhabitants), are spread across the central, northeast, and southern regions of India. These various tribes resided in India long before the Aryans had arrived here approximately 1500 BC. They were socially and geographically isolated, following the entry of the Aryans and then subsequently the Muslims and the British. More than 650 tribes that make up the Scheduled Tribes speak multitude of languages. They are also religiously diverse, with some following animism, while others have adopted Hinduism, Islam or Christianity. The social organization and traditions of most of the tribals make them stand out from the country’s mainstream Hindu population also known as “state” or “civilization”.

The Indian Tribes collectively owned property in keeping with their tradition. The British regime introduced a new land tenure system against the traditional custom of the tribals. As a result others infringed into the lands of the tribals. This led to many a land revolt amongst tribals. These tribal revolts may be referred to Malpahariya uprising in 1772, the unrest in Kutch in 1815 and 1832, the Bhil Revolt of 1818, the uprising of the Mers in Rajputana in 1820, the rebellion of Hos in Chotanagpur in 1831, the Kol insurrection of 1832, the uprising of Khonds in Orissa in 1846, the Santal Rrevolt of 1855 and Birsa Munda Rrevolt of 1895. Today the Scheduled Tribes account for 55 % of the total displaced in India.

The study of this Unit should lead the students to know:

- Explain Tribes in general and Scheduled Tribes in particular
- Describe understand the overall conditions of Scheduled Tribes
- Discuss the changes taking place among the Scheduled Tribes
- Explain the Constitutional provisions and other developmental Schemes for them
- Pointout the problems related to development in order to plan better

2.2 SCHEDULED TRIBES- MEANING AND CONCEPT

2.2.1 Meaning of Scheduled Tribes

There is no particular definition of tribe which is universally accepted. Nevertheless, there are some criteria put forward to determine a tribal community. These are endogamous organizations with a simple social structure and a self-contained economy. They are isolated and have minimum contact with other groups. They are governed by their own social norms and largely manage their own affairs. This is an ideal type of a tribal community. But today they are much in contact with other groups hence there is a continuous change. In the reports of some British travelers and later on in census reports that certain communities like these were termed as aborigines. Besides, due to the imposed British administration there were uprisings, and consequently the British recognized that these were a separate ethnic groups from the larger Indian society. And they classified them as aborigines.

According to the Oxford Dictionary “A tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous state of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor”. The Colonial ethnographers have laid much emphasis on the isolation and the common ancestors; therefore, in their minds the tribes had no interaction with the larger population and civilization. The Indian anthropologists also have seen in the same way as separate from the rest of the population. N.D. Majumdar defines tribe as a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous with no specialization of functions ruled by tribal officers hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes. Andre Beteille (1986: 316) sees the tribes as remaining outside of the state and civilization in social organization. According to Ralf Linton tribe is a group of bands occupying a contiguous territory or territories and having a feeling of unity deriving from numerous similarities in a culture, frequent contacts and a certain community of interests.

The word “Tribe” is not known in the Indian society prior to the British anthropologists or the colonial rule. In India there lived heterogeneous communities better known by the more indigenous term “jana” and “jati”. This term jana is derived from Sanskrit and Prakrit meaning to give birth. We also know that there are “communities of people like the Savars, the Kullutas, the Kollas, the Bhillas, the Khasas, the Kinnars, the Gujjars, the Gaddis, the Lepchas, and countless others whom today we know as “Tribes”(Dube ed. 1972:8). At that stage the two communities seemed very much belonging to the same ethnic categories altogether.

There is a difficulty in distinguishing the jana and the tribes in ancient times. But not many would accept equating them on equal parlance. The social organization of the janas was based on egalitarian principle while the jati’s social organization was based on the system of jati. Today we can understand better the distinction between the Tribals and the castes system (Beteille 1986; Roy Burman 1994). The term tribe was used by Colonial administration to describe communities which were heterogeneous in physical and linguistic traits, demographic size, ecological conditions of living, regions inhabited, stages of social formation and levels of acculturation and development (Xaxa, 2008).

Tribes have also been studied in relation to peasant society. The two have different types of societies. In Anthropological literature tribes have been defined as communities that are more or less homogeneous, having a common government, a common dialect, and a common culture. Tribes have characteristic of segmentary social system. The Tribal society is small in scale and is restricted in spatial and temporal ranges of their social, legal and political relations and possess a morality, religion and world view of a corresponding order. In short, tribal societies are self-contained units whereas the peasant society is a part society and not a whole society. The tribes do not suffer from any caste-like social stigma. They have remained beyond the pale of caste society except for those who have interacted closely with peasant castes in a few regions.

The so-called tribals of India are the indigenous people of the land, in the sense that they have been long settlers in different parts of the country before the Aryan-speaking people penetrated into India passing through Kabul and Indus Valley. Since then tribal communities have spread all over India including Bangladesh, erstwhile East Bengal. There are four fold categories of tribals according to economic type as given by D.N. Majumdar and T.N. Madan. The first are the food gatherers, mainly depending on the forests. The second are the tribes having an economy between food gathering and primitive agriculture. The third are the tribes of North-East and Middle India that mainly depend on some form of agriculture with forest produce as a secondary support. The fourth are those working in industries. Especially the Bihar, Bengal and Assam (Mehta, 1991). They are found ethnically and culturally distinct from the non-tribal neighbours. This is the reason why their demand for special treatment as socio-culturally distinct group is valid and has to be looked sympathetically.

In general, the following are the characteristic features of a tribe:

- Tribe should be a primitive and isolated community
- Generally backward, illiterate, rustic and outside of state civilization
- Primitive method of exploiting natural resources

- Territorial unity and a separate common language
- Descendants from a common ancestor
- Having its own belief system like animism, morality, governance
- Cultural unity and governed by customary law

2.2.2 Concept of Scheduled Tribes

While the term “Tribe” is an Anthropological concept the term “Scheduled Tribes” is administrative and political. The tribal populations visible in various Indian states and Union Territories were grouped together as “Scheduled Tribes” under the Constitution of India. Therefore, the word Scheduled Tribes is an administrative coinage, used for purposes of dispensing constitutional privileges, security and benefits in independent India. However, not all the tribes were included in it. In all 698 scheduled tribes with their sub groups exist in India as per census 2001.

The primary criteria adopted for delimiting Indian backward communities as “Scheduled Tribes” include:

- Traditional livelihood of a definite geographical area
- Characteristic culture that includes a whole gamut of tribal modes of life, i.e. language, customs, traditions, religious beliefs, arts and crafts, etc.
- Archaic traits portraying occupational pattern, economy, etc.
- Lack of educational and economic development.

The first prerequisite of Indian Scheduled Tribes in relation to a particular State or Union Territory is through a notified order of the President of India, after consultation with the concerned State Government. These orders can be modified consequently only through an Act of Parliament. According to Article 342 of the Constitution of India, the President, after consulting with the State Government concerned, has promulgated nine orders so far. This promulgation has distinctly specified the Scheduled Tribes in relation to the concerned State and Union Territories.

The Scheduled Tribes live mostly in well defined but isolated hilly areas, which are often inaccessible and relatively underdeveloped and poorly integrated with the rest of the nation. They have been denied the basic human rights and dignities and subjected to social injustices and disabilities and economic exploitation for centuries. The British policy of total neglect and isolation led to their exploitation by zamindars, landlords, traders, contractors, money lenders and various other agencies and consequently they had to remain at their mercies. Their land and forests were gradually grabbed by the rich people like this class of outsiders. They were turned into bonded laborers leading a life of poverty and misery exposed to all kinds of exploitations. Thus independent India inherited from the Colonial system complex problems of Scheduled Tribes.

Keeping in view the gross social injustice, discrimination and social disabilities suffered by the Scheduled Tribes and the inhuman suppression and economic exploitations to which they have been subjected to over centuries, the founding Fathers of the Indian Constitution incorporated special provisions in the Constitution with the object of promoting and safeguarding the social, educational

and economic interests of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes. One of the main concerns of the founding fathers of the Constitution was to create an egalitarian society wherein 'justice, social, economic and political' prevail and equality of status and of opportunity' are made available to all. There are number of articles adopted by our Constituent Assembly to ameliorate their conditions and lift them to a position of equality with others. All these provisions have been designed to narrow down the various disparities' existing between the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes and the rest of the population.

The concentration of tribal inhabitation varies from state to state. In view of their development as a policy some areas are declared as "Scheduled Areas". Such a set up was designed for socio-economic betterment of the tribals. The criteria for declaring any territory as "Scheduled" adopted by the sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly included three points: 1. preponderance of tribal population; 2. the stage of advancement and degree of assimilation; 3. to a slightly lesser extent the susceptibility of these areas to special administrative treatment. The Table-1 depicts the total ST population and the proportion of ST population to total population in India.

Table 1: Trends in Proportion of Scheduled Tribe Population

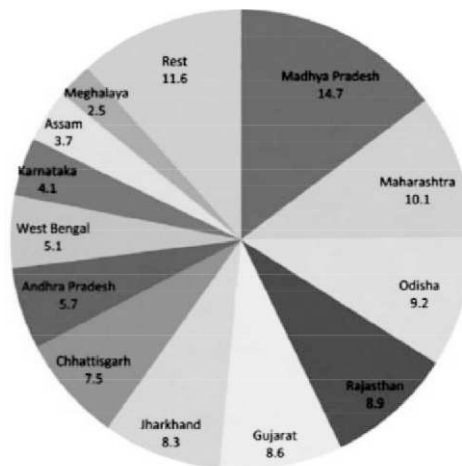
Census Year	Total population (in millions)	Scheduled Tribes Population (in millions)	Proportion of STs population
1961	439.2	30.1	6.9
1971	547.9	38.0	6.9
1981 [#]	665.3	51.6	7.8
1991 [@]	838.6	67.8	8.1
2001 ^{\$}	1028.6	84.3	8.2
2011	1210.8	104.3	8.6

Excludes Assam in 1981 @ Excludes Jammu & Kashmir in 1991 \$ The figures exclude Mao-Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur, census 2001,

Source: <http://tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/Statistics/StatisticalProfileofSTs2013.pdf>

Figure-1 depicts that the highest percentage of ST population is in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

G1.2: Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population by States - 2011 (in %)



Source: <http://tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/Statistics/StatisticalProfileofSTs2013.pdf>

2.3 PROCESS OF CHANGE AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES

The Scheduled Tribes of India have shown a great volatility in their life style change over the years in the present scenario. Closer interaction with the larger society and other cultures made way for their constant adaptation to the new and more modern cultures. Some tribes in this process are much more advanced than the others, and there are others also who are resilience to the onslaught of the larger culture and remained very much static. However, the number of those who opened up to the new changing situations is far bigger. There are factors that effected rapid changes in the tribal society.

2.3.1 Education

Impact of development processes, particularly, education has brought about a sea change in tribal society of India. According to 2011 Census, the literacy rate among the STs is 58.96 percent, while the all India average is 72.99 percent .The trend shows that except the 1981 and 1991 census, in all other Census, the percentage of gap between the general literacy and literacy rate of STs has declined.

