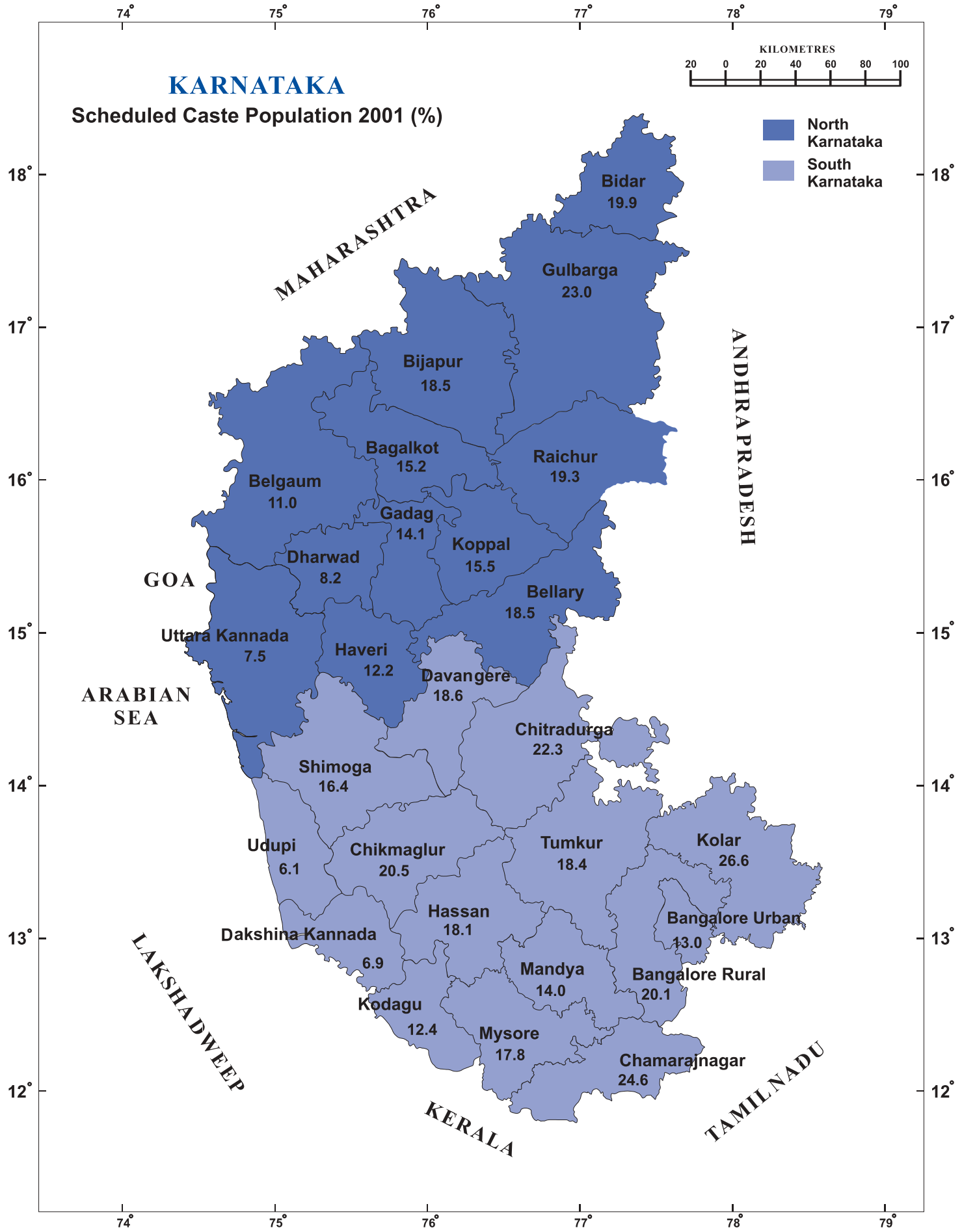


# Status of Scheduled Castes in Karnataka





# Status of Scheduled Castes in Karnataka

## Introduction

The history of categorising some castes as Scheduled Castes commenced with the Government of India Act, 1935. This step, on the part of the then British Government, was meant to treat the most oppressed and exploited castes with a degree of special political dispensation. Most of these castes were known as 'untouchable' in the context of the Hindu social structure. Thus, the 'Scheduled Caste' category initially comprised castes that were isolated and disadvantaged by their 'untouchability', i.e. their low status in the traditional Hindu caste hierarchy, which exposed them to an oppressive life, characterised by a blatant deprivation of opportunities.

In Karnataka the Scheduled Castes (SCs) form a sizeable part of the state's population. Not all SCs are former untouchables. Some of the castes and sub-castes, classified as 'Scheduled Castes' during the 1970s and 1980s, were non-untouchables who did, however, have a history of deprivation. Scheduled Castes are known by different names in different parts of the state and comprise many sub-castes and communities. At present, there are about 101 sub-castes that have been recognised as Scheduled Castes in Karnataka. The majority of these castes are small in number. While the Scheduled Castes are the largest single group in Karnataka, they are also the weakest in terms of political, economic, social and cultural resources.

Human development, as a concept, will have little value or significance until the human development levels of disadvantaged people, particularly of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are raised to the levels of those of the dominant classes. Both the Central and the state governments have implemented policies directed at the socio-economic empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (STs). This chapter will assess the status of the Scheduled Castes

in Karnataka with a special focus on livelihoods, education and health; examine whether government policies have been effective in improving the human development indicators of the Scheduled Castes; and suggest future interventions to ensure that they enjoy equal rights and equal access to goods and services in society.

## Demographic features

### Overview

The population of SCs in Karnataka has increased from 3.12 million in 1961 to 8.56 million in 2001, registering an increase of 174.3 per cent as compared to an increase of 158.5 per cent in the SC population at the national level. The share of the SC population in the total population, which was 13.22 per cent in 1961, declined to 13.14 in 1971, then increased to 15.07 per cent in 1981, and to 16.38 per cent in 1991, and thereafter, fell to 16.21 per cent in 2001. The share of the SC population to the total population of India in 2001 is about 16.26 per cent, which is almost equal to that of Karnataka. In terms of decadal growth, there was a quantum jump (45.33 per cent) in the SC population during 1971–81, followed by a 31.70 per cent increase in the next decade (1981–91). It fell to 16.21 per cent in the following decade, 1991–2001. The high growth recorded during 1971–81 and 1981–91 was not only due to increased fertility rates, but also because of the addition of new castes to the SC category (Figures 9.1 and 9.2).

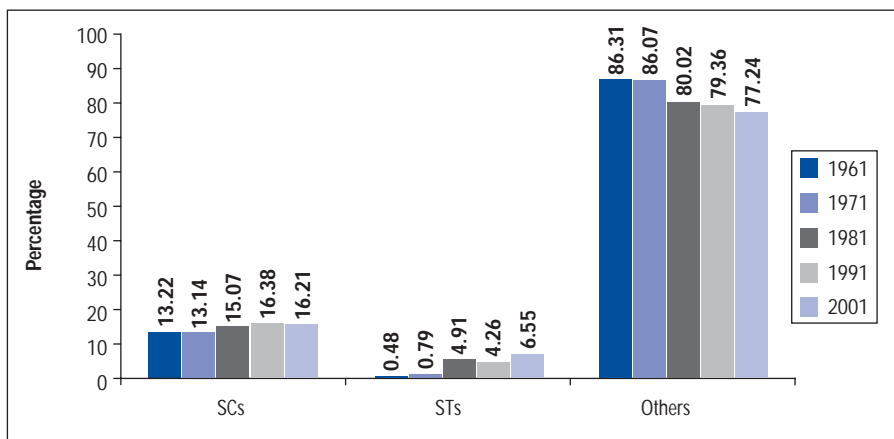
### District-wise distribution

According to the 2001 Census, Bangalore Urban district has the highest SC population in the state (8,51,047) followed by Gulbarga (7,17,595) and Kolar (6,71,692). Districts with the lowest SC population are Kodagu (67,422), Udupi (67,689) and Uttara Kannada (1,01,896). In terms of the percentage of the SC population to the total population of a district however, Kolar (26.6



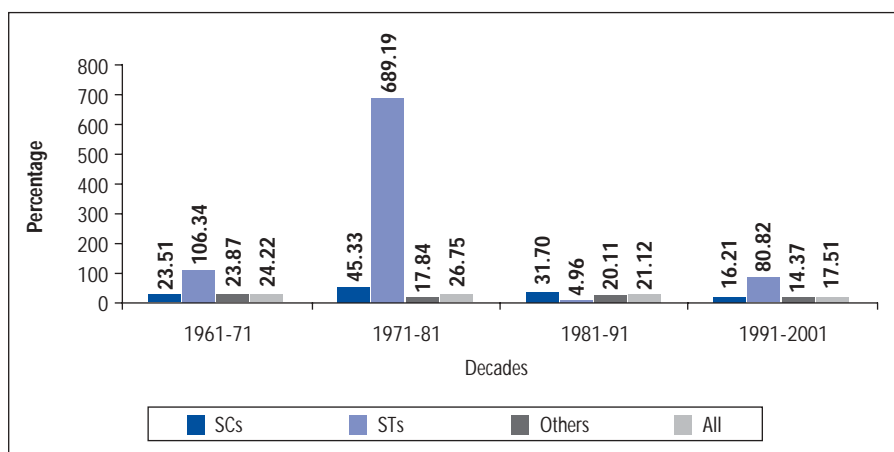
**Human development, as a concept, will have little value or significance until the human development levels of disadvantaged people, particularly of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are raised to the levels of those of the dominant classes.**

FIGURE 9.1  
Percentage share of SCs/STs and Others to total population in Karnataka



Source: Registrar General of India, Census 1961-2001.

FIGURE 9.2  
Decadal growth rate for SCs, STs, Others, and all population in Karnataka



Source: Registrar General of India, Census 1961-2001.

TABLE 9.1  
Distribution of SC/ST population in Karnataka: Rural and urban

(Per cent)

| Area  | Scheduled Castes |        | Scheduled Tribes |        | Others |        | Total  |        |
|-------|------------------|--------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|       | 1991             | 2001   | 1991             | 2001   | 1991   | 2001   | 1991   | 2001   |
| Rural | 76.60            | 74.93  | 85.06            | 84.72  | 66.67  | 62.56  | 69.08  | 66.01  |
| Urban | 23.40            | 25.07  | 14.94            | 15.28  | 33.33  | 37.44  | 30.92  | 33.99  |
| State | 100.00           | 100.00 | 100.00           | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

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

per cent) takes first place, followed by Chamarajnagar (24.6 per cent) and Gulbarga (23.01 per cent). The lowest percentage is in Udupi, (6.1), followed by Dakshina Kannada (6.9) and Uttara Kannada (7.5) (Appendix Tables: Series 10).

### Rural and urban distribution

The majority of the SC population resides in rural areas, but its share of the rural population has been declining from census to census. Out of an 8.56 million SC population (in 2001), about 75 per cent live in rural areas. The proportion of the rural SC population is lower than that of STs, but it is higher than the total population. The trends in rural and urban population for SCs from 1991 to 2001 are shown in Table 9.1.

