

# Schedule Casts of Muzaffarpur District: Its Problems and Challenges

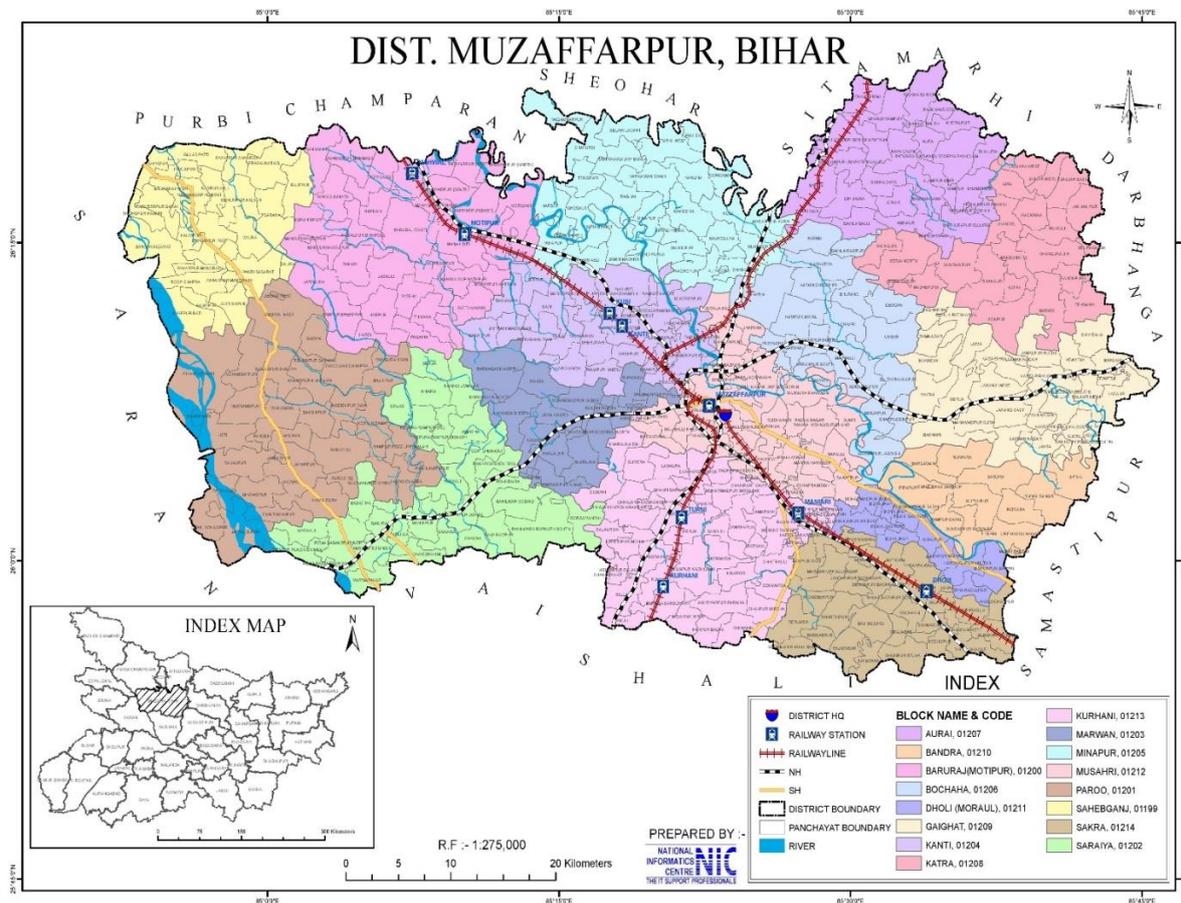
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**Abstract-** The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are faced with many problems, which are of social, economical, political and educational in nature. The district is home to about 48 lakh people, among them about 25.3 lakh (53%) are male and about 22.7 lakh (47%) are female. 84% of the whole population are from general caste, 16% are from schedule caste. The primary objective of this research paper is to analyse the distributional pattern of Scheduled Castes in Muzaffarpur district and to do a geographical analysis of the current problems and challenges of Scheduled Castes. **Keywords:** Scheduled casts, Social justice, Economic welfare, Discrimination, Poverty