**Table 2: Comparative Literacy Rates of STs and Total Population
(in per cent)**

Category/Census Year	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Total Population	28.3	34.45	43.57	52.21	64.84	72.99
Scheduled Tribes	8.53	11.30	16.35	29.60	47.10	58.96
Gap	19.77	18.15	19.88	22.61	18.28	14.03

Source: <http://tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/Statistics/StatisticalProfileofSTs2013.pdf>

Modernization and development of tribals mainly depend on the factor of education that comes as linkage to the integration process of the tribals with the mainstreams society of the country. Originally the tribals by definition given in the foregoing pages are generally isolated untouched by the civilization in terms of their organization and governance. Looking at the table given above there is a marked progressive increase in the rate of literacy among tribal society. As a result of this process a large number of tribals now are integrated into the mainstream to a great extent and find the modern cities their home. It is generally accepted that education is the basic input for any sustainable development, particularly, in the context of socio-economic development. It can be said with great veracity that an illiterate nation is a poor nation. It is in this background that there have been continuing national efforts at the promotion of education among the Scheduled Tribes in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

The spread of education is vital and a prime requisite for socio-economic development for the lower sections of people, especially, the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. In the traditional society the tribal people had a well organized system of education through the home training and youth dormitories where they learnt various activities and art of tribal life. With the advent of Christian missionaries in many parts of the tribal regions modern schools were opened in tribal areas giving them greater impetus and opportunities for education.

Christian missionaries played a very important part in the spread of education all over India, but more specifically in the tribal areas of the Central States like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and the entire north-east region. It was Christian missionaries who tried to improve the socio-economic conditions of tribals through imparting primary and higher education. The role of education in the development of Scheduled Tribes in various regions was immense that also brought about a silent revolution in their life and society. The impact of development processes, particularly, education, has created a new stratum of entrepreneurs/businessmen, teachers, administrators, engineers, doctors and defence services. There has also been a rise of political leadership at the village panchayat, regional and national levels. There is a marked absence of discrimination on gender basis among tribals in matters education. It spurred the expected social mobility among the tribals in the post-independence period. There are high ranking IAS, IPS, IFS officers and many employed in the government services.

There is an increase of awareness among the tribals regarding health and sanitation. They avail health and medical facilities. More than 85% tribals showed their positive attitudes towards these facilities, though a good number are critical of the service availed to them in rural areas. In the north-east many tribals face the health hazards because there are not enough facilities for safe potable water and health care in the hilly regions.

Education helped social mobility among the tribals and improved their life very much. However, there is also a fallout of modern education in that it led to social stratification in their tribal society organized on egalitarian principle. The better off tribals benefited from the modern education and rose very high in the society. But they did not care for their own less fortunate brethren who therefore looked upon the educated 'babus' with distaste and distrust. It also evokes a negative attitude towards education.

Health: Health is an important indicator of development. The health status of ST population is lower as compared to the general population those who are living in the plain. A large majority of them are devoid of the modern health care facilities. The Table-3 shows that infant mortality among the STs is 62. The percentage of institutional delivery is very low is only a meagre 18 percent.

S3.1: Key health indicators as per NFHS-3 (2005-06)

	SC	ST	Total
Infant Mortality	66.4	62.1	57.0
Neo-natal Mortality	46.3	39.9	39.0
Pre- natal Mortality	55.0	40.6	48.5
Child Mortality	23.2	35.8	18.4
Under five Mortality	88.1	95.7	74.3
ANC Checkup	74.2	70.5	77.1
Percentage Institutional Deliveries	32.9	17.7	38.7
Childhood vaccination (full immunization)	39.7	31.3	43.5

Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2005-06

2.3.2 Occupations

Traditionally the primitive tribes engaged themselves in hunting, gathering and fishing for their livelihood. They were mostly hills and forests dwellers. At a later stage some of the tribes like the Oraons and Mundas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh settled down in villages and started agriculture and other cultivation. Just as the tribal people are spread all over the states and the Union territories they inhabit all climatic zones in the country. About 52 per cent live in areas of moderate climate and 34 per cent in areas of warm and temperate climate. They also live in extreme warm climate. About 63 per cent of the tribals live in hilly terrains nearly 2 per cent are living in desert or semi-arid zones and 2 per cent are found in the islands. Occupations are related to their ecology and environment. It means that they have to produce grains from land and hunt and gather from forests and hills while fish from rivers, streams and lakes.

The main crops of tribals are rice, pulses, millets and other coarse grains grown in the hilly terrains and rocky grounds. More than 90 per cent tribals eat rice and millet forms the staple food for many tribals. Wheat is introduced recently. Now they have taken to growing vegetables. Those engaged in agriculture are plain dwellers and are influenced by modern agriculture. There is a variety of cropping like wheat, oilseeds, cash crops and marketable vegetables. The Tribals have also taken to business but mostly as small entrepreneurs.

They also took to modern education which led to diversification of occupation into non-agricultural sectors. Thus educated tribals are moving up higher in the ladder of social strata. It would be worth defining occupation at this juncture because the tribals have their own means of livelihood mainly agriculture as subsistence economy.

Today the tribals are found in almost all the occupations both white-collar jobs and blue-collar jobs. Under professional jobs there are tribal doctors, lawyers, engineers, university teachers, school teachers of various grades, nurses, skilled technical workers etc. The tribals are also found in central and state government offices, executives and managerial offices. The highest number of course is found in the clerical grades of different levels. Semi-skilled, skilled and non-skilled workers come in the blue-collar workers where tribals are the majority. It is revealed from the Table-5 that the percentage of marginal worker are very high among the STs, it has increased during 2011 Census.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Workers by sex

	STs		All		Gap	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Total Workers						
Male	53.2	55.6	51.7	68.9	1.5	-13.3
Female	44.8	44.4	25.6	31.1	19.2	13.3
Main Workers						
Male	43.5	63.9	45.1	75.4	-1.6	-11.5
Female	23.9	36.1	14.7	24.6	9.2	11.5
Marginal Workers						
Male	9.7	40.2	6.6	49.2	3.1	-9.0
Female	20.9	59.8	11	50.1	9.9	9.7

Source: RGI, Census of India 2001, 2011

Access to Basic Amenities

ST population access to basic amenities is astoundingly low. Only 22 percent of ST households have sanitary toilets in their houses. IN the case of 46 percent of households, kerosene is the main source of lighting. The household amenities of ST households are given in Table-5&6.

Table 5: Basic Amenities in India- A comparison of All Social groups and STs (Census 2011)(figures in percentage)

S.No	Indicators	All Social Groups	ST
1	Housing Condition		
	Total houses	246,692,667	23,329,105
	Good houses	53.1	40.6
	Livable Houses	41.54	53.13
	Dilapidated Houses	5.35	6.25
2	Drinking Water		
A	Households by location of the main source of drinking water		
	Within the premises	46.6	19.7
	a. Tap water from treated source	68.37	53.67
	b. Tap water from un-treated source	42.9	28.7
	Near the premises	35.8	46.7
	Away	17.6	33.6
B	Households by type of source of drinking water		
	Perceived full intervention (treated tap water, hand pump etc.)	65.46	53.82
	Perceived partial intervention (untreated tap water, covered well, Tube-well/ Borehole etc.)	21.62	19.58
	Perceived non intervention (Un-covered well, Spring, River/ Canal, Tank/ Pond/ Lake, Other sources etc.)	12.92	26.6
3	Sanitation		
A	Availability of latrine		
	Households having latrine facility within the premises	46.9	22.6
	Households not having latrine facility within the premises	53.1	77.4
	Night soil removed by human	0.3	0.1
	Open defecation	49.8	74.7
B	Availability of bathing facility within premises	42	17.3

**Table 6: Basic Amenities in India- A comparison of All Social groups and STs
(Census 2011)(figures in percentage)**

S.No	Indicators	All Social Groups	ST
C	Waste water outlet connected to (Closed drainage)	18.1	6.1
4	Availability of Kitchen & Type of Fuel Used by Households for Cooking		
A	% HH having separate kitchen inside	61.3	53.7
B	Households Cooking inside house and the type of fuel used		
	Use of Smoke emanating fuel for Cooking: Fire-wood/ Crop residue/ Cowdung cake/ Coal, Lighite, Charcoal	63.99	87.5
	Use of non- Smoke emanating fuel for Cooking : Kerosene/ LPG/ PNG/ Electricity/ No cooking	35.58	12
C	Households Cooking outside house and the type of fuel used		
	Use of Smoke emanating fuel for Cooking : Fire-wood/ Crop residue/ Cowdung cake/Coal, Lighite, Charcoal	91.9	95.62
	Use of non- Smoke emanating fuel for Cooking : Kerosene/ LPG/ PNG/ Electricity/ No cooking	7.21	3.34
5.	Lighting		
	Electricity as main source of lighting	67.2	51.7
	Kerosene as main source of lighting	31.4	45.6
	Solar energy as main source of lighting	0.4	1.1
	Others	0.9	1.6
6.	Financial Inclusion		
	Households availing Banking services (%)	58.7	44.98
7.	Communication facilities		
	Mobile Phone connectivity	53.2	31.1
	Both (land line and mobile)	6.0	1.8
8..	Possession of some Important Durable Assets		
	Television	47.2	21.9
	Bicycle	44.8	36.4
	Computer / Laptop	6.3	4.4
	Two wheeler	21.0	9
	Four wheeler	4.7	1.6
	Households with TV, Computer/ Telephone/mobile phone & Scooter/ Car	4.6	1.3
	Not having any of the above items any	17.8	37.3

Note * fuel wood consists of fire wood/crop residue/cowdung cake/coal, lignite, charcoal Source: Census 2011

Access to Land and Local Resources

It has been noted earlier that one of the elements or criteria to determine a group as tribe is territory that is synonymous with their cultural identity. This territory of an exogamous, isolated, self contained, simple organized, having own cultural and social traditional society, was ruled by a tribal Chief. This was a feature before the coming of the British when substantial areas were ruled exclusively by such tribal chiefs. In most of the north-east regions the tribal chief was the supreme, having command over village or groups of villages. There were large Tribal States like those of the Gonds in Nagpur and Garh Mandla. Munda Chiefs were supreme in their territory, effectively protecting it from outside influence. There were areas under Bhil leaders as in Jhabua. Some of the tribal areas were under Kshatriya rulers, particularly in central India and Rajasthan. The largest being the Bastar state. Many of the zamindars, however, were tribals under these rulers. This is the pristine concept and image of the self-rule of tribals before the British and the independence.

Since they were the rules of their areas the entire territory with all the resources on the surface of the land and below belonged to them. Hence the tribals were land owners from the very beginning who owned all resources and managed them. The Mughals did not interfere into their ownership or social organization and life style so long as they paid the *malgujari* (land revenue) to the Mughal Emperor. That is why the introduction of the *zamindars* and rajas by the British for their revenue was totally alien to the tribal system of self-rule and communal ownership of land and forest. Even the old rulers- tribals and others- began to adopt new methods of administration through their *zamindars* and their agents. The successive, almost continuous uprisings of the tribal communities living in these regions against the imposition of new administration drew attention to the special problems. The British slowly realized the difference between the larger Indian masses and the inhabitants of forests and hills. Consequently certain communities, for the first time, were recognized as separate ethnic groups and classified as aborigines. The areas predominantly inhabited by the aborigines were directly under the British administration and excluded fully or partially from the normal administration. Areas were, later on, called “scheduled areas” and the tribes included in the Schedules to the Presidential order of 1950 were called “Scheduled Tribes”.