### Population by castes and sub-castes

The Scheduled Castes comprise 101 castes and sub-castes, the majority of whom were formerly classified as 'untouchables' and generally lived in a segregated area or separate colony on the outskirts of villages, a practice that is outlawed in the present day. The predominant castes among the SCs are Adi Karnataka, Holeya, Chalavadi, Mahar, Mala, Madiga, Mang, Mochi, Adi Dravida, Samagara, Dhor, Banjara and Bhovi. The Adi Karnatakas form the largest segment, (34.13 per cent) followed by Banjaras (11.85 per cent), Bhovis (10.04 per cent) and Adi Dravidas (6.98 per cent).

The spread of the SC population by caste/sub-caste is not uniform throughout the state. Some castes are clustered only in a few districts and are sparse in other districts. The Adi Dravidas are clustered in only three districts, namely, Bangalore Urban (37 per cent), Kolar (20 per cent) and Tumkur (10 per cent), accounting for two-thirds of the Adi Dravida population in the state. Again, about 90 per cent of the Holaya, Holer and Holeya population in the state is concentrated in four districts of north Karnataka, i.e. Gulbarga (37 per cent), Bijapur (20 per cent), Belgaum (20 per cent) and Bidar (17 per cent). District-wise distribution of population according to the major Scheduled Castes based on the 1991 Census for 20 districts is shown in Table 9.2 (2001 Census data was not

Table 9.2

**District-wise percentage of SC sub-caste population to total SC population in Karnataka: 1991**

| Sl. No. | Districts        | Adi Dravida   | Adi Karnataka | Banjara, Lambani | Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia | Bhovi         | Chalavadi, Chalvadi, Channayya | Holaya, Holer, Holey | Korama        | Madiga        | Others        | Total         |
|---------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1       | Bangalore Urban  | 37.01         | 12.83         | 0.57             | 0.39                                      | 9.25          | 0.20                           | 0.39                 | 8.48          | 0.98          | 5.66          | 9.66          |
| 2       | Bangalore Rural  | 6.04          | 8.28          | 2.06             | 0.05                                      | 5.04          | 0.02                           | 0.27                 | 4.38          | 0.76          | 1.34          | 4.43          |
| 3       | Belgaum          | 0.03          | 0.12          | 2.32             | 19.93                                     | 2.95          | 6.95                           | 19.91                | 9.77          | 5.66          | 12.34         | 5.52          |
| 4       | Bellary          | 1.69          | 5.50          | 9.18             | 0.78                                      | 6.13          | 13.04                          | 0.07                 | 3.23          | 2.15          | 5.97          | 4.96          |
| 5       | Bidar            | 0.01          | 0.00          | 4.48             | 1.09                                      | 1.22          | 0.01                           | 16.67                | 1.01          | 13.23         | 7.07          | 3.53          |
| 6       | Bijapur          | 0.02          | 0.06          | 15.42            | 27.46                                     | 4.58          | 9.44                           | 20.04                | 14.23         | 1.90          | 7.54          | 6.92          |
| 7       | Chikmagalur      | 1.93          | 3.91          | 3.70             | 0.35                                      | 2.92          | 1.22                           | 0.18                 | 4.12          | 0.13          | 2.27          | 2.66          |
| 8       | Chitradurga      | 3.92          | 8.76          | 7.95             | 0.34                                      | 10.70         | 1.62                           | 0.00                 | 4.59          | 0.07          | 2.82          | 5.87          |
| 9       | Dakshina Kannada | 5.91          | 0.08          | 0.05             | 0.12                                      | 0.33          | 0.04                           | 4.96                 | 0.10          | 0.08          | 10.71         | 2.38          |
| 10      | Dharwad          | 0.42          | 0.06          | 9.25             | 26.91                                     | 7.60          | 28.48                          | 0.26                 | 11.74         | 4.41          | 7.70          | 5.57          |
| 11      | Gulbarga         | 0.25          | 0.02          | 20.22            | 5.25                                      | 4.34          | 0.91                           | 35.75                | 4.94          | 32.26         | 6.79          | 8.29          |
| 12      | Hassan           | 3.14          | 7.76          | 1.90             | 0.10                                      | 2.71          | 0.18                           | 0.10                 | 2.82          | 0.20          | 1.61          | 3.71          |
| 13      | Kodagu           | 0.42          | 1.17          | 0.02             | 0.06                                      | 0.16          | 0.01                           | 0.34                 | 0.24          | 0.15          | 2.30          | 0.80          |
| 14      | Kolar            | 20.38         | 11.79         | 0.86             | 0.04                                      | 12.95         | 0.05                           | 0.07                 | 1.33          | 0.33          | 2.96          | 7.74          |
| 15      | Mandya           | 2.01          | 6.48          | 0.12             | 0.18                                      | 2.18          | 0.01                           | 0.09                 | 3.84          | 2.06          | 2.00          | 3.08          |
| 16      | Mysore           | 3.55          | 19.36         | 0.93             | 0.42                                      | 3.63          | 0.04                           | 0.05                 | 5.88          | 4.55          | 2.73          | 8.11          |
| 17      | Raichur          | 0.29          | 0.02          | 6.72             | 13.18                                     | 5.30          | 25.09                          | 0.15                 | 6.54          | 30.12         | 8.67          | 5.40          |
| 18      | Shimoga          | 2.76          | 4.28          | 10.07            | 1.06                                      | 9.82          | 5.04                           | 0.09                 | 6.52          | 0.39          | 3.12          | 4.59          |
| 19      | Tumkur           | 10.13         | 9.49          | 3.47             | 0.18                                      | 6.81          | 0.29                           | 0.30                 | 5.62          | 0.30          | 1.21          | 5.54          |
| 20      | Uttara Kannada   | 0.09          | 0.02          | 0.71             | 2.11                                      | 1.40          | 7.37                           | 0.29                 | 0.62          | 0.26          | 5.20          | 1.25          |
|         | <b>Karnataka</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b>    | <b>100.00</b>                             | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b>                  | <b>100.00</b>        | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> |

Source: Registrar General of India, Census 1991.

available at the time of writing this Report). The caste-wise population distribution provides useful inputs for strategies aimed at reducing intra-caste disparities.

### Sex ratio

The sex ratio of the SC population (973) is better than that of the STs (972) and much better than that of the total population (965). It is also higher than the sex ratio of SCs at the all-India level (936).

In the last decade, the sex ratio of the SCs in the state has shown a marked improvement, increasing from 962 in 1991 to 973 in 2001, as compared to a lower increase in the sex ratio of the total population from 960 to 965 in the same period. This trend assumes considerable significance, especially when it is juxtaposed with

the fact that the literacy level of SCs, particularly women, is much lower than the general population. It suggests that son preference is less vigorously pursued as a desirable objective among the SCs and that they are less constrained by patriarchal impulses. An unfortunate trend is the low urban sex ratio (961) while the rural sex ratio is a high 977.

Across districts, Udupi, Bagalkot, Kodagu and Hassan have high female sex ratios and as many as 14 districts, Belgaum, Bellary, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Raichur, Shimoga and Uttara Kannada, have female sex ratios that are higher than the state average (973) (Appendix Tables: Series 10).

In 2004, the Department of Economics and Statistics (DES), Karnataka conducted a

**The sex ratio of the Scheduled Castes has shown a marked improvement, increasing from 962 in 1991 to 973 in 2001.**

**In Karnataka, as in other parts of the country, the Scheduled Castes are largely concentrated in the rural parts of the state. Almost 75 per cent live in villages and depend upon agricultural labour or agriculture-related activities for subsistence. Those who have migrated to cities have taken up occupations such as construction work, street sweeping and other manual labour, which again are not very remunerative. Only a few are engaged in trade and commerce.**

sample survey of 5000 SC and ST households across 374 villages with a high population concentration of SCs and 127 villages with a high population concentration of STs. The objective of the survey was an assessment of the human development status of SCs and STs in the state. The key demographic indicators are presented in Table 9.3.

The Sample Survey (DES: 2004A) found that the birth rate and death rates of the SC population are marginally higher than those of the general population. The infant mortality rate (IMR) of SCs is almost equal to that of STs and higher than the general population. Life expectancy at birth for SCs is almost equal to that of the STs but lower than that of the general population.

### Land, employment and income

In most parts of India, there is a correlation between economic status and the structural position of castes. The reason is that, historically, higher castes had better access to occupations, income and assets than lower castes. In Hindu society, occupation was one of the defining features of the caste hierarchy, with socially valued occupations bestowing high socio-economic status on caste members. In the modern context, there has been a loosening of the caste – occupation linkage. A dynamic occupational shift has not occurred however and high-end jobs continue to be the preserve of the ‘upper’ castes and, now, increasingly, high-income classes. Government policies have ensured that there has been a significant degree of occupational diversity among the SCs but a large percentage of the SC population, especially the ex-untouchable castes among the Scheduled Castes, still constitutes a sizable chunk of

the low income population with poor human development indicators.

In Karnataka, as in other parts of the country, the Scheduled Castes are largely concentrated in the rural parts of the state. Almost 75 per cent live in villages and depend upon agricultural labour or agriculture related activities for subsistence. Those who have migrated to cities have taken up occupations such as construction work, street sweeping and other manual labour, which again are not very remunerative. Only a few are engaged in trade and commerce. The reservation policy has ensured that many SCs entered government service and reached the higher echelons of the power structure, but they comprise only a fraction of their population in the state. The majority languishes in low-end jobs, on the fringe of the poverty line.

### Land ownership patterns

Scheduled Caste ownership of agricultural land is minimal and the majority of landholders have small and unviable holdings. Progressive policies such as the Karnataka Land Reforms Act 1961 and various administrative measures of the government under this Act and Rules, have made it possible for many SC tenant cultivators to become owners of land. Under the land distribution scheme, out of the surplus land identified by the government, only 18,361 SC agricultural labourers and marginal landholders were allotted about 69,893 acres of agricultural land in the 1990s.

The 2001 Census reveals that out of a total 70.79 lakh operational holdings, 8.23 lakh (11.65 per cent) are owned by SCs. The total area cultivated by SCs is 10.71 lakh hectare out of a total operated area of 123.07 lakh hectare, accounting for 8.7 per cent. Since SCs comprise 16.21 per cent of the total population of the state, it is clear that their ownership of agricultural land holdings is not commensurate with their share of the population.

The 2001 Agricultural Census, reported that 52 per cent of marginal (less than one hectare) and 30 per cent of small (1–2 hectare) operational holdings were held by SCs while non-SCs held about 45 per cent and 26 per cent of marginal

TABLE 9.3  
Key demographic indicators

| Sl. No. | Indicators               | Scheduled Castes | Scheduled Tribes |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1       | Birth rate               | 21.82            | 22.79            |
| 2       | Death rate               | 9.12             | 8.50             |
| 3       | Infant mortality rate    | 64.74            | 64.37            |
| 4       | Life expectancy at birth | 62.00            | 61.80            |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

and small holdings respectively. It is evident that the share of operational holdings decreases as the size of holdings increases for SCs as well as for all groups. An important feature is that the marginal and small operational holdings of the SCs which form about 82 per cent of total SC holdings account for a little more than half (53 per cent) of the total operated area belonging to SCs. As against this, 72 per cent of the marginal and small holdings of non-SCs and non-STs, account for about 32.4 per cent of the total operated area (Table 9.4). The majority of SC cultivators own marginal and small holdings, which are not viable and drive them towards indebtedness and poverty. It could be argued that, for a majority of SC cultivators owning agricultural land has become a symbol of security rather than a major source of income.

