

CHAPTER – VII

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The Scheduled Castes are deprived in different aspects in society since immemorial days. Due to male dominated society, women are also deprived in different aspects in society. Together with, Scheduled Caste women are deprived in India and facing many problems in family and society. It is noted that, due to poverty, illiteracy, negligence and unemployment, they are also facing problems in their families. On the other hand, due to their caste associated problems such as social discrimination, atrocities, exploitation, untouchability, negligence, etc, they are also facing problems in society. Still many of such problems and challenges are faced by Scheduled Caste women in villages and backward areas. Hence, the present study is significant to analyze the problems and challenges faced by Scheduled Caste women in Gulbarga district. Gulbarga district is headquarters of Hyderabad-Karnataka backward region in Karnataka State.

Earlier, violence against Scheduled Caste women was common in family and society. Due to passing of legislations such violence is reduced considerably. Still, it is highlighted that the education of Scheduled Caste women is more backward as majority of Scheduled Caste women are neglected in their families with respect towards education. Further, due to lack of adequate health care facilities in rural and backward areas, their health conditions are critical. As these women are poor, they can't able to get nutritious food and live in hygienic environment. Consequently, Scheduled Caste women are facing many problems.

To empower Scheduled Caste women, the Government has formulated many of the welfare schemes such as reservation in education and employment, scholarships, fellowships, financial assistance to start self-employment programmes, financial assistance to form Self-Help Group, legislations to protect interests of Scheduled Caste women against caste and gender based violence, etc. Still, the statuses of Scheduled Caste women are facing many of

the problems in their families and society. Hence, the present study is made to explore the problems and challenges faced by Scheduled Caste women in Gulbarga district. The summaries of findings are as under.

7.1. Summaries of Findings:

As the analysis and discussion of primary data is made on the basis of cross tabulation of employed or self-employed Scheduled Caste women, unemployed housewives belonged to Scheduled Caste and total Scheduled Caste women surveyed under the study. The findings from each of the groups of respondents are shown as under:

Employed or Self-employed Respondents:

1. Age of the 200 employed or self-employed Scheduled Caste women surveyed shows that, 16.0% of the respondents are between 18 to 25 years, 26.5% are between 26 to 35 years, 24.5% are between 36 to 45 years, 24.0% are between 46 to 50 years and the remaining 9.0% are of more than 60 years.
2. Due to social discrimination, a few of the respondents have converted into other religions and hence, the religion of the respondents revealed that, 90.0% of the respondents are Hindus, 2.0% are Christians and 8.0% of the respondents are Buddhists.
3. Particular castes of the Scheduled Caste women revealed that, 46.5% of the respondents are belonged to Holeya or Chaluwadi community, 15.0% are belonged to Madiga or Dhor community, 6.0% are from Bhangi or scavenger community and 32.5% are from other communities.
4. Marital status of the respondents revealed that, only 4.0% of the respondents are unmarried or single, 82.0% are married, 8.5% are widows and the remaining 5.5% of the respondents are divorcees or separated or alienated from their husbands.
5. The type of marriage of the respondents disclosed that, 6.0% of the respondents have martially bounded with love marriage, 2.5% have bounded with inter-caste marriage, 87.5% have bounded with arranged

marriage and it is not applicable to 4.0% of the respondents as they are not married so far.

6. Educational qualifications of employed respondents shows that, 4.0% of the respondents have not went to schools and are illiterates, 28.5% have completed primary education, 36.0% of the respondents have completed secondary education, 7.5% have completed under-graduation and 24.0% have completed graduation or more.
7. It is noted that, 52.5% of the respondents are living in joint families, whereas the remaining 47.5% are living in nuclear or single families.
8. Only 38.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents are from rural areas, whereas 62.0% are from urban background.
9. Residential status of the employed respondents disclosed that, 37.0% of the respondents are living in their own house, 30.5% are living in rented house and 32.5% are living in huts or sheds.
10. The collected data revealed that, 66.5% of the respondents have stated that there are problems at their residential environment, whereas 33.5% have mentioned that there are no any problems at their residential areas.
11. Many of the respondents are facing more than one type of problems at their residential environment. 27.5% of the respondents have expressed that there is poor sanitation in their areas, 18.0% have mentioned that there is scarcity of drinking water in their areas, 16.5% have stated that there are poor roads or lack of adequate transportation in their areas, 14.0% have remarked that there is lack of health centre or schools, 4.5% have also given other types of problems and it is not applicable to 33.5% of the respondents as they have already stated that there are no problems at their residential environment.
12. On family decision making, 26.5% have stated that their parents or parents-in-law are making family decisions, 21.5% have mentioned that their husbands are making the decisions, 35.5% have expressed that they are making decisions along with their husbands, 10.5% have remarked that they are making family decisions on their own and 6.0% have

mentioned that other persons like their children are making family decisions.