There was no question of access to the land by tribes; rather they had inherently possessed the land and forest of the territorial entity where they lived. It is their birth right over the land and forest and all the natural resources of their territory.

2.4 SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AND DISABILITIES OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

2.4.1 Outside the Hindu Caste System

In the foregoing pages we have stated that there was a difficulty in distinguishing the jana and the tribes in ancient times. However, not many would accept equating them on equal parlance. The social organization of the janas was based on “egalitarian” principle while the jati’s social organization was based on the system of “jati”. The term jati even today implies caste hierarchy which is absent in the tribal society. The tribal society therefore falls outside the pale of caste system

and does not suffer from caste discrimination or untouchability. However, serious social disabilities are created in the name of tribals who are described as poor, illiterate, backward and uncivilized. Further, many tribes are still living in the hills and forests who are still isolated from the main stream of society. According to the 2001 Census the tribals were reckoned 8.2 per cent of the total Indian population which is a minority group. They do not come into the main stream society though a big chunk has integrated into it due to increased interaction with the main stream culture.

2.4.2 Poverty

The main occupation of the tribals is agriculture and some of them still depend on hunting and gathering and some on nomadic zoom agriculture which is also known as “slash and burn” cultivation. Their agriculture is very much primitive and traditional depending mainly on monsoon. In kharif season about 47% land are under irrigation and only 2% in the rabi season (1991 Census). Nearly 90 per cent of the tribals live in villages, some in forests and hills. In 2004-2005 there were 47 per cent tribals below poverty line in the rural area and 33 per cent in the urban area compared to 16 per cent for others in both the areas (Planning Commission). One can see the vast difference in poverty between the two social groups. Recently the migration of tribals due to displacement has increased by leaps and bounds.

2.4.3 Illiteracy

The literacy rate of tribals at the national level was 47.10 per cent as per 2001 Census, of which 59 per cent was male and 37 per cent was female. The literacy rate for the general population was 65 per cent. The literacy rate among the tribals comparatively is very low. We have discussed earlier that due to poverty the tribals cannot take to education and much less to the higher level particularly, among the rural tribal population. There is little awareness about the value of education among the tribals and to add to it there are no sufficient number of schools in the remote villages. The present status of the literacy rate goes higher much due to the pioneering efforts of the Christian missionaries who opened schools even in the remotest areas to impart education to tribals and backwards classes. Now there are various projects, like National Literacy Mission programmes, Non-formal Education, Adult Literacy, sarva shiksha abhiyan and private schools that have boosted up the literacy rate.

2.4.4 Backwardness

Both the factors given above, namely, poverty and illiteracy sum up to give the rationale for the relative backwardness of the tribals in general. The habitat of the tribals is also partly responsible for their isolation, and minimum interaction with the rest of the society.

Check Your Progress 3

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What are the two principal points that distinguish a tribe from a caste?

- 2) Identify at least three factors that have brought about changes in the socio economic conditions of the tribals.

- 3) What are the three main points of the social discrimination of Tribals?

2.5 MAJOR PROBLEMS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

2.5.1 Land Alienation

The Scheduled Tribe people are basically land holders. The holding pattern and the amount may vary from place to place but they are agricultural based communities. Land, forests and water sources are the bedrock of their livelihood. Tribal communities traded with outsiders for few necessities like salt and iron. The twentieth century, however, has seen far-reaching changes in the relationship between tribals in India and the larger society and by extension, traditional tribal economies, improved transportation and communications have brought ever deeper intrusion into tribal land. Merchants and variety of government policies have involved tribals into cash economy. Large areas fell into the hands of the non-tribals round 1900, when many regions were opened by the government to homestead-style settlement. Immigrants received free land in return for cultivating it. The notion of land ownership was at most communitarian for the tribals. By the time tribals accepted the need of obtaining land titles they had lost the opportunity. The colonial regime realized the necessity of protecting tribals of India from the predations of outsiders and prohibited the sale of tribal lands. Yet there were some loopholes like grant of lease form. Little land was left for the tribals. In the post independence era tribal land has been rapidly taken away by industries, mines, big dams, sanctuaries, reserve forests etc, driving the tribals into utter poverty and misery. Out of the 40 million people displaced since

independence across India 40% are tribals. This shows the magnitude of the development-induced displacement. Land alienation is the major problem of the tribals today. The causes of land alienation are hydroelectricity and irrigation, mega dams, power plants, mines, industries, military installations, weaponry testing, railways, roads, reserves, sanctuaries etc.

2.5.2 Losing Rights Over Community Forests

For a large number of tribal people, forest is home, a livelihood, yes the very existence. Forest is one of the mainstays of tribal economy. It gives them food – fruits of all kinds- edible oils, honey, nourishment roots, herbs, wild game and fish. Minor forest produce gives them supplementary income to their meager produce. From time immemorial tribal people have enjoyed freedom to use the forest and hunt animals and this has given them a conviction that remains even today deep in their hearts that the forests belong to them. Traditionally local communities exercised their rights over the forests because it was the source of livelihood, house construction and agricultural implements. The forests provide fuel, food, fodder, fibre and timber for housing, ploughing and other materials. While the community utilized the forest produce it was in the nature of the tribals to conserve the forests for their sustainable economy and livelihood. The tribals had free hand in exploiting the forest resources, and they also regulated it continuously, like restrictions in cutting certain kinds of trees. But it did not pose any problem as the population was small and the forest vast. After the British came into the scene they realized the value of timber and started controlling its use especially after 1855-56.

2.5.3 Forests Acts

- a) Forest Acting Director 1865 – This covered the management and preservation of Forests. Any land covered with trees was declared as forest and hence controlled by the government.
- b) Forest Act 1878 – Forests were classified under
 - i) Reserved forests
 - ii) Protected forests
 - iii) Village forests
- c) Forests Policy 1894 – Provided that the State Forest to be used for public benefit and valuable timbers to be declared as commercial.
- d) Forest Act 1927 – It was related to the question of duty on timber, therefore commercial approach to the use of forests.
- e) Forest Act 1935 – The subject of forest was included in the provincial list under this act empowering the province for forest management.
- i) Post Independence:**
 - a) National Forest Policy 1952 - Declared that the forests should be used strictly for the national interests. “The accident of village being situated close to a forest does not prejudice the right of the country as a whole to receive the benefits of a National Asset” (Paty Kr Ed 2007). Logic was that the rural people have not contributed much towards the maintenance and regeneration of the forests (National Commission on Agriculture – 1976:25). This act does not consider the needs of the adivasis/ tribals for the use of even the

minor forest products. A study team of the Tribal Development Programme of the Planning Commission presented a report that asserted, “that the tribals have special claim over the forest and forest produces, they have the rights to collect fuel, food, fodder and minor produces”

- b) The Forest Policy 1988 with amendment – The Act stressed on the forest conservation but did not blame the people statement as in earlier documents. But it did not analyse the causes of destruction and solution.
- c) The Conservation of Forests and Natural Eco-system Act 1995 - It was proposed as a New Forest Bill to replace the Forest Act 1927. This bill was not covering the people’s right over forest for livelihood. But this bill stressed the need of people to manage and conserve forests. Forests are national assets to be protected and enhanced for the well-being of the people and the nations. Management was decentralized by the 73rd-74th Amendment of the Constitution implying people’s participation.

2.5.4 Traditional Agriculture

By and large the tribals take to primitive technology for agriculture even to this day. It depends on the mercy of monsoon entirely which of late is coming more and more unpredicted and erratic due to climatic change. The animal power, monsoon rain, mono cropping, meager land holding, less fertile soil, land erosion, depletion of forests are some of the main characteristic features of tribal agriculture. The annual per acre yield remains to be low. There is a high level dependency population on the agriculture and the labour surplus is the added reason for poor agriculture. For most of the tribal households the produce of the land is hardly sufficient for six months, so for the remaining months they have to depend on daily wages either locally available or outside. There is also undue pressure on agriculture land because of the large population to be fed. The modern technology has not touched primitive agriculture extensively and high yielding varieties are limited in use. Cultivation remains the main occupation of the tribals but with so many constrains.

2.5.5 Unemployment

The *kharif* crop cultivation activities keeps the tribal farmers busy for about six months and for the remaining six months they are largely idle and unemployed. The *rabi* crop is taken up only by about 2 per cent of the tribals because of the lack of irrigation facilities. These are the non-productive days when the tribals are unemployed. In the rural sectors there are government schemes now to give them employment but insufficient. Some of the schemes under rural employment programmes are: National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Food for Work Scheme, and now the latest is National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). The last one gives a guarantee of 100 days work by Act of the parliament. Most of the unemployed tribals and other poor people are the beneficiaries. The youth have a very high rate of unemployment because there is also high degree of school dropouts. The result is that they are migrating to the urban areas in search of job and livelihood.

2.5.6 Development Displacement

Development projects of the country are mostly located in the tribal belts. Industries, mines, mega dams, reserves are maximum located in the tribal

dominated habitat. The tribals are being pushed out of their home soil by force. Since independence the number of development-induced displaced people in the country was about 40 million of which 40 per cent were tribals. This number has increased to 50-55% by all estimates till 2008. This is a fact that the stream of displacement continues.

2.5.7 Migration

Migration by definition is the movement of population from one place to another in search of livelihood or other necessities of life not available in the place of birth. Such movement could be from less developed villages or cities to more developed villages and cities. It could also be from a traditional agricultural occupational area to modern industrial occupational areas. The desire is to gain basic necessities and amenities of life for a higher standard of life. Such a motive to movement is called the “push” factor and the availability of goods and services in another place is called the “pull” factor. The push and pull factors can be both economic and non-economic. Need of higher income in the industrial sector could be the pull economic factor whereas the aspiration of modern amenities like films and TV and running water for household use could be the non-economic factor. More concretely economic factors are poverty, search for livelihood, better employment opportunities etc. Lack of proper education, social discrimination, open war, media influence, and desire to be away from social control are some of the social and non-economic factors of migration. In this sense it is different from the displacement which is by compulsion rather than voluntary. The tribals in general have moved to towns and cities mainly in search of jobs and better opportunities.

The main cause of their move is poverty and poverty is caused mainly by the unviable agricultural yield in the traditional villages. The government has not given enough attention to modernize agriculture or provide irrigation facilities. The available job opportunities are found only in towns and cities and industries. So because of this economic development policy of the government the people migrate to towns and cities. The consequences are:

- loss of tribal population in the state/districts of birth
- tribals are becoming minority in their own homelands
- transfer/alienation of tribal lands
- identity of tribals in danger
- increasing slums in cities and poverty as well

2.5.8 Problem of Maoist Extremism

This is very pernicious fallout of the poverty and exploitations of the tribal society particularly in the central regions of India. The Maoist organization found fertile ground to take roots and flourish in the poverty stricken regions of central regions in India. They made their inroads in Bengal and Andhra Pradesh central Bihar. Today they have got firm footing in all most all the tribal belts of India. Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh are rigged with the menace of the Maoist terrorism. They induce the young unemployed from the tribal belts and recruit them to their regiment on a paltry sum of money, uniform and a gun. The developments of these regions have been sabotaged by the Maoists. These extremists groups are nearly running a parallel

government in the rural areas. The efforts of the government to squash these groups have been very unsuccessful.