Land ownership does not necessarily mean an increase in income for two reasons: SC holdings are small and unviable and the land they own is not irrigated (Table 9.5).

### Employment

Since data on employment in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors for the 2001 census is not yet available, the following analysis is based on the 1991 Census data. Scheduled Caste workers are heavily concentrated in low paying agricultural activities and other occupational positions. They are yet to create space for themselves in high-end occupations. This situation is applicable not only to the SCs in Karnataka but also to the SCs of other states with only a difference of degree. Among the three major sectors — primary, secondary and tertiary — representing agriculture, manufacturing and services, the distribution of SC main workers in Karnataka was 78.83 per cent, 10.43 per cent and 10.74 per cent for each sector respectively. The distribution of non-SC main workers in the state, in these respective sectors, during the same year, was 64.91 per cent, 13.77 per cent and 21.32 per cent. The SCs are under represented in the manufacturing and service sectors. The sample survey (DES: 2004A) provides fresh insights (Table 9.6).

The proportion of cultivators and landless agricultural labourers among SCs was 23.48 per

TABLE 9.4

### Distribution of operational holdings and operated areas by major size class for different social groups in Karnataka: 2001

(Per cent)

| Size Class       | Scheduled Castes |               | Scheduled Tribes |               | Others          |               | Total           |               |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                  | No. of holdings  | Area          | No. of holdings  | Area          | No. of holdings | Area          | No. of holdings | Area          |
| Marginal         | 52.13            | 19.70         | 40.84            | 12.00         | 45.41           | 11.40         | 45.94           | 12.20         |
| Small            | 30.13            | 33.10         | 30.89            | 25.30         | 26.28           | 21.10         | 26.98           | 22.40         |
| Semi medium      | 13.73            | 27.70         | 19.37            | 29.60         | 18.26           | 27.90         | 17.79           | 28.00         |
| Medium           | 3.65             | 16.00         | 7.85             | 25.30         | 8.65            | 28.30         | 8.03            | 27.00         |
| Large            | 0.36             | 3.50          | 1.05             | 7.70          | 1.40            | 11.40         | 1.26            | 10.50         |
| <b>All sizes</b> | <b>100.00</b>    | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b>    | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b>   | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b>   | <b>100.00</b> |

Source: Agricultural Census 2001, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2003.

TABLE 9.5

### Ownership of agricultural land

| Type of agricultural land       | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Rural SC households owning land | 48.40      |
| Irrigated                       | 11.34      |
| Un-irrigated                    | 83.25      |
| Partly irrigated                | 5.41       |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

**Among the three major sectors – primary, secondary and tertiary – representing agriculture, manufacturing and services, the distribution of SC main workers in Karnataka was 78.83 per cent, 10.43 per cent and 10.74 per cent for each sector respectively.**

TABLE 9.6

### Occupational distribution

| Type of occupation  | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------|
| Cultivator          | 5.74       |
| Agricultural labour | 19.59      |
| Other labour        | 10.50      |
| Private enterprises | 1.52       |
| Government service  | 1.31       |
| Private service     | 1.18       |
| Artisans            | 0.56       |
| Household work      | 10.84      |
| Students            | 30.31      |
| Others              | 18.45      |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

**Not only do the Scheduled Castes suffer from a lack of social resources, they have also been denied access to both material and cultural resources. They have experienced, in addition to material deprivation, social exclusion, which is manifested in their poor access to human development.**

cent and 49.87 per cent, whereas among non-SCs it was 36.69 per cent and 24.43 per cent in 1991. In 2001 about 20.54 per cent and 43.41 per cent of Scheduled Caste workers are reported to be cultivators and agricultural labourers respectively. Only 2.53 per cent are accounted as household workers while 33.12 per cent are 'other workers'. It is evident that there has been a decline in the proportion of cultivators by about 3 per cent and a decline in agricultural labourers by about 6.5 per cent over the decade 1991-2001.

### Income and expenditure

Although poverty is linked to the income and asset position of people, many other social and cultural factors shape the state of poverty in a particular society. All poor people cannot be viewed as a homogeneous class since the forms of deprivation they encounter are influenced by differentiated forms of inequity arising from caste, gender or even geography. Not only do the Scheduled Castes suffer from a lack of social resources, they have also been denied access to both material and cultural resources. They have experienced, in addition to material deprivation, social exclusion, which is manifested in their poor access to human development.

Household and per capita income determines the standards of life. Income levels determine the individual's capacity to access goods and services and they are decisive factors in determining the living standards of households. The income status of the Scheduled Castes in Karnataka is very weak compared to the rest of the population. In Karnataka the majority of the Scheduled Castes earn their livelihood from less remunerative sources. Their proportionate share of income from each source is also very low and unequal.

### Source of income

Scheduled Caste households are only 15.4 per cent of the total number of households reporting income from cultivation in rural Karnataka (NSS 55th round, 1999-2000). This is less than the proportion of the other backward classes or OBCs (40.6 per cent) and other households (36.3 per cent). Scheduled Caste households that earned their income from fishing and other agricultural

enterprises in rural areas constituted 14 per cent, which is also less than half of OBCs (40 per cent) and other households (38.6 per cent). Among the households engaged in non-agricultural enterprises, SC households constituted a mere 10.9 per cent which is not a happy situation, compared to the proportion of OBCs (47.5 per cent) and other households (38.8 per cent) engaged in non-agricultural work. Good sources of income for rural SC households are wages and salaried employment (26.8 per cent) and pensions (27 per cent) with the latter comprising the single largest source of income for SCs who are also the single largest group of beneficiaries. The term 'pension' includes many social security measures such as old age pensions, widow's pension, and pension for the disabled and so on. Disparities also exist in urban Karnataka between SC households and others. While SC households in urban areas constitute only 7.4 per cent of households earning income from cultivation, OBCs and other households constitute 31 and 55.5 per cent respectively. The general population has more diversified sources of income than SCs.

Across other southern states, the income of SCs in Kerala has more diverse sources. In Tamil Nadu (38.2 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (33.3 per cent) the dependence on agriculture is higher than in Karnataka (29.4 per cent). In both states, however, wages/salaried employment, were bigger sources of income than in Karnataka. In Tamil Nadu it was a high 35.7 per cent compared with 26.8 per cent in Karnataka. The analysis makes it clear that the SCs in Karnataka do not have equal access to sources that yield high income and are clustered in low-paying professions.

The NCAER Report (1999) notes that rural Scheduled Caste households get 53.6 per cent of their income from agriculture and allied activities, 24 per cent from agricultural wages and 8.5 per cent from non-agricultural wages. At the national level, the pattern is different: SC households derive 37.7 per cent of their income from agriculture and allied activities and 19.7 per cent (13.1 per cent) from agricultural wages (non-agricultural wages). Hindu and Muslim households derive more income from agriculture





and allied activities and less from agricultural wages and non-agricultural wages.

The percentage of income (8.10 per cent) that SCs derive from salaried income is more or less equal to that of Hindus (8.60 per cent) though slightly less than that of Muslims (13.30 per cent). At the all-India level, 15.20 per cent of income is derived by SCs from salaried employment, which is slightly less than Hindus (16.40 per cent) and more than Muslims (14.70 per cent). Income from professional occupations is non-existent for SCs in Karnataka but the income of SC households (0.50 per cent) at the national level from this source is equal to that of Hindus (0.50 per cent) and Muslims (0.50 per cent). At the national level SC households derive 15.70 per cent of their income from the category 'artisan and industrial work' but the corresponding figure for Karnataka is a low 3.10 per cent. A comparison with other southern states shows that the percentage of households dependent on salaried employment is a high 20.30 per cent in Tamil Nadu and 10.70 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, as compared to 8.10 per cent in Karnataka. However, a higher percentage of households in the other southern states depends on agricultural (and non-agricultural) wage for income: Tamil Nadu: 39.70 (16.30) per cent, Andhra Pradesh: 39.70 (10.70) per cent, Kerala: 37.30 (32.90) per cent. From the perspective of income from all wages, the SCs in Karnataka derive less income than the SCs in other southern states: Karnataka SCs derive 29.6 per cent of their income from all wages compared with 45.8 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 34.9 per cent in Tamil Nadu and 63.8 per cent in Kerala. Overall, SCs depend on the primary sector for their livelihood, whereas non-SCs derive their income from more diverse sources.

If we look at the distribution pattern of SC households across different income groups and compare it with the pattern of other households, the inequities become very visible. At the all-India level, about 72 per cent of SC households and 70.50 per cent of ST households have an annual income of less than Rs.20,000. In Karnataka SC and ST households, which fall into the income group of Rs.20,000 to Rs.40,000 per annum, constitute 21.30 per cent and 19.50 per cent of all

households respectively. Only 0.70 per cent of the SC households and 1.10 per cent of ST households have an income that is above Rs.86,000 per annum. Among Muslims, Christians and other minorities, this class of households constitutes two per cent, 4.60 per cent and 5.60 per cent respectively.

According to the NSS 55th round in 1999-2000, the monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) among SCs in rural Karnataka was Rs.419, which was much lower than the OBCs (Rs.507), others (Rs.560) and a little higher than STs (Rs.404). The average MPCE was Rs.500 for all rural groups in Karnataka. The average MPCE of SCs at all-India (rural) was also Rs.419. In urban Karnataka the average MPCE of SCs was Rs.593 and for STs it was Rs.634. The average MPCE of OBCs in urban Karnataka was Rs.829 and for others Rs.1,044. For all groups in urban Karnataka the average MPCE was Rs.911. At all-India (urban) level the average MPCE among SCs was Rs.609 and for all groups it was Rs.855. This means that among all social groups, the MPCE of the SCs was the lowest in urban areas and the second lowest in the rural parts of the state.

### Income and expenditure patterns

Analysis of the income levels of SCs reveals a wide gap among those living in urban areas compared to their counterparts in rural areas. The annual per capita income of rural SCs was Rs.5,000 as against Rs.12,778 of urban SCs. The percentage of BPL families in the rural SC population was 37 and 25 in the urban SC population.

There is also a disparity in the pattern of spending in the SC population in view of the fact that the rural and urban SCs' monthly per capita expenditure was in the ratio 1:2. Data indicates that the monthly per capita expenditure of rural SCs was Rs.398 and Rs.790 for urban SCs. The percentage of families below the poverty line in rural areas was 50 per cent more than in urban area.