13. Number of children of the respondents disclosed that, 13.5% have no children, 49.0% have 1 to 2 children, 18.0% have 3 to 4 children, 15.5% have more than 4 children and it is not applicable to 4.0% of the employed respondents as they are unmarried.
14. On their status in their families, 4.5% of the employed respondents have expressed that they are superior over male members in their families, 31.5% have mentioned that they are equal to male members in their families and 64.0% of the respondents have remarked that their status is subjugated to male members in their families.
15. All the employed or self-employed respondents are following sacraments associated with their castes.
16. It is noted that, 76.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents believe in religious and social practices, whereas the remaining only 23.5% are not believe in these practices.
17. Many of the respondents believe and follow more than one type of practice. Among employed or self-employed respondents, 67.0% support and believe in dowry practice, 26.0% of the respondents support and believe in Devadasi, Jogini or Bettale Seve, 7.0% believe in widows' remarriage, 21.5% believe and support widows' remarriage, 21.5% of the respondents support and believe in animals' dedication to deities, 2.0% believe in such other practices and it is not applicable to 23.5% of the respondents as they don't believe and don't support any of such practices.
18. On their marital relations with their husbands, 25.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have expressed that they have best or cordial relations with their husbands, 19.5% have stated that they have very good or friendly relations with their husbands, 34.0% have mentioned that they have satisfactory relationships with their husbands, only 3.0% have remarked that they have no satisfactory relationships with their

husbands and it is not applicable to 18.0% of the respondents as they include divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.

19. On the attitudes of their husbands, 13.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents have expressed that their husbands are violent, abuse and neglect them, 41.5% have mentioned that their husbands are dominant and suppress them, 18.5% have expressed that their husbands are cooperative and equal treat them, 9.0% have remarked that their husbands always give importance to them and it is not applicable to 18.0% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.
20. Surprisingly, 14.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents are facing domestic violence in their families, whereas 68.0% are not facing any of such violence and it is not applicable to 18.0% of the respondents as they are divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.
21. Though majority of the respondents are not facing any domestic violence, still it is observed that a few of the respondents are facing domestic violence of more than one type. Among the employed or self-employed respondents, 5.0% are facing use of filthy language and abuse, 3.5% are facing physical violence, attack, etc., 8.0% are facing mental depression, harassment, exploitation, etc., 1.5% are facing other types of problems, 68.0% are not facing any of the problems and it is not applicable to 18.0% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.
22. On the reasons for domestic violence, 2.5% have stated that due to dowry or behavior of parents-in-law, there is domestic violence, 7.0% have mentioned that due to alcoholism and gambling of husband, they are facing domestic violence, 4.5% have expressed that due to poverty, negligence and illiteracy, they are facing domestic violence and it is not applicable to 86.0% of the respondents as they are not facing any domestic violence.

23. Though facing domestic violence, 14.0% of the respondents have not reported to police on domestic violence, whereas it is not applicable 86.0% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
24. The reasons for not filing case against revealed that, among employed or self-employed respondents, 2.0% have stated that they fear for loss of respect in front of others, 7.5% have expressed that they fear for family disorganization, 4.5% have mentioned that it is against social custom to give complaint against husband and it is not applicable to 86.0% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
25. On the attitudes of society, 14.0% of the respondents have expressed that the people in society are cooperative and sympathetic, 17.0% have mentioned that society is equal and helpful to them, 56.0% have stated that society is showing inferiority and negligence, 5.5% have remarked that the society is showing untouchable and deprivation and 7.5% have stated that society is discriminating and alienating them.
26. On the nature of social problems faced by the employed or self-employed respondents, 17.5% are facing discrimination and alienation from society, 22.0% are facing exploitation and harassment from society, 30.5% are facing suppression, oppression and inferiority, 2.0% are facing other problems and only 28.0% are not facing any social problems.
27. About 22.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society, whereas the remaining 78.0% are not facing problems.
28. Only few of the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society and these respondents are also facing more than one type of exploitation and harassment. As stated by the employed or self-employed respondents, on the types of exploitation and harassment faced, 8.0% are facing mental depression and suppression, 17.5% are facing lower treatment at public places, 4.5% are facing sexual harassment and exploitation and it is not applicable to 78.0% of the respondents as they are not facing such types of exploitation and harassment in society.