2.6 GOVERNMENT MEASURES

2.6.1 Constitutional Provisions

The policy of “isolation” of tribals adopted by the British exposed them to exploitation, extortion, enslavement and treatment like animals in the colonial period. The new class of people like the zamindars, money lenders, contractors, traders, middle men grabbed their land and reduced them to utter poverty. Thousands and thousands of tribals migrated to the tea gardens of Assam and Bengal and the land of Andamans as labourers. In fact this was the most pitiful conditions of the tribals only a few took notice of and showed their concern. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of them as the first Prime Minister of India. The founding fathers of the Indian constitutions took pity on the gross social injustice, discrimination and social disabilities suffered by the Scheduled Tribes and the inhuman suppression and economic exploitations to which they had been subjected to over centuries. They incorporated special provisions in the Constitution with the object of promoting and safeguarding the social, educational and economic interests of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes. One of the main concerns of the founding fathers of the Constitution was to create an egalitarian society wherein justice, social, economic and political prevail and equality of status and of opportunity’ are made available to all. There are number of articles adopted by our Constituent Assembly to ameliorate their conditions and lift them to a position of equality with others. All these provisions have been designed to narrow down the various disparities existing between the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes and the rest of the population.

Constitutional Provisions: After Independence and adoption of the constitution of free India, various constitutional provisions were made for the welfare and development of tribals In pursuance of the Directive Principles, (as Article 46) state, ‘promotion of education and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections”, special articles have been provided. These constitutional provisions may be divided into five classes:

- 1) Social provisions = Abolition of untouchability of any form (Art. 17), Prohibition of child labor under 14 in mines and industries (Art. 24), freedom to practice and maintain any religion (Art 25 – 2B)
- 2) Economic provisions = Assistance of states to implement the provisions of constitution (Art. 275), executive power given to draw up schemes for Tribal development (Art. 339), safeguarding tribal interest in property (Art. 19 – 5)
- 3) Educational and Cultural provisions = promotion of social, economic and educational interests and reservation of seats in educational institutions (Art 15-4), cultural protection of tribal communities (Art 29-1), promotion of educational interest of tribals (Art.46)
- 4) Political provisions = reservations in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha (Art 330, 332, 334), appointment of a commission (Art 339-1), Minister in charge of Tribal Welfare in Bihar, Orissa MP (Art. 164), special provisions for Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh (371- A-F)

- 5) Services provisions = Reservations in posts and services (Art. 16 – 4) Limits of reservations (Art. 335). The main aims of the constitutional provision are protection and development.

2.6.2 Reservations

Reservation in the Indian law is a form of affirmative action. By this measure certain percentage of seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in public sector units, union and state civil services, union and state government departments and in all public and private educational institutions. It is meant for socially backward classes who are inadequately represented in these services and institutions. Reservation is a concept not unique to India only; it also exists in other nations like the USA where certain percentage of jobs are served for African Americans or other “disadvantaged” groups. Scheduled Tribes in India are under represented in the country’s social structure because they have been historically oppressed and discriminated. Reservation was an attempt to abolish some social evils like untouchability and reduce social differences giving the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes equal opportunities to better their lives and integrate themselves into the country’s social fabric. To this effect the following are the provisions:

- 15% Seats Reserved In The Government Aided Educational Institutions
- 7.5% Jobs In The Government/Public Sectors As Reserved Quota
- 27% Of Higher Education Quota By Central Government
- State Governments May Legislate Further Reservations
- By Supreme Court Ruling Reservations Cannot Exceed 50%
- Provision For Review Of Reservation After Five Years
- Reserved Constituencies In Scheduled Areas
- Provision Of Political Reservation Only For Ten Years Initially

Problems: The provisions of reservations given in the constitution for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes did not have an easy sailing. In the course of time it became a thorny problem and it is more vehemently opposed today, particularly, regarding admission in the higher educations. There are oppositions from the larger society as regards the period of application of this provision and the standard criteria for selection. The Normal period prescribed is five years but this period is not sufficient to bring up the target groups to the level of the general population. Besides, there are so many other factors that come as hindrance to the fulfillment of the desired target.

There have been periodical reviews and each time due to above mentioned considerations the period of reservations is extended by various amendments in the parliament. Reservation for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha is supposed to expire in January 2010 as of now. Only the time will tell about its fate. It is to be noted that political reservations in the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha are not as stiff as it is in the educational and professional institutions, like the schools and colleges, IIT/JEE, IIM, Medical and Engineering Colleges. Some points of arguments are brought out here.

The bone of contention is merit by competition in such institutions rather than by reservations on the ground of backwardness and surnames, which may likely

give admission to candidates of lower quality. The qualifying cut points in competitive examinations are much lower for the reserved candidates than those of the general category. It implies therefore, that the general candidates have to work twice harder than the reserved candidates. Economic conditions should also be taken into consideration, according to some critics, as criterion for selection of reservation at least for some economically well-off groups. Lot of grounds is created for biases and prejudices that come as social discrimination against these backward class people.

2.6.3 Fifth Schedule and Tribal Areas

As per the Article 244 (1) provisions are given as to the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes. There are four parts in this provision:

- a) **General:** Under this Schedule the expression “State” does not include the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the executive power of State extends to the Scheduled areas therein. The governor of the State will make a report for the President annually or whenever required. The president will give direction to the governor for the administration of the Scheduled areas.
- b) **Administration and Control:** There would be an Advisory Council set up of not more than 20 members of whom three-fourth shall be the representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State. The Council will advise on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes. The governor monitors the application of any Act of the Parliament or the Legislature in the Scheduled areas. He also is in charge of protecting the tribal land from transfer or alienation of tribal lands into non-tribal hands.
- c) **Scheduled Areas:** In this Constitution the Scheduled Areas mean such areas as the President may by order declare to be the Scheduled Areas. He may by any order direct any part wholly or partially to cease to be Schedule area, increase its area or alter by way of rectification of boundaries of any scheduled Area.
- d) **Amendment of the Schedule:** Amendment of the Schedule can be done from time to time by the Parliament by way of addition, variation or repeal any of the provisions of this Schedule and, when the Schedule is so amended any reference to this Schedule in this constitution shall be construed as reference to such Schedule as so amended.

The President declared certain areas in the central belt of Madhya Pradesh (Chhattisgarh), Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar (Jharkhand), Orissa, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh as Scheduled areas. The characteristic features are that the Governor has special legislative power, as to report to the President and take the advice of the Tribal Advisory Council, however, not bound by it. The Governor has the power to suspend any Act of the Parliament that may not be conducive to the welfare of the Tribals.

2.6.4 Sixth Schedule and Tribal Areas

As per Article 244 (2) and 257 (1) provisions are given as to the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Scheduled characterizes the autonomy of the districts and the regions. Accordingly these tribal areas are governed by the provisions of the sixth schedule. There are nine districts falling under these States: The North Cachar Hills District; The Karbi Anlong District; Khasi Hills District; Jaintia Hills District; The Garo Hills District; Tripura Tribal Area District; The Chakma District; The Mara District and the Lai District. The main features of this sixth Schedule are:

- Their full authority in respect of matters falling within their jurisdictions
- Self management/governance through autonomous districts; district Councils are elected bodies with corporate status and have power
- To make laws for management of forests, allotment of land and its use
- To make laws on marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession of property
- To regulate money lending
- To constitute village councils or courts to try cases among the tribals
- Has a fund and can establish schools, dispensaries, markets, roads, waterways etc.
- The governor enjoys unique position in autonomous districts. In several respects his position may be equated to that of the President's in relation to the State.
- Governor may appoint a Commission of enquiry and might dissolve a district council on its recommendation or suspend any act or resolution of the district council.
- The writ of the parliament or the state legislature does not run automatically unless the Acts in whole or part are notified by Governor for tribal areas.

Administrative setup is also a factor for unsatisfactory performance of Tribal Development programmes. Planning Commission observed that multiplicity of agencies has resulted into diffusion of responsibilities, lack of coordination and difficulty in identifying the concerned officials. Nevertheless, the considerable socio-economic development improvement cannot be denied despite mismatch between input and outputs.

Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

- b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Write down the three main features of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provided in the Constitution.

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2) What are the three main features of the Fifth Schedule?

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3) In what four different ways has the Sixth Schedule helped the North-East Tribals?

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2.7 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

2.7.1 Tribal Development Programmes

Way back in 1958 Jawaharlal Nehru had rightly outlined the basic policy of the development of Tribals, “Tribal people should be afforded opportunity to develop along the lines of their own genius and we should avoid imposing anything on them. We should try to encourage in every way their own traditional culture”. (Verrier Elwin, 1958)

Taking this policy into account the post independent period has seen number of programmes for the development of tribals. In order to achieve this objective a special tribal development administrative setup was organized right from after the independence. The broad framework of administration is given below:

- Under Article 338 of the Constitution, a special officer known as Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been working since November 1950. The ministry of Home Affairs was initially in charge of the work related to the welfare of Scheduled Tribes till 1964. It came under the Department of Social Security, and in 1966 was recognized under the Department of Social Welfare and is responsible for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.
- Commissioner for SC and ST groups: It is the medium through which the union government is kept informed of the programmes and implementation of the safeguard and welfare schemes of ST and SC.
- National Commission for SC and ST: The commission shall consist of the Chairperson the Vice Chairperson and five other members nominated by the President. Their power and duties are to investigate and monitor matters relating to the safeguards provided to the ST and SC, inquire into the

complaints regarding deprivation of rights, participate and advice the planning for their socio economic development inform the President of the working of this Commission, that is put in the parliament.

- There are State and district level setups for the tribal programmes that may vary from one state to another. At lower level the District Magistrate and his subordinate staff and officers of various departments are responsible for all development activities related to the Tribals.
- Under the Fifth Scheduled and the Sixth Scheduled (described earlier) there are elaborate provisions for the governance and development of the Scheduled areas.

2.7.2 The Five Year Plans and the ST

- With the First Five Year Plan launched in 1951 the Community Development Programmes were organized under the Block whose in charge was the Block Development Officer. Emphasis was given on rural health, communication and housing.
- The 2nd Five year Plan emphasized on the economic development and set up Special Multiple Tribal Blocks (SMPT). The Ministry and Home Affairs and the State government through blocks jointly implemented the programmes.
- In 3rd Five Year Plan these blocks were named as Tribal Development Block which primarily undertook with priority the economic, education and, health and housing sectors. The blocks were initially consisting of one lakh population later on reduced to 25 thousand with 2/3 tribal population.
- The 4th Five Year Plan introduced the strategy of Tribal Development Agency as additional programme focusing on specific target groups/areas especially in Bihar Orissa and Andhra. The targets were individual families and small farmers.
- The 5th Five Year Plan is known as the landmark of tribal people. The concept of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) was introduced. The strategy under this concept was that of Integrated Tribal Development Actions (ITDA).
- The 6th Five Year Plan adopted Modified Area Development Approach to cover smaller areas of 10,000 population. In this 50% or more were supposed to be tribals. There are 268 MADA at present.
- Under the 7th and 8th Five Year Plans the Tribal Sub-Plans were consolidated better. Other efforts were also initiated for the development of the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG).