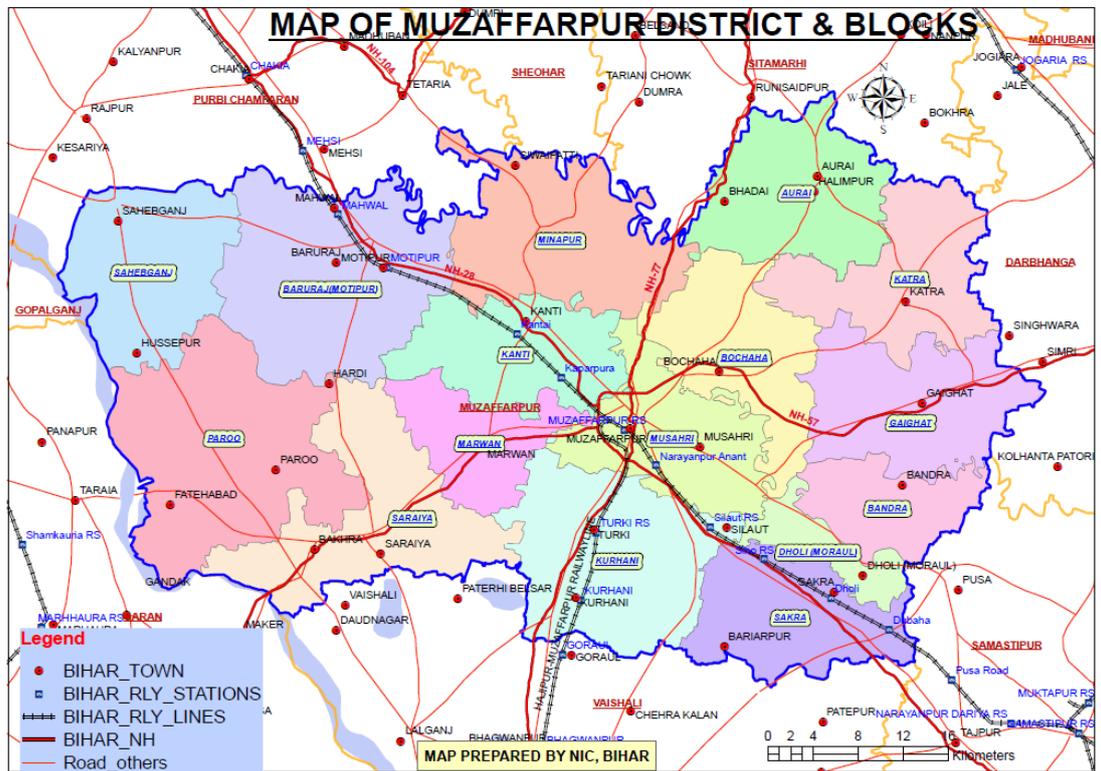
Muzaffarpur district lies in North Bihar (i.e. North of Ganga). It covers a geographical area of 3132 Km<sup>2</sup>. It is bounded by Sitamarhi district and East Champaran in North and Vaishali and the study area possesses vast natural endowments. Unfortunately utilization of endowment as resources has not been taking place due to bad planning and fund crunch. Contrary to it population is mushrooming poverty has reached the alarming stage beyond that social unrest will become inevitable . because even the slightest changes in the form of population and resources may create imbalance. Generally it is seen that in the study of population and resource man is only used as a context while as, truth is that main's intellectual, technical and scientific growth going on changes uninterruptedly .

## I. STUDY AREA



In the proposed study analysis of resource with reference to human resources will be done. The district is home to about 48 lakh people, among them about 25.3 lakh (53%) are male and about 22.7 lakh (47%) are female. 84% of the whole population are from general caste, 16% are from schedule caste and 0% are schedule tribes. Child (aged under 6 years) population of Muzaffarpur district is 18%, among them 52% are boys and 48% are girls. There are about 9.5 lakh households in the district and an average 5 persons live in every family. The majority of the population, nearly 90% (about 43.3 lakh) live in Muzaffarpur District rural part and 10% (about 4.7 lakh) population live in the Muzaffarpur District urban part. Rural population density of Muzaffarpur district is 1396 and urban population density is 6559 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