## Literacy and education

### Literacy

Education plays a crucial role in empowering the poor and the marginalised everywhere. Literacy



**In 1999-2000, the monthly per capita expenditure among SCs in rural Karnataka was Rs.419 which was much lower than the OBCs (Rs.507), others (Rs.560) and a little higher than STs (Rs.404).**

TABLE 9.7

## Area-wise distribution of households by source of income and social groups: Karnataka and India 1999-2000

(Per cent)

|           | Social groups | Cultivation | Fishing/other agricultural enterprises | Wages/salaried employment | Non-agricultural enterprises | Pension | Rent   | Remittances | Interest and dividends | Others | All    |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------|------------------------|--------|--------|
| Karnataka | SCs           | 15.40       | 14.00                                  | 26.80                     | 10.90                        | 27.00   | 6.60   | 13.70       | 2.40                   | 21.60  | 20.70  |
|           | STs           | 7.70        | 6.70                                   | 9.70                      | 2.70                         | 7.100   | 12.80  | 4.60        | 0.00                   | 9.70   | 7.90   |
|           | OBCs          | 40.60       | 40.70                                  | 38.30                     | 47.50                        | 21.30   | 17.50  | 33.50       | 21.70                  | 35.20  | 38.60  |
|           | Others        | 36.30       | 38.60                                  | 25.30                     | 38.80                        | 44.60   | 63.00  | 48.10       | 75.90                  | 33.50  | 32.80  |
|           | All groups    | 100.00      | 100.00                                 | 100.00                    | 100.00                       | 100.00  | 100.00 | 100.00      | 100.00                 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| All-India | SCs           | 15.80       | 15.90                                  | 27.60                     | 18.90                        | 15.60   | 15.50  | 14.70       | 8.00                   | 20.80  | 21.30  |
|           | STs           | 12.70       | 12.20                                  | 12.90                     | 5.20                         | 4.10    | 3.20   | 5.40        | 3.80                   | 13.20  | 10.90  |
|           | OBCs          | 38.30       | 37.40                                  | 35.10                     | 41.50                        | 31.00   | 40.10  | 40.80       | 31.60                  | 35.90  | 37.10  |
|           | Others        | 33.20       | 34.50                                  | 24.10                     | 34.40                        | 49.30   | 41.20  | 39.10       | 56.60                  | 30.10  | 30.70  |
|           | All groups    | 100.00      | 100.00                                 | 100.00                    | 100.00                       | 100.00  | 100.00 | 100.00      | 100.00                 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Karnataka | SCs           | 7.40        | 15.40                                  | 12.00                     | 5.80                         | 7.00    | 4.00   | 7.90        | 5.10                   | 18.60  | 10.20  |
|           | STs           | 6.10        | 3.60                                   | 4.60                      | 3.00                         | 2.30    | 3.70   | 7.40        | 2.80                   | 8.90   | 4.50   |
|           | OBCs          | 31.00       | 37.80                                  | 29.60                     | 31.90                        | 29.40   | 33.30  | 32.80       | 25.20                  | 38.50  | 29.70  |
|           | Others        | 55.50       | 43.20                                  | 53.80                     | 59.40                        | 61.30   | 58.90  | 51.90       | 66.80                  | 34.00  | 55.70  |
|           | All groups    | 100.00      | 100.00                                 | 100.00                    | 100.00                       | 100.00  | 100.00 | 100.00      | 100.00                 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| All-India | SCs           | 10.60       | 14.60                                  | 16.10                     | 11.30                        | 9.70    | 8.00   | 11.60       | 6.60                   | 15.60  | 13.90  |
|           | STs           | 4.70        | 2.80                                   | 4.00                      | 2.00                         | 3.10    | 2.60   | 3.90        | 2.30                   | 6.00   | 3.50   |
|           | OBCs          | 38.00       | 45.30                                  | 29.60                     | 32.00                        | 22.20   | 36.10  | 31.60       | 20.90                  | 29.20  | 30.10  |
|           | Others        | 46.70       | 37.40                                  | 50.30                     | 54.60                        | 65.10   | 53.30  | 52.80       | 70.20                  | 49.20  | 52.50  |
|           | All groups    | 100.00      | 100.00                                 | 100.00                    | 100.00                       | 100.00  | 100.00 | 100.00      | 100.00                 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Report No.463, Sources of household income in India, NSS 55th round, July 1999 – June 2000.

and higher levels of educational attainment are associated with an improvement in demographic and health indicators. Access to education enables people to exercise their constitutional and legal rights in a judicious manner. Gender inequality has been known to decline as women's access to education is enhanced. The liberating dimensions of education assume special significance in the context of people who have been denied access to learning and, through learning, economic mobility by oppressive socio-cultural ideologies.

The Scheduled Castes in Karnataka have a long history of receiving strong support from the state, commencing with the benevolent policies of the princely state of Mysore where, in 1919 the Scheduled Castes (known as 'Punchamas') got admission in all

schools despite protests from the upper castes. By the 1920s a small but significant number of SCs had entered government service and statistics showed that there were 165 Dalits among a total of 4,234 employees in 1918 (about 3.8 per cent).

After Independence and since its formation in 1956, Karnataka has pursued policies that have encouraged SCs to enter the education mainstream. Despite these pro-active interventions, the performance of SCs is nowhere on par with the general population.

The literacy rate of SCs has been consistently lower than that of the general population. The literacy rate among the Scheduled Castes was 27.62 per cent in 1981; it increased to

TABLE 9.8

**Source-wise distribution of household income in rural areas for different social and religious groups**

(Per cent)

| Source of Income   | Karnataka      |                |                | India          |                |                |                |                |                  |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
|  | SCs            | Hindus         | Muslims        | SCs            | STs            | Hindus         | Muslims        | Christians     | Other Minorities |
| Agriculture and allied activities                                    | 53.60          | 72.10          | 43.80          | 37.70          | 55.60          | 56.10          | 44.10          | 46.30          | 60.30            |
| Artisan/industry work  | 3.10           | 3.50           | 9.30           | 5.70           | 2.70           | 4.30           | 8.30           | 2.90           | 3.10             |
| Petty trade and small business                                       | 1.70           | 2.10           | 11.10          | 5.10           | 3.20           | 4.60           | 9.90           | 4.10           | 3.70             |
| Organisation and business  | 0.20           | 0.60           | 2.90           | 1.00           | 1.50           | 1.80           | 2.90           | 1.90           | 0.60             |
| Salaried employment  | 8.10           | 8.60           | 13.30          | 15.20          | 14.80          | 16.40          | 14.70          | 23.50          | 17.60            |
| Qualified profession   | 0.00           | 0.20           | 0.20           | 0.50           | 0.80           | 0.50           | 0.80           | 0.40           | 0.80             |
| Rent/interest dividend   | 0.10           | 0.30           | 0.60           | 0.50           | 0.50           | 0.60           | 0.50           | 0.50           | 1.90             |
| Agricultural wage  | 24.00          | 8.90           | 8.30           | 19.70          | 11.70          | 8.00           | 7.70           | 9.40           | 5.20             |
| Non-agricultural wage  | 8.50           | 3.10           | 7.70           | 13.10          | 8.00           | 6.20           | 7.40           | 7.80           | 5.00             |
| Other sources  | 0.60           | 0.70           | 2.80           | 1.50           | 1.00           | 1.50           | 3.80           | 3.10           | 1.70             |
| All sources<br>(Actual per household value)<br>Income (Rs. per year) | 16579<br>(100) | 27800<br>(100) | 23661<br>(100) | 17465<br>(100) | 19556<br>(100) | 25713<br>(100) | 22807<br>(100) | 28860<br>(100) | 30330<br>(100)   |
| Per capita   | 3094           | 4897           | 3681           | 3237           | 3504           | 4514           | 3678           | 5920           | 5427             |

*Sources:*

1. South India Human Development Report (Survey report for Karnataka), NCAER, 1999.
2. India Human Development Report (Survey report for India) NCAER, 2001.

38.10 per cent in 1991 and further increased to 52.87 per cent in 2001. The literacy rate for the total population was 46.21 per cent (1981), 56.04 per cent (1991) and 66.64 per cent (2001). The gap between the literacy rate of the general population and the SC literacy rate is being bridged but not as rapidly as envisaged. The gap in 1981 was 19.59 percentage points, which fell to 17.98 in 1991 and declined further to 13.83 in 2001. Scheduled Caste literacy rates have been increasing at a faster pace: between 1981 and 1991 the SC literacy rate increased by 10.48 percentage points and by 14.77 in 1991-2001. The increase in literacy for the rest of the population was 9.83 per cent in 1981-1991 and 10.6 per cent in 1991-2001. The literacy rate of urban SCs in 2001 is 69.27 per cent, which is above the state average.

The female literacy rate among SCs in 1981 was 15.48 per cent, which increased to 26 per cent in 1991 and 41.72 per cent in 2001. The female

TABLE 9.9  
**Income and expenditure**

| Region       | Annual per capita income | Monthly per capita expenditure | Percentage of BPL families |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rural        | 5000                     | 398                            | 37                         |
| Urban        | 12778                    | 790                            | 25                         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6945</b>              | <b>496</b>                     | <b>34</b>                  |

*Source:* Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

literacy rate for total population in 2001 was 56.87 per cent (Table 9.10). The gap between the SC male and female literacy rates hovered at about 23 percentage points (1981 and 1991) before declining marginally to 22 percentage points in 2001. The gap between the male and female literacy rates in the general population declined slightly from 22.92 in 1991 to 19.23 percentage points in 2001. The gap between the SC female literacy rate and the female literacy rate for all hovered at 18 percentage points (1981 and 1991) and then fell to 15.15 percentage points in

TABLE 9.10  
Literacy rate among SCs and general population in Karnataka

|                    |       |             | Male         | Female       | Total        |
|--------------------|-------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Scheduled Castes   | Rural | 1981        | 31.83        | 9.24         | 20.67        |
|                    |       | 1991        | 43.21        | 19.23        | 31.42        |
|                    |       | 2001        | 58.71        | 35.56        | 47.25        |
|                    | Urban | 1981        | 65.39        | 37.82        | 52.03        |
|                    |       | 1991        | 70.05        | 47.64        | 59.18        |
|                    |       | 2001        | 78.32        | 59.88        | 69.27        |
|                    | Total | 1981        | 39.38        | 15.48        | 27.62        |
|                    |       | 1991        | 49.69        | 25.95        | 38.10        |
|                    |       | 2001        | 63.75        | 41.72        | 52.87        |
| General population | Rural | 1981        | 51.11        | 23.84        | 37.63        |
|                    |       | 1991        | 60.30        | 34.76        | 47.69        |
|                    |       | 2001        | 70.45        | 48.01        | 59.33        |
|                    | Urban | 1981        | 76.54        | 56.41        | 66.91        |
|                    |       | 1991        | 82.04        | 65.74        | 74.20        |
|                    |       | 2001        | 86.66        | 74.12        | 80.55        |
|                    | Total | <b>1981</b> | <b>58.73</b> | <b>33.17</b> | <b>46.21</b> |
|                    |       | <b>1991</b> | <b>67.26</b> | <b>44.34</b> | <b>56.04</b> |
|                    |       | <b>2001</b> | <b>76.10</b> | <b>56.87</b> | <b>66.64</b> |

Note: Literacy rate calculated for the population in the age groups 7+.