2.7.3 Tribal Sub Plan

Under this scheme the entire sub plan area was divided into a number of viable Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP). Initially the project coverage was on an average of 3 to 4 lakhs population and in 6 to 7 Blocks. By the end of the 5th Plan there were 179 ITDPs covering nearly 65% of the country's tribal population. Presently there are 191 ITDPs, 268 MADAs, 74 PTGs in 15 states/UTs.

Objectives:

- Narrowing the gaps at the levels of development between tribal and non-tribal areas
- Improving the standards of lives of tribal communities
- Making up for deficiencies in infrastructures for development
- Assisting voluntary agencies to facilitate their participation for socio-economic assistance
- Elimination of exploitation and up gradation of environment

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Tribal Development are:

- Tribal Development Blocks – Cooperation (under TRIFED)
- Constructions of Tribal Girls' Hostels
- Provision for the Post-Matric Scholarship
- Coaching for IAS, IPS, IFS, State Service Commission services and pre-examination training schemes for tribal candidates

State Plan Schemes for the Tribal Development are:

- Education – pre matric scholarships, stipends, free supply of books, stationery, uniforms and mid-day meals
- Economic development – Subsidy for agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizer, cottage industries, horticulture, and soil conservation
- Health, housing and others – Provisions for housing, drinking water supply, medical and public health aids to voluntary agencies etc.
- Large Sized Multi purpose co-operative Societies (LAMPS) - To free the tribals from the grips of the money lenders and mahajans

Special Central Assistance and grants under Article 275 (1):

- Scheme for development of primitive Tribes
- Tribal Research Institutes
- Construction of hostels for tribal boys and girls
- Ashrama schools in Tribal Sub Plan areas
- Strengthening education of girls in low literacy areas
- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)
- Coaching centres for Scheduled Tribes
- Grants-in-Aid for NGOs working for Tribal Welfare
- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme (RGNF)
- Vocational Trainings
- National Overseas Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Tribes

General Criticism: Efforts of planning and programming for the development of Scheduled Tribes are praiseworthy. The life standard OF A GOOD NUMBER OF TRIBALS has come up to a great extent in many areas. Some of them have managed to come into the mainstream of development of the general population. However, in administration the setup is also a factor for unsatisfactory

performance of the Tribal Development Programmes. Planning Commission observed that multiplicity of agencies has resulted in diffusion of responsibility, lack of coordination and difficulty in identification of the concerned officials. Unfortunately, the development programmes for tribal areas have not yielded expected results in terms of input-output ratio.

Suggestions: Firstly, the administrative setup is very complex; it should be made simpler. Secondly, Tribal Sub Plan should be separated from the State plan and thirdly, the main responsibility of Tribal development should rest with the Ministry of Welfare. Once these measures are adopted there would be a considerable change in the functioning and execution of development works.

Check Your Progress 3

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What are the provisions under Article 388 of the Constitution of India?

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2) What actions were taken in the 1st, 3rd and 5th F Y Plans for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes?

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3) Under Tribal Sub Plan what are three most important activities for the development of the Scheduled Tribes?

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2.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

1) What are the two principal points that distinguish a tribe from a caste?

Ans. The two principal points that distinguish a tribe from a caste are:

- a) Social organisation based on egalitarian principle and not on Hindu caste system,
- b) No social stigma based on caste system with sense of untouchability.

2) Identify at least three factors that have brought about changes in the socio economic conditions of the tribals.

Ans. The three factors that have brought about changes in the socio economic conditions of the tribals:

- a) Taking up to modern education,
- b) Diversification of occupation,
- c) As a result social mobility.

3) What are the three main points of the social discrimination of Tribals?

Ans. The three main points of the social discrimination of Tribals are:

- a) Wide spread poverty,
- b) Very high illiteracy,
- c) Overall backwardness.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) Write down the three main features of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provided in the Constitution.

Ans. The three main features of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provided in the Constitution are:

- a) 15% reservation seats in Govt. aided educational Institutions,
- b) 7.5% reserved quota jobs in Government/Public Sector employment,
- c) Reservation for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats in scheduled areas.

- 2) What are the three main features of the Fifth Schedule?

Ans. The three main features of the Fifth Schedule are:

- a) Power given to the Governor for administration of scheduled areas,
- b) Reporting to the President by Governor about the implementation of development programme and plans
- c) The Governor can suspended any legislature from the State or the Union not suited to the tribals.

- 3) In what four different ways has the Sixth Schedule helped the North-East Tribals?

Ans. The four different ways through which the Sixth Schedule helped the North-East Tribals are:

- a) Autonomy given to the autonomous districts for self-governance,
- b) Make laws for the management of forests and land allotment,
- c) Funds to establish schools, dispensaries, markets, roads and waterways,
- d) To constitute Village Councils to try local cases.

Check Your Progress 3

- 1) What are the provisions under Article 388 of the Constitution of India?

Ans. The provisions under Article 388 of the Constitution of India are:

- a) Establishing of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Society under the Department of Social Welfare,
- b) Composition of national Commission for Scheduled Tribes consisting of 5 members
- c) District Magistrate and its subordinates made responsible for the development of Scheduled Tribes.

- 2) What actions were taken in the 1st, 3rd and 5th Five Year Plans for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes?

Ans. a) In the 1st Five Year Plan launching of Community Development Programme for Scheduled Tribes in Blocks,

- b) Under the 3rd Five Year Plan composition of Special Multiple Tribal Blocks (SMPT),
- c) Under 5th Five Year Plan introduction of Tribals Sub Plan (TSP).

3) Under Tribal Sub Plan what are three most important activities for the development of the Scheduled Tribes?

Ans. The three most important activities for the development of the Scheduled Tribes are:

- a) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED),
- b) Large Sized Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), free the Tribals from money- lenders.



UNIT 3 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

Structure

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Youth: Concept and Characteristics
- 3.3 Role and Status of Youth in Development
- 3.4 Youth and Family
- 3.5 Youth and Education
- 3.6 Youth and Work Force Participation
- 3.7 Youth and Health
- 3.8 Youth Crime and Terrorism
- 3.9 Youth and Media
- 3.10 Youth Participation and Citizenship
- 3.11 Youth Policies and Programmes
- 3.12 Let Us Up
- 3.13 References and Suggested Readings
- 3.14 Check Your Progress-Possible Answers

3.1 INTRODUCTION

It is people who define, make, influence, modify processes of development, and hence, an understanding of the different population groups in society enables us to gain insights into the factors which define development. Youth are a very significant proportion of the population in India, and are critical to the pace of social change. This Unit will help you to understand the salient features of this constituency, and the various societal systems which influence them. This understanding would enable you to analyze the development process and the impact of the development model adopted by the country on the youth. The status of youth is often seen as a sign of the state of the nation. The state and civil society, therefore, feels the need to control and influence the activities of this group. India has a youth policy, schemes and programmes, and these too will be briefly described in this unit.

After reading this unit, you should be able to:

- Define youth and their characteristics
- Explain the role and status of youth in development
- Discuss the youth, crime and terrorism
- Describe national youth policy and programme

3.2 YOUTH: CONCEPT AND CHARACTERISTICS

According to census in India, 2001 youth comprise of 41.05 per cent of the total population in India (Census 2001, see Table 1). India is one of the 'young' countries which has a significant proportion of its population in this age group. Having a large proportion of youth is considered a population 'dividend' as this suggests a large number in the productive and contributing age group. This youth 'bulge' is expected to last till 2050.

Definitions of youth have changed continuously in response to fluctuating political, economic and socio-cultural realities. The National Youth Policy (2003) defines youth as those persons in the age group of 13 to 35 years. Considering the differential needs, roles and responsibilities of the subgroups within this age group, the youth are further divided into two broad sub-groups, i.e., 13-19 years and 20-35 years. The Policy also states that the youth belonging to the age group 13-19 years, which comprises a major part of the adolescent age group, will be regarded as a separate constituency.

Since the United Nations International Youth Year, 1985, the General Assembly of the United Nations has defined youth as the age group between 15 to 24 years, while at the same time it also recognizes the diversity of definitions used by Member States. The Commonwealth Youth Programme includes those in the age range of 15 to 29 years.

It needs to be understood that children, adolescents and youth are not natural, universal categories, and the differences between these groups in a given society cannot simply be seen as physical differences. Thus, one finds overlaps between the chronological definitions of the three life stages, and the legal definitions vary according to the roles expected, and the services to be provided.

- The Convention for the Rights of the Child defines a child as those up to the age of 18 years, which overlaps with the definition of youth. The ICDS considers its beneficiaries (adolescent girls) as those between 11 and 18 years; while the Reproductive and Child Health programme defines adolescents as being between 10 -19 years.
- The legal age for voting in the Central and State elections is 18 years. The permissible ages for marriage are 18 years and 21 years for girls and boys respectively.

Country	Table 1: Population of Youth- (15-24 years)		
	Population (in millions)	2012 Youth (15-24 years) Population in million	Proportion of Youth
China	1358.8	242.2	17.8
India	1205.6	229.0	19.0
USA	312.2	43.9	14.1
Indonesia	240.6	40.5	16.8
Brazil	195.2	33.6	17.2
Pakistan	173.1	37.2	21.5

Source: *World Population Prospects-The 2012 Revision*, UN, 2013

Table 2: Percentage of Adolescent and Youth Population in India

Year	Adolescent	Youth
1961	19.4	16.7
1971	21.2	16.5
1981	22.6	18.3
1991	21.2	18.3
2001	21.9	18.5
2011	20.9	19.2

3.2.2 Characteristics of Youth

Eisenstadt (1972) defined youth as the period of transition from childhood to full adult status with full membership in the society.

Rosenmayr (1972: 227-28) identifies five conceptual approaches to defining youth.

- a) youth as a 'phase in the individual life-cycle' : the physiological and biological growth
- b) youth as a 'social subset': forms of behaviour in a roughly determined age range
- c) Youth as 'an incomplete status': transition between childhood and adulthood.
- d) Youth as a "socially structured generation – unit" : experiencing certain common conditions and generating common activities
- e) Youth as "an ideal value concept" : idealism, alert, traits called 'youthfulness'

However, in the conventional sense, youth is considered a phase of high expectations, high risk taking and great enthusiasm, and, hence, a strong force within society. They can be mobilized for physical target achievements (e.g. war) and for psychological purposes (integration of society) by utilizing its capacity for sacrifice, courage, passion and idealism. Youth are futuristic and hence, their thoughts and values, behavior are often determined by their vision of tomorrow. Youth are not a homogenous constituency and can be grouped in several categories such as location (urban, rural, tribal); shelter (those with shelter, homeless); economic class; gender; role (student, non-student); employed, unemployed (Narayan, 2006). Being a large country, the characteristics of youth also vary from State to State and region to region.

The majority comes from the economically deprived sections of society where the psychological and social problems experienced by the individuals are inextricably intertwined with poverty. Poverty also leaves its scars on the emotional and mental growth of an individual and it is seen that a significant number of children do not experience the concept of a 'childhood' and hence, take on young and adult roles at an early age in life. The socially marginalized youth would include those with weakened or severed family and social ties; those with disability; socially stigmatized groups (e.g., eunuchs, delinquents) ; victims of violence and abuse (physical, emotional, sexual); groups that are more vulnerable to substance abuse (street youth) ; refugees and those displaced by natural and manmade disasters ; those in detention.