Muzaffarpur urban area is the centre of commercial, business and educational activities of a large hinterland of Muzaffarpur district. Muzaffarpur is the largest town in northern Bihar and fourth largest city in terms of population after capital city Patna, Gaya and Bhagalpur. The district produces nearly onethird of the entire Litchi production of the country. The total area under the jurisdiction of Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation (MMC) is about 26.68 Km<sup>2</sup> (2668.44Ha). The town is divided into 49 wards. It has a network of railways and roads. Regional Network of Muzaffarpur · Muzaffarpur – Hajipur Highway (NH – 77) · Muzaffarpur – Sitamarhi Highway (NH – 77) · Muzaffarpur – Rewaghat road (NH – 102) · Muzaffarpur – Darbhanga Highway (NH – 57) · Muzaffarpur – Samastipur Highway (NH – 28) · Muzaffarpur – Motihari Highway (NH – 28)



Muzaffarpur City is connected by NH-28, NH-57, NH-77 and NH-102. The total road network of Muzaffarpur city is approximately 72.17 km jointly managed by Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation (38 km), Public Works Department (17.12 km) and the District Council (16.69 km). Approximately 99% of the roads under the jurisdiction of the corporation are pucca roads. The town has two intercity bus stands, one under BSRTC and the other for privately owned

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shown in Table 5. The town has about 26 km long concrete roads and 24.4 km long black top roads, together, which constitutes more than 70% of total road network. In addition, road stretches of 18 km length have been categorised as both concrete / blacktop construction. Nearly 3.7% road length (2.7 km) is kutcha

## II. OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this research paper is to analyse the distributional pattern of Scheduled Castes in Muzaffarpur district. Second, to do a geographical analysis of the current problems of Scheduled Castes. Thirdly, to prepare a plan to solve the problems of Scheduled Castes in the study area.

### Methodology

The present research work based on the observational description and observational rational methods in order to decipher the theme of the research. Various statistical and cartographic methods has applied where ever needed. The present research study based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through personal observation, interview, questionnaires schedule etc. while the secondary data collected from concerned district or block headquarters. Map and diagrams, graphs etc. have been widely used in this research papers.

## III. DISCUSSION

Problems and Issues-The problems before the schedule casts are very much troublesome although much care has been taken to solve their problems by introducing so many economic and social programs but the condition is still prevailing which is very much pitiable. Problems faced by Scheduled Castes as follows-Caste-based discrimination: Dalits face caste-based discrimination and social exclusion. Economic marginalization: Scheduled Castes have historically been economically marginalized, with limited access to resources, education, and employment opportunities. Poverty, unequal land distribution, and lack of access to credit and markets contribute to their economic disadvantage. Educational inequalities: Educational inequalities persist among Scheduled Castes, including low enrollment rates, high dropout rates, and limited access to quality education. Violence and atrocities: Dalits face violence and atrocities, including physical and sexual abuse, harassment,

and discrimination. Limited political representation: Despite constitutional provisions for reservation of seats in legislatures, Scheduled Castes often face challenges in achieving political representation. Landlessness and land rights: Many Dalit families are landless or have limited access to land. Landlessness contributes to their economic vulnerability and perpetuates social inequalities. Limited access to healthcare: Dalits often have limited access to quality healthcare services, resulting in health inequities and high morbidity and mortality rates. Manual scavenging: Manual scavenging, an inhumane practice involving the cleaning of human excreta, primarily affects Dalit women. Despite legal prohibitions, manual scavenging continues in parts of the country, exposing Dalits to health hazards and perpetuating their marginalization. Social stigma and identity-based violence: Dalits face social stigma and derogatory stereotypes, which further marginalize and dehumanize them. Limited access to justice: Dalits often face challenges in accessing justice, including delays, biased law enforcement and inadequate legal aid, and in obtaining justice for caste-based crimes and atrocities.

The important problems are as follows-

Problems of Scheduled Caste Scheduled castes are those castes which were placed at the bottom in the traditional caste system. Usually these castes used to perform unclean occupations, so they were treated as polluted or impure. The concept of pollution attached to them had made them untouchables. Members of the scheduled castes faced many problems almost at every level - from access to education and medical facilities to restrictions on where they can live and what jobs they can have. Let us discuss some of the major problems faced by scheduled castes. Problems of untouchability Within the scheduled castes community, there are many divisions into sub-castes. Scheduled castes had to perform unclean occupations such as: • carrying human waste, • sweeping, • scavenging, • oil grinding, • spinning, • tanning, • shoemaking, • leather works, • carrying dead animals. These were regarded as degraded and inferior.