Source: Registrar General of India, Census 1981, 1991 and 2001.

2001. The literacy rate of SC women is abysmally low in rural areas.

The literacy level of SCs in Karnataka was higher than the all-India SC literacy level with reference to both female and general literacy in 1991. In 2001, the SC literacy rate was found to be lower than the all-India literacy rates for SC male, female and 'all', which is a matter of great concern.

### District-wise literacy levels

Across districts, Bangalore Urban district (70.23 per cent) has the highest literacy rate followed by Udupi (70.13 per cent), Dakshina Kannada (66.14 per cent) Uttara Kannada (65.45 per cent), Kodagu (64.93 per cent), Dharwad (61.19 per cent), Shimoga (56.78 per cent), Mandya (55.92 per cent), Belgaum (55.57 per cent) and Bangalore Rural (55.35 per cent). Except Belgaum and Bangalore Rural where the percentage of SCs to the total population is fairly high, districts such as Udupi, Uttara Kannada and

Kodagu have very low SC populations. Districts which have a relatively high percentage of SC population also have low literacy rates: Raichur has the lowest SC literacy rate (38.76 per cent), followed by Koppal (38.78 per cent), Gulbarga (39.05 per cent), Bellary (42.31 per cent) Bagalkot (42.44 per cent), and Bijapur (47.16 per cent). In Hassan (53.61 per cent), Tumkur (54.33 per cent) and Chikmagalur (54.58 per cent), the literacy rate is slightly above the state average (Appendix Tables: Series 10).

While the literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes has improved perceptibly in the decade 1991-2001, they still have to catch up with the rest of the population. The SC literacy rate in 2001 (52.87) is lower than the literacy rate of the total population in 1991 (56.04) placing them a decade behind in literacy levels. The literacy rate of SC women continues to be a matter of concern. Districts with the lowest SC female literacy rates are Koppal (25.6), Raichur (26), Gulbarga (27) and Bagalkot (28.7), followed closely by Bellary (29), Bijapur (31.9), Haveri (36.9), Davangere (38.2), Chitradurga (40.92) and Belgaum (41.6), which are below the state average. All these districts except Davangere and Chitradurga are located in north Karnataka. The remaining districts have marginally higher figures. This data uncovers what happens to women located at the intersection of caste, gender and region. The outcomes for women from the poorest, most vulnerable sections of society are indeed cruel if they happen to reside in underdeveloped areas. Bangalore Urban with 70.23 per cent, Udupi with 70.13 per cent, Dakshina Kannada with 66.14 per cent, and Uttara Kannada with 65.45 per cent literacy rates are high performing districts but they are also districts where the overall literacy rate is high.

## Education

### Access

The gross enrolment ratio (GER) of the state (classes I to VIII) has increased from 92 in 1996-97 (KHDR 1999) to 99 in 2000-01. The GER for SCs was a high 104.57 in the same year. In fact there has been a great improvement in the

GER of the SCs, which has overtaken the GER of the general population. Among districts, Udupi led with a GER of 323.27, followed by Shimoga (154.65) and Bangalore Urban (137). Districts with a low GER were Raichur (78.97), Bellary (84.87) and Koppal (87.89) all in Hyderabad Karnataka where SC literacy levels are very low.

There is little difference between SC children and the rest of the population with regard to mean years of schooling (Table 9.11).

### Out-of-school children

According to the Children's Census conducted by the Department of Public Instruction in 2005, the percentage of out-of-school children in the age group 7–14 is highest among STs (2.42) followed by SCs (2.22). These two social classes also have the highest percentage of out-of-school girls.

### Dropout rate

School dropout is another important indicator of educational status. The Sample Survey (DES: 2004A) canvassed persons aged between nine and 35 years and found that five per cent of SC persons in that age group had dropped out at primary school level and 17.12 per cent at higher primary/high school level. The dropout rate for SC females was marginally less than SC males.

The reasons offered for dropping out offer insights into the biases that SC females experience: 36 per cent mentioned the inability of parents to pay for their education and 32 per cent discontinued their education to work at home. Scheduled Caste males dropped out to do family work (26 per cent) or because the school was at some distance from the residence (24 per cent) – a factor which does not seem to have discouraged SC women. The opportunity costs of education are very high for SC girls. They are pulled out of school to attend to domestic chores and sibling care, thus enabling their mothers to work as agricultural or casual labour.

In secondary education, in 2000-01, the GER for SC boys (97.63) and girls (90.77) is higher than for all boys (92.86) and girls (86.89) for classes I to X, but there is a decline at the plus 2 stage

for SC boys (86.94) while SC girls (80.99) have a GER similar to all students (80.28) in Classes X–XII. Raichur district had the lowest GER (Appendix Tables: Series 4 and 10).

### Outcomes

In terms of outcomes such as performance in the Class VII examinations, there is very little difference across castes. In 2002, for example, SCs and STs outperformed non-SC/ST students. The pass percentage for SCs was 87.87, for STs 88.25 and for others it was 87.31. Scheduled Caste girls, like girls in all social groups, outperformed their male counterparts. When this data is viewed in the context of high dropout rates and the persistence of low literacy rates among SC females, it becomes apparent that if SC girls are enabled to remain in school, then their performance will be exemplary. Unfortunately, despite having the capacity to benefit from education, SC women are not in a position to truly enlarge their choices.

The scenario alters somewhat in class X (SSLC) examinations where testing is clearly more rigorous. Among all social groups, SCs have the lowest outcomes in terms of percentage of students clearing the examination from

**If SC girls are enabled to remain in school, then their performance will be exemplary. Unfortunately, despite having the capacity to benefit from education, SC women are not in a position to truly enlarge their choices.**

TABLE 9.11

### Mean years of schooling

| Category                 | No. of years |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| All children             | 4.003        |
| Scheduled Caste children | 4.235        |
| Scheduled Tribe children | 4.166        |
| Non-SC/ST children       | 4.458        |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

TABLE 9.12

### Percentage of children who are out of school in the age group 7-14

| Sl. No. | Category | Percentage of out-of-school children |       |       |
|---------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|         |          | Boys                                 | Girls | Total |
| 1       | All      | 1.47                                 | 1.62  | 1.54  |
| 2       | SCs      | 1.99                                 | 2.47  | 2.22  |
| 3       | STs      | 2.11                                 | 2.67  | 2.42  |
| 4       | Muslims  | 1.3                                  | 1.24  | 1.27  |

Source: Children's Census, Department of Public Instruction, Karnataka, 2005.

2001 to 2005 except in 2001, when SC girls performed better than SC boys. The gap in performance between all students and SC students was 6.04 percentage points in 2001 and it increased to 13.8 in 2005. This increase is a cause for concern.

### Higher education

At the tertiary level, more SC students enrol in degree classes in government colleges than in aided colleges. In 2003-04, SC students constituted 15.7 per cent and 8.8 per cent of all students enrolled in government and aided colleges respectively. State-run colleges provide

access to higher education to precisely those social groups who have been excluded from higher education by social and cultural biases. Aided colleges far outnumber government colleges but their performance in the enrolment of SC students needs to improve. Performance-wise, in 2003-04, out of 17,163 students who enrolled, only 5,475 (31 per cent) completed their courses of study and graduated, as against the 43,007 (49.44 per cent) who graduated out of 86,961 enrolled general students. The attrition rate is very high for all social groups, which is a commentary on the quality of instruction and lack of infrastructure in government colleges, which is further attenuated by the low-income status of the majority of its users. In technical education, SC enrolment in the year 2002-03 was 6.8 per cent in degree courses and a low 0.8 per cent in diploma courses. This is a matter of concern because high-end jobs in the state tend to cluster in technology-driven sectors, and SCs are, therefore, under-represented here.

TABLE 9.13

### Percentage of students who passed the SSLC examination 2001-05

| Year | All   |       | SCs   |       | STs   |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|      | Girls | Boys  | Girls | Boys  | Girls | Boys  |
| 2001 | 52.44 | 40.22 | 38.09 | 39.05 | 40.47 | 38.24 |
| 2002 | 53.76 | 48.54 | 37.74 | 35.96 | 39.47 | 34.91 |
| 2003 | 58.54 | 52.19 | 41.15 | 39.06 | 43.47 | 39.84 |
| 2004 | 68.06 | 61.74 | 53.30 | 50.41 | 55.80 | 54.01 |
| 2005 | 66.10 | 59.30 | 50.31 | 47.29 | 55.18 | 49.55 |

Source: Karnataka State Secondary Education Board.

TABLE 9.14

### Percentage distribution of SC population aged 7+ years by level of education

| Level of Education                | Male  | Female | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Not literate                      | 43.69 | 54.73  | 49.08 |
| Literate without formal education | 2.12  | 1.42   | 1.78  |
| Literate below primary            | 16.89 | 16.88  | 16.89 |
| Primary                           | 12.33 | 11.27  | 11.81 |
| Higher primary                    | 10.81 | 8.71   | 9.78  |
| High School                       | 8.45  | 5.40   | 6.96  |
| PUC                               | 3.45  | 1.10   | 2.30  |
| Diploma                           | 0.35  | 0.13   | 0.25  |
| Graduate                          | 1.47  | 0.22   | 0.86  |
| Post-graduate                     | 0.21  | 0.04   | 0.13  |
| Technical graduate                | 0.12  | 0.02   | 0.07  |
| Technical Post-graduate           | 0.04  | 0.01   | 0.03  |
| Handicrafts (skills)              | 0.05  | 0.07   | 0.07  |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

The Sample Survey (DES: 2004A) reveals that the dropout rate in the SC population increases with levels of education. In the 51 per cent surveyed who were literates, the highest proportion had a literacy level below primary followed by primary and higher primary. Over 45 per cent did not reach high school, confirming the poor levels of education among the SCs. There were just 0.22 per cent SC female graduates in the sample as against 1.47 per cent SC male graduates. A meagre 0.04 per cent of SC females were post-graduates. The details are furnished in Table 9.14.

### Housing

In the 1991 Census terms such as '*pucca*' and '*kutcha*' were used to describe the quality of housing. The 2001 Census replaced these terms with 'permanent', 'semi-permanent' and 'temporary' to describe the quality of houses. NCAER's survey data (1994) states that about 85.5 per cent of the SCs in Karnataka had *kutcha* houses while Hindus and Muslims who owned *kutcha* houses accounted for 74.3 per cent and 73.9 per cent respectively. About 54 per cent of SC houses had separate kitchens compared with about 67.3 per cent for Hindus and 57.6 per cent for Muslims. The 2001 Census reports that 51.09

per cent of SC households live in permanent houses, 36.65 per cent in semi-permanent houses and 12.22 per cent in temporary houses. Comparable figures for the total population show that 54.94 per cent live in permanent houses, 35.52 per cent in semi-permanent houses and 9.5 per cent in temporary houses. The above data establishes clearly that overall the housing conditions of SCs have improved considerably, primarily because of the massive efforts of the Government in providing houses through various housing programmes such as *Ashraya*, *Ambedkar Housing Programme*, *Indira Awas Yojana*, *Neralina Bhagya*, etc. over the last 25 years.