29. On the actions taken by the respondents against exploitation and harassment, 3.0% of the respondents have registered complaint with police, 5.5% have brought to the notice of Panchayats, Social Welfare Department or higher authorities, 5.0% have discussed with caste leaders in community meeting, 8.5% have not done anything and it is not applicable to 78.0% of the respondents as they are not facing any exploitation and harassment in society.
30. Level of social life satisfaction of employed or self-employed respondents revealed that, 59.0% are very much satisfied in their social life, 35.0% are somewhat satisfied in their social life and the remaining 6.0% are not satisfied in their social life.
31. On the educational status of their fathers, 15.5% of the employed respondents have stated that their fathers were not went to schools and are illiterates, 43.5% have expressed that their fathers were completed primary or secondary education, 14.0% have mentioned that their fathers were completed pre-university or under-graduation and 27.0% have remarked that their fathers were completed graduation or post-graduation.
32. On their mother's education, 18.0% of the respondents have expressed that their mothers were not went to schools and are illiterates, 46.5% have mentioned that their mothers were completed only primary or secondary education, 12.0% have stated that their mothers were completed only pre-university or under-graduation and 23.5% have remarked that their mothers were completed graduate or post-graduation.
33. On the education of their husbands, 4.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have stated that their husbands are illiterates, 52.5% have remarked that their husbands were completed only primary or secondary education, 12.5% have mentioned that their husbands were completed pre-university or under-graduation, 26.5% have expressed that their husbands are completed graduation or post-graduation and it is not applicable to 4.0% of the respondents as they are unmarried.

34. About 39.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents are deprived and faced problems during education, whereas 61.0% are not deprived or not faced problems during their education.
35. Many of the respondents have given more than one type of reasons for deprivations and problems during their education. As stated by the employed or self-employed respondents, 29.0% are deprived due to caste based inequalities, 15.5% are deprived due to gender inequality, 13.5% are not gained education as the schools were far away, 17.5% are deprived in education as they were unable to bear education expenses, poverty and negligence, 4.0% of the respondents are deprived from education due to other problems and it is not applicable to 61.0% of the employed respondents as they were not deprived from education.
36. On their children's education, among the employed or self-employed respondents, 27.5% have mentioned that their children were completed their higher education, 24.5% have stated that their children are going to schools or colleges to get education, 18.0% have expressed that their children are drop out from schools and colleges, 10.5% have remarked that their children are illiterates and are not sending their children to schools or colleges, 2.0% have given other reasons for not sending their children to schools such as their children are of lower age and it is not applicable to 17.5% of the respondents as they don't have children.
37. The reasons for illiteracy or discontinuation of children's education and among the employed or self-employed respondents, 7.5% have stated that poverty or negligence are the main reasons for such illiteracy or discontinuation of their children's education, 7.0% have given reason of social inequality or caste based discrimination, 14.0% have mentioned that their children are not interested in education and it is not applicable to 71.5% of the respondents as their children are going to schools or colleges or a few of them don't have children.