If youth are persons upto the age of 35 years, then their life experiences have largely been shaped by the events after the 1980s. They are products of post independent India, for whom independence and democracy are taken for granted; technology, media and internet are an integral part of their lives.

Youth can be viewed as,

- A group that has specific life goals and tasks related to their stage of growth, e.g., education, identity, work, family.
- A group that can be mobilized for social and cultural change e.g., participation in societal issues.

Youth as a social category has always been there in the process of globalization – sometime as an actor and mobiliser of change, and many a time as the victim of the process. In terms of opportunities, the urban youth are the most privileged; the rural male youth follow second, while the female rural youth are the most disadvantaged. Urban female youth are slowly gaining in status and power, though there is still tremendous resistance towards gaining equality with their male colleagues.

In this section read about youth and their characteristics and now answer the questions given in check your progress 1

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What do you mean by youth?

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3.3 ROLE AND STATUS OF YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

In the rural areas, the unorganized sector comprises of landless agricultural labourers, small farmers, those engaged in animal husbandry, poultry and fishing activities, artisans, and forest workers. In the urban areas, it includes construction workers, tradesmen such as carpenters, hawkers, and head load workers and so on.

Unfortunately, a major demoralizing factor is the ever-looming spectre of unemployment after completion of higher education. The **unemployment level** is defined as the labour force minus the number of people currently employed. The **unemployment rate** is defined as the level of unemployment. **Unemployment** can be defined as a state of worklessness for a man fit and willing to work. It is a condition of involuntary and not voluntary idleness.

According to the NSS data (62nd Round, 2005-06), the unemployment rate was 5.26 for youth in the age group of 15-35 years; and the work participation rate was 51.18. Youth more than any other group has to pay the social cost of globalization.

For youth, an important transition to work: he/she is meaningfully engaged in some work, and is financially independent. Employment provides time structure, social contact, activity, status, purpose and control. Unemployment results in economic implications, physiological and psychological effects. Women's

participation in the work force is interwoven with caste, class and gender hierarchies.

The stage of transition from school to work, and, hence, unemployment is viewed as a serious problem. Migration for employment is on the rise, increased migration to urban locations, leads to overcrowding, lack of adequate infrastructure, and creation of identity issues (insider and outsider). Such a situation has other consequences such as increase in crime, substance abuse, mental illness and so on.

Globalization and modernization have widened the scope of work and enhancing lifestyles (especially the urban middle class). However, many existing crafts and skills are becoming outdated or irrelevant (computer skills, artisans).

In spite of a significant rise in new vocations and careers, students still opt for jobs and careers, which have a status and standing in society. It is also seen that self-employment is the choice of many youth, and due to lack of jobs to offer, the government's emphasis now is also on encouraging people for self-employment (Times of India, September 18, 2000, pg.1). One finds that skilled workers, like carpenters, farmers, blacksmiths, prefer their children to take white collar jobs rather than carry their trades. The number of youth involved in the task of social reconstruction, is very small.

Today, expectations and aspirations for a consumerist lifestyle makes youth more ambitious and aggressive in career advancement.

“The youth see the private sector as modern, wealthy and professional; the civil service as highly social, classy, arrogant and corrupt; and the armed forces as macho, brave, caring, committed but leading an unsettled life.” (The Times of India, May 27, 1995, pg.11) .

It is well known that in spite of constitutional and legal provisions (Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation), 1986) children and adolescents continue to be part of the work force. There is not much data on adolescents and youth in the informal sector, such as the street youth, and this needs to be explored. **The schemes** offered by the Government include:

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which is an interim arrangement to tide over a period, and ensures minimum 100 days of work. However, this is not implemented in all districts across the country.
- Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS);
- *Aam Admi Bima Yojana* – Social Safety net for unorganized people.

The World Development Report, 2007 mentions certain key issues which need to be kept in mind when managing the transition from education to work. These are:

- Starting work too early
- Breaking into the job market. *“employment rates for youth are systematically higher than for older generations”* pg. 7.
- Moving to new jobs and up the skill ladder. Especially in poor countries, young people are working very hard, but earning very little.

3.4 YOUTH AND FAMILY

The family is considered the basic unit of the Indian social fabric. The primary site of regulation of behaviour was the joint family system. This is characterized by common production and consumption; interdependence among the members with more emphasis on the family than the individual; and absolute authority of the head of the family (Verma and Saraswati, 2002). Industrialisation, urbanisation, migration of population to cities, the spread of education, changes in the occupational structure and legal measures for the promotion of the status of women, are some of the factors affecting the family. Thus, families have plurality of forms that are determined by class, ethnicity, geographical location and individual choice.

Youth are not only part of the family, but they are also in the process of forming their own family. The Indian family still largely follows a system where the authority is determined by age, gender and generation status. Decision making is by and large, still authoritative, rather than democratic or participative. Crucial decisions related to adult roles such as marriage or career are taken in consultation with or by the head of the family. A majority of youth grows up in an atmosphere of dependence and few choices. It is said that such a personality is dependent on others for decision making, hesitates to take independent responsibilities, and is quick to blame others in the environment for his/her shortcomings (Gore, 1977). Youth face a sense of anxiety between their 'duties' and their individual needs.

An urban lifestyle demands greater initiative, a certain aggressiveness, a capacity to make choices, cope with tensions and take responsibility for one's actions. We have an increasing middle class with youth vying with each other for better education; higher salaries and work mobility, and maybe greater independence from their families. The culture of cities breeds individualism, competition, consumerism and increases economic strains and the family unit also has to make changes and adapt to this new lifestyle. Urban areas, today, are experiencing the first generation of 'liberal' parents. Husbands and wives find new equations in marriage and attempt to be more honest and 'liberal' with children. They have fewer expectations from their children, who are now mainly receivers rather than givers-a trait of a consumerist society. One could expect a more 'self-centered' group of youth with a different value system in the years to come.

A study commissioned by the Hindustan Times (January 26, 2003) in five metros (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, and Chandigarh) and one rural area, of young Indians in the age group of 16 to 24 years, showed that young Indians think very highly of their parents and see them as role models. Thirty percent of the urban youth voted for their parents when asked whom they considered their role model.

Thus, the family continues to be a major transmitter of values, culture, behavior for the youth.

3.5 YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Next to the family as an informal system for inculcating education for life and living, the formal education system is a major socializing agent in the life of children and youth.

As per the 2001 census, the all India literacy rate for youth in the age group of 15-34 years is only 60.37%, out of which male is 81.05% and females 71.03%. Progress among females is more than among males; and progress in rural areas is much more than in urban areas (Saraswati, 2007).

The level of higher education is also determined by the size of institutional capacity of the higher education system in the country. The size is determined by:

- Number of educational institutions- universities and colleges;
- Number of teachers and number of students.

From 1950 to 2008, the number of universities have increased from 20 to about 431; colleges from 500 to 20,677, and teachers from 15,000 to nearly 5.05 lakhs. The numbers of students have increased from 1 lakh to over 116.12 lakhs. (UGC, 2008).

Table 3: Education among Youth

Completed Year of Education	Women	Men
No Education	26	10
<5 years completed	7	8
5-7 years complete	18	18
8-9 years complete	20	27
10-11 years complete	15	19
12+ years complete	14	19
NFHS-3, 2006-07		

3.5.1 Access to Higher Education

The access to higher education is measured in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) which is a ratio of persons enrolled in higher educational institutions to total population of the persons in age group of 18 to 23 years. While the enrolment rate at the aggregate level is about 11% in 2006-07, it varies significantly across the states and districts. The GER is much lower in states of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, M.P, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, and Jharkhand. (UGC, 2008)

Education facilities are virtually a monopoly of urban cities and, therefore, a larger proportion of college students are urbanites. However, there are an increasing number of rural youth joining under graduate urban colleges and, hence, most colleges have a mix of urban and rural youth. More colleges have also been started in district towns thus enabling more youth to avail of higher education.

Today, with the government's concerted efforts and several schemes, primary education has improved considerably. Yet, the dropout rate between Classes I and X is around 70%, and only 60-80% clear class X and XII examinations (Govt. of India, 2001). Girls, lower social castes, lower economic classes less likely to do so. Individual factors like aptitude, motivation, gender, income, and

parent's education (especially mother's) are some factors which influence enrolment at secondary levels. Community factors include access to roads, public transport, water, electricity, access to schools (World Bank, 2004, 2007).

The quality of education received at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels differ tremendously and the standards are just not comparable. Even though college education is becoming more accessible, the system itself contributes to class stratification due to differential access to higher education.

Gender and location also determine access to higher education. Increasing competition and the poor quality of education has led to corrupt practices like capitation fees, mass copying and buying of marks.

Some factors which force youth to drop out of education and training:

- Migration and displacement due to manmade disasters (evictions due to development projects, riots, war)
- Natural disasters (tsunami, earthquakes)
- Seasonal migration due to nature of occupation of family/self (landless labourers, construction workers).

Some of the factors which determine the quality of higher education are the curriculum and methodology (level of creativity, competence, problem solving skills); scope for development of interpersonal relationships, autonomy, identity and purpose.

Lifeskills education is increasingly been introduced at the University levels to enable youth to build resilience and cope with the demands of modern society. This has been defined by the WHO as '*the abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demand and changes of everyday life*'. It includes, personal skills, learning skills, awareness of the world; livelihood skills (UNESCO).

3.6 YOUTH AND WORK FORCE PARTICIPATION

One of the landmarks of transition from youth to adulthood is when the person is meaningfully engaged in some work, and is financially independent. The overall workforce in India was 400 million (Census, 2001), and among these, the majority is engaged in the unorganized sector. The Census introduced the categories of 'main' and 'marginal' workers, where the marginal worker is one who has worked for 183 days or less.

Work Participation Rate: (Definition from- censusindia.gov.in) is defined as the percentage of total workers (main & marginal) to total population.

$$\text{Work participation rate} = \frac{\text{Total workers (main+marginal)}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100$$

The unemployment rate among the youth is given in Table-4.

Table 4: Unemployment Rate among Youth according to Usual Status

Age Group	1999-2000	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
Rural Male				
15-19	6.5	7.9	10.0	11.4
20-24	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.9
25-29	3.2	2.3	2.2	2.8
15-29	5.1	5.2	5.5	6.1
Rural Female				
15-19	3.1	6.7	7.4	8.0
20-24	4.9	9.3	8.6	9.9
25-29	2.4	5.2	4.5	5.8
15-29	3.7	7.0	6.5	7.8
Urban Male				
15-19	15.4	14.0	13.2	14.4
20-24	13.9	12.5	10.1	11.6
25-29	7.5	5.8	4.4	5.3
15-29	11.5	10.0	7.9	8.9
Urban Female				
15-19	14.3	15.3	15.5	15.6
20-24	22.6	25.8	21.7	21.9
25-29	11.5	15.8	14.6	10.8
15-29	16.6	19.9	17.2	15.6

Source: NSS Report No. 554: Employment and Unemployment situation in India, 2011-12

3.7 YOUTH AND HEALTH

One of the oldest definitions of health is provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), 1948, which states,

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” (Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; signed on 22nd July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, pg.100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948)

This broad definition can be applied equally to developed and developing countries and to both genders. The Definition has not been amended since 1948.