## Drinking water

In terms of safe drinking water, the Scheduled Caste population seems to be better placed than the non-SCs, not only in Karnataka, but in other southern states as well, based on data in the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. This holds good for rural, urban and combined areas, the exception being Andhra Pradesh for urban areas (Table 9.15).

Districts where the percentage of SC households with access to safe drinking water below the state average are Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Kodagu, Shimoga, Udupi and Uttara Kannada. Access of households to safe drinking water is relatively low in the coastal, *malnad* and Hyderabad Karnataka districts (Appendix Tables: Series 10).

Ninety per cent of the villages surveyed had a drinking water facility within SC colonies/villages and the principal sources were bore-wells with hand pumps, mini water supply and piped water supply schemes. As many as 73.80 per cent of villages or three out of four had adequate drinking water supply in all seasons (DES: 2004A).

## Sanitation

Sanitation in Karnataka did not receive much policy attention for many decades, and therefore, its status for several indicators is not as good as in the neighbouring states. The 1991 Census showed that a mere 9.24 per cent SC households in Karnataka had latrine facilities, compared with 26.97

TABLE 9.15  
Percentage of households with safe drinking water

| Area     | States         | General |      | SCs  |      | Non-SCs |      |
|----------|----------------|---------|------|------|------|---------|------|
|          |                | 1991    | 2001 | 1991 | 2001 | 1991    | 2001 |
| Rural    | Andhra Pradesh | 49.0    | 76.9 | 54.4 | 80.7 | 47.8    | 75.9 |
|          | Karnataka      | 67.3    | 80.5 | 76.8 | 88.4 | 65.2    | 78.6 |
|          | Kerala         | 12.2    | 16.9 | 19.7 | 23.2 | 11.4    | 16.0 |
|          | Tamil Nadu     | 64.3    | 85.3 | 70.1 | 90.6 | 62.5    | 83.4 |
| Urban    | Andhra Pradesh | 73.8    | 90.2 | 75.9 | 89.6 | 73.6    | 90.2 |
|          | Karnataka      | 81.4    | 92.1 | 85.7 | 94.6 | 80.9    | 91.8 |
|          | Kerala         | 38.7    | 42.8 | 41.9 | 46.3 | 38.5    | 42.6 |
|          | Tamil Nadu     | 74.2    | 85.9 | 74.1 | 86.2 | 74.2    | 85.9 |
| Combined | Andhra Pradesh | 55.1    | 80.1 | 57.6 | 82.2 | 54.6    | 79.7 |
|          | Karnataka      | 71.7    | 84.6 | 78.6 | 90.0 | 70.4    | 83.5 |
|          | Kerala         | 18.9    | 23.4 | 23.5 | 27.2 | 18.4    | 22.9 |
|          | Tamil Nadu     | 67.4    | 85.6 | 70.9 | 89.3 | 66.5    | 84.5 |

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

per cent non-SC households. During 2001, 21.18 per cent SC households had latrines compared with 40.80 per cent non-SC households that had latrines. Household sanitation has registered an improvement insofar as SC households are concerned, but a wide gap still exists between SC and non-SC households. The rural-urban disparity is quite high in SC households. In 2001, only 10 per cent of rural households had latrines, but the scenario was better for urban households (54 per cent).

Only 17.20 per cent of SC colonies/villages had community toilets, 43.69 per cent of SC households had no drainage facility, only 2.10 per cent households had underground drainage, whereas 49.07 per cent had an open drainage system. Storm water drainage was available in only 44 per cent of SC colonies/villages (Sample Survey DES: 2004A). Among southern states, Karnataka lags behind Kerala, but is slightly better off than Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The 2001 Census data reveals that, in Karnataka, about 79 per cent of SC households do not have access to latrine facilities and 60 per cent do not have any kind of drainage facilities. Of those who have access to latrines, households with pit latrine

**Overall the housing conditions of SCs have improved considerably, primarily because of the massive efforts of the Government in providing houses through various housing programmes such as *Ashraya*, *Ambedkar Housing Programme*, *Indira Awas Yojana*, *Neralina Bhagya*, etc. over the last 25 years.**

**The fact that the infant and child mortality rates for children of SC mothers are high can be correlated with the high levels of illiteracy among SC women. It is also an indicator that the nutrition intake of Scheduled Caste children and their mothers is very inadequate during pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery.**

account for 9.2 per cent, water closets are found in 8.2 per cent households and 'others' comprise about 3.8 per cent. In households with access to drainage facilities, open drainage accounts for about 33.4 per cent and closed drainage for 8.7 per cent.

Districts where the percentage of households with latrines is below the state average (21.18) are Bagalkot, Bangalore Rural, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajnagar, Chitradurga, Davangere, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Raichur and Tumkur (Census 2001).

### Electricity

Karnataka has performed well in the provisioning of electricity to SC households. It is the first among the southern states to do so, and this is an outcome of some very pro-active interventions to provide free electrical connectivity to SC and ST households.

Districts with a percentage of households below the state percentage (68.51 per cent) are Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajnagar, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, Davangere, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Kodagu, Koppal, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur and Udupi (Appendix Tables: Series 10).

### Healthcare

Several indicators are used to evaluate the quality of health of people. Unfortunately, data on many health indicators is not available on a regular periodical basis for SCs, except for NFHS surveys. The sample size of SRS (Sample Registration System) or RCH survey (Reproductive and Child Health) in the state and country should be enlarged to allow for estimation of key indicators for SCs and STs.

### Infant and child mortality

Infant and child mortality rates depend upon several factors such as the mothers' age at child-birth, their nutritional levels and the medical care they receive during pregnancy, delivery and in the postpartum period. Women's low educational levels can also contribute to the high incidence of infant and child

mortality. The NFHS survey 1992-93 notes that 'infant and child mortality rates are lower for children of mothers with higher education. For instance, infant mortality rate for children of illiterate mothers is 90 per 1,000 births, compared with 37 for children of mothers with at least a high school education. The risk of dying between birth and age five is more than three times higher for children born to illiterate mothers than those born to mothers with a high school education.' The fact that the infant and child mortality rates for children of SC mothers are high can be correlated with the high levels of illiteracy among SC women. It is also an indicator that the nutrition intake of Scheduled Caste children and their mothers is very inadequate during pregnancy, delivery and post delivery. During 1992-93, the neonatal mortality rate for children of SCs (63.80) was higher than for others (46.70). The post-neonatal mortality rate was also higher among SC children (34.60) compared to others (23.90). Moreover, while infant mortality for SC children, for the same year, was a high 98.40, for other children it was 70.60. The child mortality (under five mortality) for SC children and others was 38.70 (126.00) and 28.60 and (97.10) respectively.

Five years later, the NFHS survey, conducted in 1998-99, indicated that the situation had improved considerably: the neonatal mortality declined to 46.90 for SC children and for others it went down to 39.60. Post-neonatal mortality for both SC children (others) also registered a downward trend with 23.00 (16.80). The infant mortality rate for SC children came down to 69.90, and the decline for other children was 56.40. Both child mortality and under-five mortality rates for SC (other) children, showed a progressive decline of 37.40 and (104.60) and 14.20 and (69.80).

The 2004 DES survey has computed the IMR for SCs as 65 and it is 52 for the state's total population. The female infant mortality rate (79.66) is much higher than the male infant mortality rate (49.10). Fever (30.23 per cent) and respiratory disorders (29.17 per cent) were the principal causes of mortality. Poverty and illiteracy are contributory factors in this scenario of multiple disabilities.





TABLE 9.16

**Distribution of households by availability of electricity, latrine and bathroom facilities in southern states: 2001**

(Per cent)

| States   |                | General     |         |                       | SCs         |         |                       | Non-SCs     |         |                       |
|----------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
|          |                | Electricity | Latrine | Bathroom within house | Electricity | Latrine | Bathroom within house | Electricity | Latrine | Bathroom within house |
| Rural    | Andhra Pradesh | 59.65       | 18.15   | 27.09                 | 43.42       | 10.15   | 14.20                 | 63.57       | 20.08   | 30.20                 |
|          | Karnataka      | 72.16       | 17.40   | 48.07                 | 64.47       | 9.99    | 32.77                 | 74.00       | 19.17   | 51.72                 |
|          | Kerala         | 65.53       | 81.33   | 56.50                 | 49.77       | 66.38   | 30.62                 | 67.66       | 83.35   | 59.99                 |
|          | Tamil Nadu     | 71.18       | 14.36   | 20.97                 | 63.42       | 10.19   | 11.89                 | 73.91       | 15.82   | 24.17                 |
| Urban    | Andhra Pradesh | 89.99       | 78.07   | 78.48                 | 79.35       | 62.78   | 63.20                 | 91.46       | 80.18   | 80.59                 |
|          | Karnataka      | 90.53       | 75.23   | 79.15                 | 80.51       | 54.46   | 62.36                 | 91.92       | 78.11   | 81.48                 |
|          | Kerala         | 84.34       | 92.02   | 78.91                 | 67.13       | 79.45   | 52.84                 | 85.71       | 93.02   | 80.99                 |
|          | Tamil Nadu     | 88.00       | 64.33   | 66.42                 | 70.80       | 38.37   | 45.43                 | 91.17       | 69.12   | 70.29                 |
| Combined | Andhra Pradesh | 67.17       | 32.99   | 39.82                 | 49.54       | 19.12   | 22.55                 | 70.94       | 35.96   | 43.52                 |
|          | Karnataka      | 78.55       | 37.50   | 58.87                 | 68.51       | 21.18   | 40.21                 | 80.58       | 40.80   | 62.64                 |
|          | Kerala         | 70.24       | 84.01   | 62.12                 | 52.76       | 68.63   | 34.44                 | 72.35       | 85.87   | 65.45                 |
|          | Tamil Nadu     | 78.18       | 35.16   | 39.89                 | 65.63       | 18.62   | 21.92                 | 81.66       | 39.73   | 44.86                 |

Source: Registrar General of India, Census 2001.

### Antenatal care

The NFHS 1992-93 report observes that the antenatal care (ANC) that mothers receive during pregnancy 'can contribute significantly to the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality because it includes advice on correct diet and the provision of iron and folic acid tablets to pregnant women. Improved nutritional status, coupled with antenatal care, can help reduce the incidence of low birth weight babies and thus reduce perinatal neonatal and infant mortality' (NFHS 1992-93). However, disparities have been reported between women of different social groups in terms of access to medical care. According to the NFHS 1992-93 report, ANC coverage of SC women is marginally lower than for others (Table 9.18).

The NFHS survey in 1998-99 indicates that there have been improvements in antenatal services to pregnant women since the previous survey in 1993-94. The proportion of SC mothers who received two or more tetanus toxoid injections during their pregnancies went up from 62.8 per cent to 68.8 per cent and the percentage of women who did not receive any

care has come down from 28.4 per cent to 23.5 per cent. However, there was no increase in the percentage of SC pregnant women who received iron and folic tablets.