## IV. CONCLUSIN

On account of the practice of untouchability, the SCs had to suffer from the following types of disabilities. • They were not allowed to use public

places and avail of civic facilities such as village wells, ponds, temples, hotels, schools, hospitals, dharma shalas and choultries. • They were forced to live on the outskirts of the towns and villages during the early days. Now a day also they are segregated from other spatially. • They were allowed to work as labourers during construction or repair, storing grains, etc., but later the houses were purified by sprinkling cow urine or cow dung. • They were not allowed to carry umbrellas, wear shoes or golden ornaments or to milk cows.

They were denied the services of barbers washermen and tailors. • They were not only kept at a distance but also denied various civic facilities. They were not allowed to enter the houses of members of upper caste. Poverty The most important reason for the backwardness of the Scheduled Caste was poverty and untouchability. The SCs were deprived of economic rights. Being at the lowest rung of caste hierarchy, they were severely oppressed and had no means of production. So they remained poor and dependent upon others. As they could not afford proper food and adequate shelter, they suffered ill health. Most of the members were below poverty line. The problems associated with the poverty of SCs are as follows: • Material deprivation: They were deprived of material possessions. They were not allowed to have land, house and animals. In case of natural calamities, such as drought famine and floods, they were the first to suffer. During famine they did not get any work and had to suffer from starvation. • Indebtedness and Bonded labour: Most of them did not own land for the purpose of residence and agriculture. They lived in huts erected on the land of the master and worked as agricultural labour. Even today majority of the Scheduled Caste members are working as landless labourers. They are lowest paid workers; some of them continue to suffer as bonded labourer at the hands of the upper castes. They are exploited in the payment of wages so they have to take loans to survive. Banks do not give them loan because they have no property documents so they have to take from money lenders and employers at a high rate of interests, so they end up becoming bonded labourers. Even today the ownership of land and business by the scheduled castes is very marginal. • Educational Backwardness: Illiteracy is responsible for their backwardness. Due to deprivation and poor socio economic condition, SCs did not attend school and remained educationally

weak. As most of the SCs are illiterates they are not aware of the importance of the education, and the safeguards and protection that are provided by the Constitution to ensure social justice. Most young ones discontinue their education before completion of their primary education. After independence schools have been opened for them but it has not been possible to enroll all children of SCs in schools. Nowadays the Scheduled Castes are getting educated due to various programmes such as Vayaskara shikshana samithi, Saksharatha andolana, Akshara dasoha, Mid-day meals to the schools. • Employment and Government Service: After independence reservation in education and employment and other Constitutional benefits helped a lot to members of scheduled castes to move forward to get the higher education. Some of them have received higher education and are well placed. But they did not get proper guidance from anyone or at home, and this has adversely affected their academic achievements and attitude towards life and society. • Agrarian Society: India is an agrarian society, where 60% of the population depend upon the agriculture directly. Employment opportunities, either in agricultural farms or those industries depending upon agricultural products, depend upon a perfect monsoon. Their employment is therefore seasonal and unpredictable. Because they cannot get job throughout the year is the main reason for their backwardness

Health and Nutrition: Most of scheduled caste population suffer from malnutrition and protein and energy deficiency. Many of them live in unhygienic conditions due to poverty. They are often victims of various health problems because they lack proper housing, drinking water, and other basic amenities. • Political Disabilities: The Scheduled Castes hardly participated in the political matters for centuries. Before the British rule, they had no say in politics, administration and general governance of the country. They were not allowed to hold any public post, and political rights and representation were denied to them. After the British rule, they were given the right to vote, due to the struggle of Ambedkar. After the independence through the Constitution, political opportunities and rights have been provided for Scheduled Castes, but politically they are yet to become a decisive force

Atrocities: The scheduled castes are subjected to atrocities when they resist and demand their social, economic or political rights. The atrocities they face

are many; their houses are burnt, their domesticated animals are snatched away and women are subjected to humiliation. They are beaten mercilessly. They are also murdered and lynched.

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