In 1986, the WHO, in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion stated that, *Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to*

improve, their health. To reach a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, an individual or group must be able to identify and to realize aspirations, to satisfy needs, and to change or cope with the environment. Health is, therefore, seen as a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities. Therefore, health promotion is not just the responsibility of the health sector, but goes beyond healthy life-styles to well-being.

The development of a nation is directly linked to the health of its people. The National Youth Policy recognizes *that a holistic approach towards health, mental, physical and spiritual, needs to be adopted after careful assessment of the health needs of the youth.*

The areas of focus in the National Youth Policy are,

- 1) General Health
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Spiritual Health
- 4) AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Substance Abuse, and
- 5) Population Education

Indicators for ascertaining the health status of a country include life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate, fertility rate, crude birth rate and crude death rate. This would imply a good diet intake, safe drinking water, good sanitation, and shelter among other basic needs. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) data shows that in rural areas 37.4% of adult males and 39.4% of adult females suffered from chronic energy deficiency (CED) in 2000-01. Poor diet and infection during childhood are major factors responsible for this. Iron deficiency and consequent anemia is widely prevalent among pregnant women. The NFHS 3 data showed that, in the age group of 13-35 years, 23.2% of the men and 55.3% of the women were anemic. Infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, death and disability due to injury are more common among the poor. There is also a high prevalence of avoidable deaths due to malaria, T.B., maternal and paternal conditions, due to childhood illnesses such as measles, diphtheria, malnutrition and substance abuse. Lifestyle diseases such as chewing tobacco; drugs, alcohol; asthma and respiratory diseases due to quality of cooking fuel; occupational illnesses are also on the rise.

3.7.1 HIV/AIDS in Youth

Approximately 5.1 million Indians are currently infected with HIV. Poverty, migration, low status of women and stigma are some factors that have led to the spread of this virus in a short span of time (CARAT, 2007). The spread of the virus is largely through sexual transmission (85.7%), and the majority of the HIV infections (87.7%) are in the age group of 15-44 years (CARAT, 2007). Over the years the virus has moved from the urban to the rural and from the high risk to general population disproportionately affecting women, youth and the children. Almost a quarter of the reported AIDS cases were women, half of whom are 15-29 years old. (CARAT, 2007) A significant proportion of new infections that are occurring in women, are married and have been infected by their husbands. UNAIDS estimates that 170,000 children below the age of 15 years are infected with HIV/AIDS in India. This figure however does not include

infected children in the age group of 15-18 years. Also, there are no official figures to assess the number of children affected by AIDS in India. (CARAT, 2007)

Over the years, the health infrastructure of the country has increased at the primary, secondary and tertiary level in the government, voluntary and private sectors. The massive expansion has resulted in the eradication of diseases such as smallpox, leprosy and near eradication of Polio. Yet, India has the largest remaining pool of Polio transmission in the world. (UNDP, 2006) and we are nowhere near achieving the WHO declaration for 'Health for all by 2000'. The health gap between the rich and the poor; exists largely due to lack of access to the poor and to those in the remote regions of the country.

At one level, this generation has more opportunities and spaces to make their lives meaningful. However, it is also seen that they also face the pressures of survival in a competitive environment.

Partly due to poverty, many young people are forced to endure situations – including discrimination, exploitation and social isolation – that render them vulnerable to unprotected sex, and drug and alcohol use. (Burns et al, 2004,cited in Aggleton pg. 15).

Table-5: HIV Prevalence among Youth

Age	Women	Men	Total
15-19	0.07	0.01	0.04
20-24	0.17	0.19	0.18
Residence			
Urban	0.16	0.11	0.4
Rural	0.09	0.08	0.09
Total	0.11	0.09	0.10

Source: NFHS-3

Mental health problems such as acute stress, depression, anxiety attacks, and lack of self confidence and esteem are on the increase as the youth get overwhelmed by the problems faced as a consequence of poverty, competition, and the rat race for survival. Illnesses such as schizophrenia are often equated to 'madness' and causes are attributed to 'spirits' from the 'other world'. In such situations, patients are ridiculed, or worshipped, and most often neglected, abused and rejected. At the same time, it is also well established that the outcome of schizophrenia in developing countries, especially in India is more favourable as compared to that in developed countries. Cohesive family ties, rural economy and supportive environment are cited as possible reasons (Kulhara, 2000: 10). Apart from the stigma attached to mental illness, there are very few therapeutic services available.

3.7.2 Suicides Among Youth

Lack of self-esteem, desperation and complete hopelessness lead to a high incidence of suicides among the youth. Table 3 (A-D) provides the data related

to suicides among the student youth and jobless youth. 11.45% of all student suicides in Maharashtra during 2006 were from Mumbai, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics. While pressure to excel has reached a high level in cities like Mumbai, academic pressure is far less in small cities and rural areas.

Table 6.: Incidence of Suicides by Youth in India

3A: Student Suicides

State	Male	Female	Total	Table 3B : Suicides By Job less Youth	City	Male	Female	Total
West Bengal	639	502	1141		Chennai	95	131	226
Maharashtra	444	438	882		Mumbai	31	70	101
AP	287	225	512		Delhi	45	55	100
Karnataka	230	217	447		Bangalore	41	49	90
MP	198	167	365		Hyderabad	30	27	57
Total (All India)	3123	2734	5857		Total (All India)	481	579	1060

State	Male	Female	Total
Tamil Nadu	746	481	1227
Kerala	999	218	1217
Maharashtra	872	72	944
Gujarat	410	46	456
Andhra Pradesh	371	58	429
Total (All India)	7415	1471	8886

Table 3C : Farmer Suicides

State	Male	Female	Total
Maharashtra	4111	342	4453
Andhra Pradesh	2000	607	2607
Karnataka	1450	270	1720
Chhattisgarh	1212	271	1483
Madhya Pradesh	1178	197	1375
Total (All India)	14664	2396	17060

Table 3D: Suicides by Housewives

Causes: Illness, torture

State	
West Bengal	5020
Maharashtra	3653
Tamil Nadu	2354
Andhra Pradesh	2156
Karnataka	1851
Total (All India)	25063

Source : Anahita Mukherji , *Times of India*, Mumbai, February 22, 2008, Pg.5.

3.7.3 Reproductive Health

Youth comprise of a major part of the reproductive age group, and hence, they would influence the trends in population growth. The National Population Policy (2000) refers to addressing issues such as information dissemination, nutrition, contraceptive use, STDs and other population related issues. Mention is made of a health package for adolescents and measures to enforce the legal age of marriage. According to the NFHS (1992-93) 36% of married adolescents/youth in the age group of 13 to 16 years are pregnant with their first child. Though there is widespread information about family planning, access to services and cultural factors impede the use of contraception by young people.

A World Bank report on reproductive health (2009) states that the Maternal Mortality Ratio (in 100,000 live births) in India is 301, and higher than Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. According to the report, the median age for marriage in India was still below the legal age at marriage and almost double the numbers of poor girls, aged 15-19 years, are married off compared to rich. The report highlighted that while India has made positive strides in the areas of fertility and infant mortality, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), immunisation coverage and malnutrition remain areas of concern. (cited in DNA, Mumbai, March 6, 2009, Pg.12.)

3.7.4 Disability

As per the WHO manual, a disability is a restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. These include physical disabilities (Poliomyelitis, Cerebral Palsy, Leprosy, Orthopaedic impairment); mental disability (mental retardation, mental illness); hearing disability; visual impairment; developmental disability (learning disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism); multiple disabilities. Disabilities affect the different developmental tasks of youth, such as access to opportunities related to education and work; building a mature identity; forming relationships; understanding sexuality; achieving socially responsible behavior. The Census 2001 shows that 1.67% (7million) of those in the age group of 0-19years are living with disability. Less than 1% of them have access to education.

Activity 5 : In your opinion, why are the suicide rates highest amongst the youth? What are your suggestions to prevent the same?

Activity 6 : Visit an organization working with the disabled youth and review the causes of disability and the services provided. You may select any one disability or multiple disabilities.

Activity 7 : Discuss the reasons for the spread of HIV/AIDS in India

3.8 YOUTH CRIME AND TERRORISM

3.8.1 Youth and Crime

Crime is a breach of laws of a country, wherein some conviction is prescribed by the legal system. Different societies may define behaviours of crime differently, e.g., homosexuality is considered a crime in some countries and not in others.

Vernon Fox (1985) indicates that, “*crime is a socio-political event rather than a clinical condition.....It is not a clinical or medical condition which can be diagnosed and specifically treated.*” (pg.28) (cited in Hagan, F.E, 2010).

A normative definition views crime as deviant behavior that violates prevailing norms – cultural standards prescribing how humans ought to behave normally. This approach considers the complex realities surrounding the concept of crime and seeks to understand how changing social, political, psychological, and economic conditions may affect changing definitions of crime and the form of the legal, law-enforcement, and penal responses made by society. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime>)

There are some behaviours which are considered a crime, irrespective of age, and some which are more defined by age. e.g., eloping. The crimes usually associated with the youth are rape/sexual offenses; theft; eve teasing; vandalism; kidnapping; suicide; addictions; cyber crimes. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 60% of all crimes are done by youth.

In contrast to children, youth are usually seen to be trouble makers who indulge in political violence and crime, Boys are seen to be rebellious, disobedient, and stubborn, while girls’ sexuality is seen as a problem to be controlled. Statistics show that the incidents of violence are on the rise, e.g., road rage; intensity of ragging; vandalizing public property; use of firearms for problem solving.

The following table 7 gives the data related to crimes as per the age groups and sex.

Table 7: Persons arrested under *IPC and **SLL cognizable crimes -2007

	Below 18years		18-30years		30 -45 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
IPC	5876	370	126837	8913	93493	10812
SLL	566	24	65598	3082	61375	5114
Total	6442	394	192435	11995	154868	15926

*IPC: Indian Penal Code

**SLL: Special and Local Laws

- Some Acts under IPC: murder, rape, kidnapping , dacoity, robbery, arson, dowry deaths, sexual harassment, and violence against women.
- Some Acts under SLL: arms act, gambling act, prohibition act, excise act, explosives act, immoral traffic act, TADA, child marriage restraint act, copyright act, prevention of atrocities against SC/ST.

Today, internet crime or cyber crime are on the increase, and a significant number of those who indulge in this are youth. Such crimes include phishing (tricking people into divulging usernames, passwords), hacking, e.banking fraud, credit card fraud, obscene mails, pornography , identity theft, defacing profiles, targeting strategic websites and propagating underground ideology. In a city like Mumbai, the number of such cases grew from 142 in 2005 to 775 in 2008. (Hindustan Times, 2008)

3.8.2 Youth and Terrorism

Today, India and the world is confronted with an increasing phenomenon of terrorism. The Indian National Security Guard Act, 1986, defines a terrorist as:

“ Terrorist means any person who with intent to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people, does any act or thing by using bomb, dynamite or other explosive substance or inflammable substances or firearms or other lethal weapons or poisons or noxious gases or other substances (whether biological or otherwise) of a hazardous nature, in such a manner as to cause or as is likely to cause, death or injuries to any person or persons or damage to or destruction of property, or disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of community. ”

An average profile of a terrorist is that of a young educated person, who is disillusioned with the state powers; or has a strong ideology which is anti-state, country or a particular section of the population. The ULFA Movement, Naxalites, LTTE have a strong youth presence at all levels of the organization. The incidents of suicide bombings are also on the rise. These suggest the strong impact of an ideology (political, religious) over a young person's mind, such that the cause takes precedence over his/her life.