The Sample Survey (DES: 2004A) reveals that the most reproductive age group is 20-29 years in which almost 69 per cent of deliveries occurred (Table 9.19).

It is a good trend that a not insignificant 41 per cent of deliveries took place in PHCs/hospitals and another 26.65 per cent were attended to by doctors or nurses/ANMs (Table 9.20). NFHS-2, observes that institutional deliveries accounted for 45.54 per cent, by health staff 26.28 per cent and another 24.59 per cent by trained *dais*.

### Family planning

About 47 per cent of SC (married) males and 44.04 per cent of SC (married) females are aware of birth control methods and 28.07 per cent of SC (married) females have opted for permanent birth control. By contrast, only 2.31 per cent of

**The antenatal care that mothers receive during pregnancy can contribute significantly to the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality.**

**It is a good trend that a not insignificant 41 per cent of deliveries took place in PHCs/ hospitals and another 26.65 per cent were attended to by doctors or nurses/ANMs.**

SC (married) males have undergone vasectomy. SC women bear a disproportionate share of the responsibility for birth control as in the rest of the population. Overall, awareness and adoption of birth control is lower among SCs than the total population (DES: 2004A).

### Nutritional status of women and children

People's health depends greatly on the adequacy of their levels of consumption. Substantial differentials in food consumption patterns by background characteristics have been reported (NFHS: 1998-99). Illiterate women have access to less nutritious and varied diets than literate women. Women in urban areas are more likely to include various kinds of nutritious food such as fruits, eggs, milk/curd, meat, and fish in their diets than their counterparts in rural areas. Hence, the nutritional status of Scheduled Caste women is likely to be very inadequate since most of them are below the poverty line, live in rural areas and have high levels of illiteracy.

The food consumption patterns of SC women indicate that only 55.7 per cent of SC women consume milk or curd compared with 78 per cent of OBCs and 83.1 per cent of other women. Consumption of fruit is also poor (39.8 per cent) compared with 62.2 per cent for other women. SC women also show low levels of consumption of other food items such as pulses and beans and green leafy vegetables.

Substantial differentials become visible in the food consumption pattern of women by their background characteristics. This is manifested in terms of mean height and weight-for-height or body mass index (BMI). About 11.3 per cent of SC women were reported to be below the mean height as against 9.2 per cent of OBC women and 9.4 per cent of other women. About 44.2 per cent of SC women were below the BMI as against 40.1 per cent of the OBC women and 32.8 per cent of other women (Table 9.21).

Since the nutritional status of children is strongly associated with the nutritional status of their mothers, most SC children are under-nourished and their nutritional status is considerably below that of other social groups.

The effects of inadequate nutrition resulting in a low BMI is very problematic for Scheduled Caste women who constitute a large segment of agricultural wage labour. Poor nutritional status,

TABLE 9.17  
Infant and child mortality by social groups

| Year      |                   | Social groups | Neonatal mortality | Post-neonatal mortality | Infant mortality | Child mortality | Under-five mortality |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Karnataka | 1993-94<br>NFHS-1 | SC            | 63.80              | 34.60                   | 98.40            | 38.70           | 126.00               |
|           |                   | ST            | 67.60              | 18.00                   | 85.60            | 38.00           | 120.30               |
|           |                   | OBC           | -                  | -                       | -                | -               | -                    |
|           |                   | Others        | 46.70              | 23.90                   | 70.60            | 28.60           | 97.10                |
|           | 1998-99<br>NFHS-2 | SC            | 46.90              | 23.00                   | 69.90            | 37.40           | 104.60               |
|           |                   | ST            | 63.20              | 21.90                   | 85.00            | 38.90           | 120.60               |
|           |                   | OBC           | 44.70              | 15.00                   | 60.60            | 18.70           | 78.20                |
|           |                   | Others        | 39.60              | 16.80                   | 56.40            | 14.20           | 69.80                |
| All-India | 1993-94<br>NFHS-1 | SC            | 63.1               | 44.2                    | 107.3            | 46.9            | 149.1                |
|           |                   | ST            | 54.6               | 35.9                    | 90.5             | 49.1            | 135.2                |
|           |                   | OBC           | -                  | -                       | -                | -               | -                    |
|           |                   | Others        | 50.6               | 31.6                    | 82.2             | 32.0            | 111.5                |
|           | 1998-99<br>NFHS-2 | SC            | 53.2               | 29.8                    | 83.0             | 39.5            | 119.3                |
|           |                   | ST            | 53.3               | 30.9                    | 84.2             | 46.3            | 126.6                |
|           |                   | OBC           | 50.8               | 25.2                    | 76.0             | 29.3            | 103.1                |
|           |                   | Others        | 40.7               | 21.1                    | 61.8             | 22.2            | 82.6                 |

Note: Rates given above are for the 10-year period preceding the survey.

Sources:

1. NFHS-1 1993-94 Karnataka, IIPS: Bombay 1995.
2. NFHS-1 1993-94 India, IIPS: Bombay 1995.
3. NFHS-2 1998-99 Karnataka, IIPS: Bombay 2001.
4. NFHS-2 1998-99 India, IIPS: Bombay 2000.

TABLE 9.18  
Percentage of tetanus toxoid vaccinations: 1998-99

| Category     | Tetanus Toxoid Injections |            |                   |                    |                | Iron/folic acid tablets given |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
|              | None                      | One dose   | Two doses or more | Don't know/missing | Total per cent |                               |
| SC           | 23.5                      | 6.8        | 68.8              | 0.8                | 100.0          | 78.2                          |
| ST           | 33.4                      | 11.0       | 55.7              | 0.0                | 100.0          | 63.3                          |
| Others       | 14.1                      | 6.2        | 78.8              | 0.8                | 100.0          | 78.2                          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>23.5</b>               | <b>6.6</b> | <b>69.8</b>       | <b>0.1</b>         | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>74.9</b>                   |

Source: NFHS-2, 1998-99, Karnataka, IIPS, Mumbai, 2001.

caused by poverty, creates a downward spiral into further poverty as SC women struggle with the effects of nutrition on their productivity, resulting in low wages.

## State policies

As seen in the preceding paragraphs, state programmes in provisioning housing and electricity to SC households have resulted in a visible improvement in living conditions. The Department of Social Welfare has a large number of schemes, which can broadly be categorised as 'Employment Generation Programmes' and 'Minimum Needs Programmes'. Despite the multiplicity of schemes, many of which have small outlays, the bulk of the expenditure on programmes goes to payment of scholarships, construction and maintenance of hostels and residential schools and training for employment.

The budget of the department was Rs.17,100.00 lakh in the Eighth Plan. It increased by 66 per cent in the Ninth Plan (Rs. 42,850.00 lakh) and will increase by 111 per cent in the Tenth Plan (Rs.60,218.27 lakh). Nevertheless, this is still not sufficient to meet expenditure on scholarships and maintenance of government and grant-in-aid hostels. The latter has led to cost cutting and the first casualty is the nutrition of hostel residents.

TABLE 9.19

### Percentage distribution of deliveries by SC women by age group

| Age group | Percentage of deliveries |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| < 15      | 0.00                     |
| 15-19     | 11.88                    |
| 20-24     | 38.16                    |
| 25-29     | 31.03                    |
| 30-34     | 12.00                    |
| 35-39     | 5.67                     |
| 40-44     | 1.05                     |
| 45 +      | 0.22                     |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

TABLE 9.20

### Percentage distribution of type of assistance at delivery

| Type                 | Percentage |
|----------------------|------------|
| At PHC/hospital      | 41.28      |
| By Doctor/nurse/ANMs | 26.65      |
| Trained dais         | 17.13      |
| Others               | 14.95      |

Source: Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.

TABLE 9.21

### Nutritional status of women by social groups: 1998-99

| Year                           | Category | Height           |                       |                         | Weight-for-Height          |  |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------|
|                                |          | Mean height (cm) | Per cent below 145 cm | No. of women for height | Mean body mass index (BMI) | Per cent with BMI below 18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> | No. of women for BMI |
| 1998-99<br>NFHS-2<br>Karnataka | SCs      | 151.5            | 11.3                  | 683                     | 19.7                       | 44.2   | 637                  |
|                                | STs      | 151.9            | 9.4                   | 236                     | 18.9                       | 49.0   | 226                  |
|                                | OBC      | 152.2            | 9.2                   | 1738                    | 20.2                       | 40.1   | 1657                 |
|                                | Others   | 152.0            | 9.4                   | 1495                    | 21.2                       | 32.8   | 1422                 |
| 1998-99<br>NFHS-2<br>India     | SCs      | 150.3            | 17                    | 15234                   | 19.5                       | 42.1   | 14040                |
|                                | STs      | 150.8            | 13.5                  | 7175                    | 19.1                       | 46.3   | 6590                 |
|                                | OBC      | 151              | 13.5                  | 27295                   | 20.5                       | 35.8   | 25474                |
|                                | Others   | 152              | 10.9                  | 32334                   | 21                         | 30.5   | 30345                |

Sources:

1. National Family Health Survey-2 Karnataka 1998-99, IIPS, Mumbai, November 2001, p. 156.
2. National Family Health Survey-2 India 1998-99, IIPS, Mumbai, 2000.



TABLE 9.22  
**Scheduled Castes in Karnataka: Key indicators**

| Sl. No.                           | Type of occupation                          | Units                | Results |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------|
| <b>I. General</b>                 |   |                      |         |
| 1                                 | Population **                               | Lakh                 | 85.64   |
| 2                                 | Percentage to total state population **     | per cent             | 16.23   |
| 3                                 | Percentage to total Hindu population **     | per cent             | 19.32   |
| <b>II. Education and Literacy</b> |   |                      |         |
| 4                                 | Literacy rate **                            | per cent             | 52.87   |
| 5                                 | Literacy rate *                             | per cent             | 50.91   |
| 6                                 | <b>Levels of education</b>                  |                      |         |
|                                   | a. High School *                            | per cent             | 6.96    |
|                                   | b. PUC *                                    | per cent             | 2.30    |
|                                   | c. Graduation *                             | per cent             | 0.86    |
|                                   | d. Post-graduation *                        | per cent             | 0.13    |
| 7                                 | Out-of-school children (7-14 Age group) *** | per cent             | 2.22    |
| 8                                 | <b>Dropout rates</b>                        |                      |         |
|                                   | a. Primary level (7-14 Age group) *         | per cent             | 5.03    |
|                                   | b. Higher Primary/High School level *       | per cent             | 17.12   |
| <b>III. Health Status</b>         |   |                      |         |
| 9                                 | Sex ratio **                                | per 1000 males       | 973     |
| 10                                | Estimated birth rate *                      | per 1000 males       | 21.82   |
| 11                                | Estimated death rate *                      | per 1000 males       | 9.12    |
| 12                                | Estimated infant mortality rate *           | per 1000 live births | 64.74   |
| 13                                | Life expectancy at birth *                  | Years                | 62      |
| 14                                | <b>Type of birth assistance</b>             |                      |         |
|                                   | a. Institutional *                          | per cent             | 41.28   |
|                                   | b. Health staff *                           | per cent             | 26.65   |
|                                   | c. Trained dais *                           | per cent             | 17.13   |
| 15                                | <b>Access to nutrition programmes</b>       |                      |         |
|                                   | a. Boys *                                   | per cent             | 86.73   |
|                                   | b. Girls *                                  | per cent             | 80.99   |
|                                   | c. Pregnant women *                         | per cent             | 68.67   |
|                                   | d. Nursing mothers *                        | per cent             | 58.84   |
| <b>IV. Housing Profile</b>        |   |                      |         |
| 16                                | <b>Households by ownership</b>              |                      |         |
|                                   | a. Owned **                                 | per cent             | 86.2    |
|                                   | b. Rented **                                | per cent             | 10.6    |
|                                   | c. Any other **                             | per cent             | 3.2     |
| 17                                | <b>Households by type of structure</b>      |                      |         |
|                                   | a. Permanent **                             | per cent             | 51.1    |
|                                   | b. Semi-permanent **                        | per cent             | 36.6    |
|                                   | c. Temporary **                             | per cent             | 12.2    |
| 18                                | <b>Toilet facility</b>                      |                      |         |
|                                   | a. Within house premises *                  | per cent             | 6.94    |
|                                   | b. Outside house premises *                 | per cent             | 15.61   |
|                                   | c. Public latrine *                         | per cent             | 5.45    |
|                                   | d. Pit latrine **                           | per cent             | 9.2     |
|                                   | e. Water closet **                          | per cent             | 8.2     |
|                                   | f. Other latrine **                         | per cent             | 3.8     |
|                                   | g. No latrine **                            | per cent             | 78.8    |

(Table 9.22 Contd...)

(Table 9.22 Contd...)

| Sl. No.                     | Type of occupation                   | Units    | Results |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 19                          | <b>Type of fuel used for cooking</b> |          |         |
|                             | a. Firewood **                       | per cent | 78.7    |
|                             | b. Cow dung **                       | per cent | 0.2     |
|                             | c. Kerosene **                       | per cent | 7.8     |
|                             | d. LPG **                            | per cent | 5.6     |
| 20                          | <b>Lighting</b>                      |          |         |
|                             | a. Access to electricity **          | per cent | 68.5    |
|                             | b. Kerosene **                       | per cent | 30.6    |
|                             | c. Any other **                      | per cent | 0.4     |
|                             | d. No lighting **                    | per cent | 0.5     |
| 21                          | Access to drinking water *           | per cent | 89.60   |
| <b>V. Economic Scenario</b> |                                      |          |         |
| 22                          | <b>Type of occupation</b>            |          |         |
|                             | a. Cultivator *                      | per cent | 5.74    |
|                             | b. Agricultural labour *             | per cent | 19.59   |
|                             | c. Other labour *                    | per cent | 10.50   |
|                             | d. Government services *             | per cent | 1.31    |
| 23                          | Per capita income *                  | Rupees   | 6945    |
| 24                          | Per capita expenditure *             | Rupees   | 496     |
| 25                          | Proportion of BPL households *       | per cent | 34      |

*Sources:*

- \* Sample Survey, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka, 2004A.
- \*\* Registrar General of India, Census 2001.
- \*\*\* Children's Census, Department of Public Instruction, 2005.

TABLE 9.23  
Funds pooled under the Special Component Plan

(Rs. lakh)

| Component                                      | 2001-02      |                 |        | 2002-03      |                 |        | 2003-04      |                 |        | 2004-05      |                 |         | 2005-06      |                 |         |
|--|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
|  | State sector | District sector | Total  | State sector | District sector | Total  | State sector | District sector | Total  | State sector | District sector | Total   | State sector | District sector | Total   |
| State plan outlay                              | 750508       | 108320          | 858828 | 794253       | 66808           | 861061 | 909159       | 68841           | 978000 | 1138321      | 93971           | 1232292 | 1155211      | 200289          | 1355500 |
| Divisible outlay                               | 208729       | 91942           | 300671 | 232657       | 66808           | 299465 | 256874       | 68841           | 325715 | 336847       | 93971           | 430818  | 114416       | 167359          | 281775  |
| SCP outlay                                     | 43183        | 17475           | 60658  | 55573        | 11167           | 66740  | 52164        | 12387           | 64551  | 19073        | 17627           | 36700   | 31136        | 31744           | 62880   |
| Pooled SCP funds                               | 9070         |                 |        | 8310         |                 |        | 8315         |                 |        | 5688         |                 |         | 8020         |                 |         |
| Percentage of SCP to state plan outlay         | 5.75         | 16.13           | 7.06   | 7.00         | 16.72           | 7.75   | 5.74         | 17.99           | 6.60   | 1.68         | 18.76           | 2.98    | 2.70         | 15.85           | 4.64    |
| Percentage of SCP to divisible outlay          | 20.69        | 19.01           | 20.17  | 23.89        | 16.72           | 22.29  | 20.31        | 17.99           | 19.82  | 5.66         | 18.76           | 8.52    | 27.21        | 18.97           | 22.32   |
| Percentage of pooled funds to state sector SCP | 21.00        |                 |        | 14.95        |                 |        | 15.94        |                 |        | 29.82        |                 |         | 25.76        |                 |         |

Source: Department of Social Welfare, Karnataka.

**The greatest single issue that comes into focus is the wide gap between the Scheduled Castes and the general population along almost all human development indicators.**

### Special Component Plan

The objectives of the Special Component Plan (SCP) are to ensure that all government departments earmark 15 per cent of their budget for the development of the Scheduled Castes, so that there is a concerted and inter-sectoral focus on the improvement of the status of the SCs. During 2004-05, a sum of Rs.367 crore was earmarked under SCP. The SCP fluctuates each year, depending on the quantum of funds available in the divisible part of the plan. This limits the size of the SCP.

### Pooling SCP funds

Conceptually, a Special Component Plan can ensure that goods and services under various government programmes will reach the SC population through focused targeting. In practice, with the exception of departments such as Education, Health, Women and Child Development, Housing, Rural Development, the services conveyed to SCs often did not address their specific needs or they were too sporadically distributed to have a real impact. SCP funds were first pooled in 1991. In pooling, funds earmarked under SCP are partially or completely withdrawn from the government department concerned and 'pooled' to create a large corpus, which is then strategically deployed to address the needs of the SCs in three critical sectors: housing, education (construction of hostels, scholarships) and irrigation (financing irrigation wells and pump sets). The focus on irrigation is appropriate in a context where SC ownership of irrigated land is very low.

### Civil rights

The Home Department has a Civil Rights Enforcement directorate headed by an Additional Director General of Police to monitor registration and investigation of cases registered under the Protection of Civil Rights Act (P.C.R. Act) and Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989. Details of cases for 2003 are in Table 9.24.

### Issues and Concerns

The greatest single issue that comes into focus is the wide gap between the Scheduled Castes and the general population along almost all human development indicators. Economically, the SC population is highly concentrated in rural Karnataka. They are dependent on agriculture, but since they own only 11.65 per cent of operational holdings, 83.25 per cent of which is un-irrigated, they derive only 15.4 per cent of their income from cultivation. A high 52 per cent of marginal holdings are held by SCs. They crowd the primary sector (78.83 per cent) where remuneration is low and their share of the secondary and tertiary sectors is insufficient, probably because of high levels of illiteracy and a poor vocational skill base. The monthly per capita expenditure of SCs is the second lowest in the state at Rs.419 for rural and the lowest for urban, at Rs.593.

- There is a perceptible gap between the state literacy rate (66.64 per cent) and that of the Scheduled Castes (52.87). While it is true that the gap is being bridged more quickly than in previous decades, it still means that SCs have a lot of catching up to do. Their dropout rate in primary schools is higher than that of the non-SC population. The academic performance of SC students, like their non-SC counterparts, starts declining as they move up from class VII to class X and then to tertiary education. The pass percentage of SC students is lower than that of STs and others in the SSLC examinations.
- The Crude Birth Rate of 21.8 for the state is equivalent to the estimated birth rate (21.8) for SCs. The Crude Death Rate is 7.2 for Karnataka and the estimated death rate for SCs is 9.12 (Sample Survey: DES 2004A).

TABLE 9.24

### Disposal of cases under P.C.R. and P.A. Acts: 2003

| Details             | P.C.R Act | P.A. Act |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| Cases reported      | 69        | 1293     |
| Cases pending trial | 35        | 602      |
| Under investigation | 29        | 591      |
| Otherwise disposed  | 2         | 15       |
| Cases acquitted     | 0         | 0        |
| 'B' Reports         | 3         | 84       |
| Undetected          | 0         | 1        |

Source: Annual Report, Police Department, Karnataka, 2003.

- The infant mortality rate for SC children is estimated to be 64.74 per 1,000 live births while it is 52 for the state. The gap is high. In many ways, SC women share the characteristics of their gender class and caste so that two sources of exclusion shape their performance along several parameters. They lag behind their male counterparts in literacy and access to employment. In this, they share the characteristics of their gender class. Like other girl students, they have no difficulty outperforming their male counterparts at every stage of the education stream, provided of course they are not pulled out of school to do housework or because the opportunity costs of education are high. Their health and nutrition profile is worse than that of almost all social groups except STs. This affects their mean height and body mass index and results in high IMR, MMR and morbidity. This is one of the unfortunate outcomes of being located at the intersection of gender and caste. A remarkable feature is that the sex ratio of the SCs is 973 in 2001, which is better than the state average of 965.
- There are some spheres where the status of the Scheduled Castes is good, if not better than the general population. The number of SC houses with access to safe drinking water is higher than non-SC households. In 1991, about 52.47 per cent of the total households in the state had electricity and it increased to 78.55 in 2001. Overall, however, as noted in chapter 2, the Scheduled Castes are a decade behind the rest of the population in human development.

## Recommendations

- Poverty reduction programmes must focus on social empowerment instead of being stand-alone programmes. The SHG strategy, which has begun to emerge as the main vehicle of socio-economic development for women, offers multiple inputs and not just wages: communication skills, vocational training, awareness about literacy and health, participation in community and political processes, all these are inputs that the SCs need as they are poor, marginalised and voiceless. In addition, poverty reduction programmes must target the SCs because so many other deprivations arise out of income poverty.
- While education under *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* is poised to increase enrolment and reduce dropouts in a significant way, many schemes intended for SCs obviously do not have the desired outcomes. A school level tracking system of dropouts, in collaboration with gram panchayats and CBOs followed up with counselling is advisable. The low enrolment of SCs in tertiary and professional education is a matter of concern. Residential schools such as the 'Morarji Desai Residential Schools' have been successful in creating high achievers among poor, rural children and their role should be extended and strengthened.
- In health, poor nutrition is a function of poverty. The high IMR and MMR of SCs should be tracked separately to ensure that policy interventions focus on this vulnerable group. Pooled funds can be deployed more intensively in interventions designed to reach these populations.

**Poverty reduction programmes must focus on social empowerment instead of being stand-alone programmes.**

**The low enrolment of SCs in tertiary and professional education is a matter of concern.**