3.9 YOUTH AND MEDIA

Mass media are a major influence on youth culture and lifestyle, and it is the urban westernized culture which dominates the mass culture. The messages on the audio – visual media and in Bollywood films are perhaps two factors which bind youth across the country. Film music, dance, overrule the traditional folk music and dance. Norms and values are transmitted through films which often depict the anti-hero, the defiant youth, and at times glorify confrontation with traditions and social norms.

The radio is a popular and most accessible medium reaching out to the rural and tribal masses, as it is also the closest to the oral tradition of learning. In urban areas also the FM channels have become popular due to its interactive nature with the audience.

The total internet users in India are 49 million – 40million urban and 9 million rural. Social networking and sites such as Facebook and Orkut are very popular with the youth, and, hence are on the rise. These have its strengths and limitations. While it can be addictive and cause youth to become dysfunctional, it has also opened up opportunities to interact and socialize with several others.

Television which began with one channel (Doordarshan) has expanded to more than 100 different channels. The number of TV sets in India has increased from 70 million in 1998 to 119 million in 2005; and the number of cable connections has increased from 25 million in 1998 to 62 million in 2005 (New York Times, February 2007, CII-KPMG Report).

Some popular T.V. serials portray extra-marital relationships, and power games within families. The increasing publicity and investments made in beauty pageants for both girls and boys have influenced the notion of good looks and the portrayal of confidence based on western standards. The youth are caught up in this phase of transient value changes.

The media also has a positive impact on the youth through programmes which discuss national issues and provide the youth a platform to express their views. Certain channels on the TV have initiated campaigns related to environment, taken up issues of justice, highlighted the plight of vulnerable groups and so on.

3.10 YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Participation may be defined as purposive interaction that helps primary stakeholders at the grassroots level gain access to decision-making processes whether directly or through legitimate institutionalized bodies such as community based organizations and/ or non-government organizations that happen to represent their interests and define their stakes in development projects. (Maiti, Prasenjit, 2006)

Dreze and Sen, (2002, pg.9-10) emphasize the equations between opportunities, power, equality and participation.

“.. Participation is intimately connected with demands of equality. At the most immediate level, democratic participation requires the sharing and symmetry of basic political rights – to vote, to propagate and to criticize.....

Divisions of power and influence related to caste, gender and even education can, in many situations, make the socially underprivileged also politically marginalized.”

Government reports also accede that youth participation is very limited.

Development programmes in our country are handed down by government, external agencies NGOs and older people. Seldom are opportunities and enabling environments available for programmes based on local initiatives....in the long run it is essential to enable adolescents and youth to become the drivers of development – to assess development needs , prepare plans to meet them, undertake implementation and monitor them. They would thus, be both the participants and the beneficiaries of the programmes. Planning Commission, GOI, 2001

Youth power has been always available for revolutionary, or rebellious activities, or for social movements and protest. They are also known to be loyal and committed to a cause they believe in. Thus, they can be mobilized for collective action and movements. This can also lead to over-identification with ideological and idolization of heroes and this can be exploited by vested interests.

Participation is displayed significantly during the elections. The Naxalites, ULFA, groups in Jammu and Kashmir are political formations led by the youth. Movements such as the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the Chipko movement largely comprise of youth uprisings which question the nature of development and seek structural changes in governance, and in the political, and economic systems. These movements may be initiated by adults but have a large youth following. There is also youth activism nationally and internationally towards issues of sustainable development. e.g, World Social Forum, Green Peace movement. When such movements are within the framework of the constitution, they are considered positive, any others against state is considered antisocial, anti national and so on.

Youth could participate at various levels.

- Accessing and utilizing services and schemes
- Volunteerism
- Membership in youth clubs and associations
- Political participation

In this section read about youth and their characteristics and now answer the questions given in check your progress 2

Check Your Progress 2

- Note:** a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
- b) Check your progress with possible answers given at the end of the unit.
- 1) Explain briefly the education status of youth.

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Activity 11 ∴ It is believed that youth are not interested in participating in national politics. What are your views on this? Explain with illustrations.

3.11 YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

3.11.1 National Youth Policy

- The United Nations declared 1985 as the International Year of Youth, with the motto ‘Participation, Development and Peace’. Coinciding with the International Year of Youth a separate Department of Youth Affairs and Sports was set up by the Government of India. The earlier National Youth Policy was formulated in **1988** and revised in 1998. The latest National Youth Policy of 2003 *“is designed to galvanize the youth to rise up to the new challenges, keeping in view the global scenario, and aims at motivating them to be active and committed participants in the exciting task of National Development.”* The policy provides the framework for issues to be worked on by the State.
- The overall thrust of the Policy centers around ‘**Youth Empowerment**’ in the various fields of national life. The other major thrust areas are,
 - Gender Justice.
 - Inter-sectoral Approach.
 - Emphasis on Information and Research Networks.

- i) To instill in the youth, at large, an abiding awareness of, and adherence to, the secular principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India, with unswerving commitment to Patriotism, National Security, National Integration, Non-violence and Social Justice;
- ii) To develop Qualities of Citizenship and dedication to Community Service amongst all sections of the youth;
- iii) To promote awareness, amongst the youth, in the fields of Indian history and heritage, arts and culture;
- iv) To provide the youth with proper educational and training opportunities and to facilitate access to information in respect of employment opportunities and to other services, including entrepreneurial guidance and financial credit;
- v) To facilitate access, for all sections of the youth, to health information and services and to promote a social environment which strongly inhibits the use of drugs and other forms of substance abuse, wards off disease (like HIV/AIDS), ensures measures for de-addiction and mainstreaming of the affected persons and enhances the availability of sports and recreational facilities as constructive outlets for the abundant energy of the youth;
- vi) To sustain and reinforce the spirit of volunteerism amongst the youth in order to build up individual character and generate a sense of commitment to the goals of developmental programmes;
- vii) To create an international perspective in the youth and to involve them in promoting peace and understanding and the establishment of a just global economic order;
- ix) To develop youth leadership in various socio-economic and cultural spheres and to encourage the involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations, Co-operatives and Non-formal groups of young people; and
- x) to promote a major participatory role for the youth in the protection and preservation of nature, including natural resources, to obilizati their abundant energies in community service so as to improve the environment and foster a scientific, inquisitive reasoning and rational attitude in the younger generation and to encourage the youth to undertake such travel excursions as would better acquaint them with cultural harmony, amidst diversity, in India, and overseas.

As per the objectives, the major themes in the policy include,

• National integration, Non-violence, Secularism and Socialism	• Global peace and International Perspective
• Citizenship and Community Service	• Youth leadership
• Culture and Arts	• Involvement of NGOs, and Youth Groups
• Employment	• Environment
• Health	• Travel, Cultural harmony
• Sports	• Scientific Rational Enquiry

Due to the changing social realities and the impact of globalization, there are four additional areas of concern for youth at the global level. These include

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- HIV/AIDS
- Conflict prevention
- Intergenerational relations

The key sectors of youth concern mentioned in the policy are,

- i) Education
- ii) Training and Employment
- iii) Health and Family Welfare
- iv) Preservation of Environment, Ecology and Wild life
- v) Recreation and Sports
- vi) Arts and Culture
- vii) Science and Technology
- viii) Civics and good Citizenship

The Policy lists certain Target Groups who are vulnerable and marginalized, and hence, will be accorded priority.

- a) Rural and Tribal youth
- b) Out-of –school Youth
- c) Adolescents particularly female adolescents
- d) Youth with disabilities
- e) Youth under specially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking; orphans and street children

Apart from the National Youth Policy, several States are formulating their own **State Youth policies** as per the contextual needs of their States. Some of these States are, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.

Activity 13 : Critique the strengths and limitations of the national youth policy. Read the national youth policy, and reflect on its relevance in your context. Give recommendations for enhancing the policy.

3.11.2 Schemes And Programmes

The Government of India has formulated several schemes and programmes which take into consideration some of the issues of this population.

Sports and Adventure

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) implements several sports promotion schemes for different age groups. It also implements academic courses through its various institutes all over the country., e.g., the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala, SAI NS Eastern Centre, Kolkata

- The Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education, (LNIPE), Gwalior, a deemed University , offers courses at the Bachelors, Masters, and Phil levels.
- Scholarships; Awards; National Welfare Fund for Sports Persons ; Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools ; National Sports Development Fund ; Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons
- Establishment and Development of Mountaineering Institutes and assistance for promotion of adventure activities.
- Assistance for Scouting and Guiding activities

Participation and Character Development

- The National Service Scheme (NSS) focuses on the development of the personality of students through community service: the scheme covers more than 2.6 million volunteers spread over 200 Universities.
- The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) caters to the need of non-student rural youth through youth clubs: The Youth Ministry website states that this is the largest community based non-political youth organization of its kind in the world. It caters to 80 lakh non-student rural youth in the age group of 13-35 years. 17,000 trained volunteers are enrolled every year.
- Establishment of Youth Hostels to promote youth tourism.
- Programme of National Integration
- Assistance to Youth Clubs in communities.
- National Youth Awards and Youth Club Awards
- Financial Assistance to NGOs for imparting Vocational Training and Entrepreneurial Skills
- Pilot Scheme of National Reconstruction Corps, which provides opportunities to youth to dedicate voluntarily one year of their life to the task of national reconstruction.
- Nodal Agency for United Nations Volunteer Scheme, which helps Indian Nationals to serve as UN Volunteers in developing and underdeveloped countries.
- National Service Volunteer Scheme which provides opportunities to students to involve themselves on voluntary basis in nation building activities.

Youth Institutions

- The Vishwa Yuvak Kendra in Delhi, is involved in a large number of linked activities ranging through training, grassroot level work and policy advocacy. The themes taken up for training include, literacy promotion, skill development, community mobilization, project management, preventive health, substance abuse, sanitation and issues of women.
- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development,(RGNIYD) at Sriperambudur,Tamil Nadu, promotes training of youth functionaries and is a centre of research, evaluation and documentation in the field of youth.

There are also various schemes and programmes which directly or indirectly address the needs of the youth. Some of these are,

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, the Kishori Shakti Yojana , Mahila Samakya Programme, Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Programmes for addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS

3.12 LET US SUM UP

Youth are the most important and critical group of population in any country. According to Census of India, 2001, youth comprise of 41.05 percent of the total population in India. But the definitions of youth have changed continuously in response to the political, economic and socio-cultural realities across the countries. The educational, employing and health status of youth are key concern as youth contribute significantly to development. India has formulated a national Youth Policy and launched many schemes for the development of youth.

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3.14 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

1) What do you mean by youth?

Ans. National Youth Policy defines youth as those persons in the age group of 13 to 35 years. Considering the flexibility, the youth is divided into two broad sub groups i.e. 13-19 years and 20-35 years. United Nations has defined youth as the age group between 15 to 24 years

Check your Progress 2

1) Explain briefly the educational status of youth?

Ans. As far as educational status of youth is concerned, the GER of India is 11% in 2006-07. However, this varies significantly across the state. All states state that the educational status of youth in India is comparatively lower than developed countries.

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