38. Only 78.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have agreed that education is essential for women, whereas 21.5% have not agreed to the same.
39. On the purpose of girls' education, 54.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have mentioned that education is essential for girls to get good employment, 18.5% have stated that education is essential for girls to get better marriage prospects, 5.5% have expressed that education is essential for girls to get knowledge, learn reading and writing and it is not applicable to 21.5% of the respondents as they are not supported for girls' education.
40. The reasons furnished by the employed or self-employed for no education of girls revealed that, 13.0% have opined that girls are for household work and don't need education, 7.0% have expressed that there are no grooms available for educated girls in their communities, 1.5% have furnished other reasons for the same and it is not applicable to 78.5% of the respondents as they have supported for girls' education.
41. On whether internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women, 48.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have agreed that there is need for internal reservation for women, whereas 32.5% have not agreed to the same and 19.0% have not expressed their opinions on the same.
42. Many of the respondents have given more than one type of areas or aspects of internal reservation for Scheduled Caste women. Of the employed or self-employed respondents, 24.0% have remarked that higher education or professional education is main areas for internal reservation, 16.5% have mentioned that internal reservation is needed in employment for Scheduled Caste women, 13.0% have stated that political decision making is the area of internal reservation, 9.0% have expressed that internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women in self-employment schemes, 5.5% have given other areas of internal reservation and it is not applicable to 51.5% of the respondents as they have not supported for internal reservation.

43. Among the employed or self-employed respondents, 19.5% have stated that their health is always fine, 71.0% have mentioned that their health is mostly fine with minor health problems and 9.5% have mentioned that they are always facing regular health problems.
44. Whenever there is ill health, 46.0% of the respondents are visiting to government or civil hospitals, 22.5% are visiting to private hospitals and 31.5% are visiting to private clinics.
45. Distance of Health Centres from the residences shows that, 26.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have expressed that hospitals are less than 05 Kms away from their residences, 51.0% have mentioned that hospitals are 06 to 20 Kms away from their residences and 22.5% of the respondents have stated that hospitals are 20 to 40 Kms away from their residences.
46. On the attitudes of family members towards ill health of the respondents, 67.0% have expressed that their family members always care during their ill health, 28.5% have mentioned that their family members somewhat care them during their ill health and 4.5% have stated that their family members don't care or neglect them during ill health.
47. On the attitudes of doctors towards employed or self-employed respondents whenever they visit to the hospitals shows that, 9.0% have responded that the doctors are discriminative and even hesitate to treat them, 30.5% have mentioned that doctors are sympathetic and positive towards Scheduled Caste women and 60.5% have remarked that doctors treat respondents equally with all other patients.
48. On the reservation system, among the employed or self-employed respondents, 43.5% have agreed that present reservation system is satisfactory, 10.5% have felt that there is need to keep creamy layer outside the reservation, 29.5% have opined that there is need to provide internal reservation based on individual castes, 13.5% have remarked that there is need to increase percentage of reservation and 3.0% have also suggested other ways to improve reservation system.

49. Among the employed or self-employed respondents to prevent atrocities and violence against Scheduled Caste women, 26.5% have suggested for passing of strong legislations against atrocities and violence, 32.0% have suggested for higher education of Scheduled Caste women, 22.5% have suggested to increase awareness on atrocities law in society and 19.0% have suggested for quick settlement of atrocities cases and punishment should be given.
50. The nature of employment of the employed or self-employed respondents shows that, 16.0% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture or animal husbandry, 20.5% are working in industry, business or self-employment, 3.5% are working in organized sector of employment, 48.5% are working in unorganized sector and 11.5% are working in their caste based occupations.
51. On the reasons for taking up outside employment and among the employed and self-employed respondents, 17.0% have expressed that they are educated and skilled and as such, they are making use of their education, 25.5% have mentioned that they have taken up outside employment to become economically independent, 46.0% have remarked that they have taken up employment to support their family economically, 11.5% have opined that they are engaged in caste based occupation of their families and it is not applicable to unemployed respondents or housewives.
52. Family occupations of 21.0% of the respondents is agriculture or animal husbandry, that of 17.0% of the respondents is industry, business or self-employment, family occupation of 44.5% of the respondents is employment in organized sector or unorganized sector and family occupations of 17.5% of the respondents is caste based.
53. On the occupations of their husbands, 17.5% of the respondents have responded that their husbands are engaged in agriculture or animal husbandry, 15.5% have mentioned that their husbands are working in industry, business and self-employment, 43.0% have expressed that their

husbands are working in organized sector or unorganized sector, only 6.0% have stated that their husbands are working in caste based occupations and it is not applicable to 18.0% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.

54. Individual annual income of the respondents revealed that, 26.5% of the respondents have annual income of less than Rs. 24000, 31.0% have annual income between Rs. 24001 to Rs. 36000, 29.5% of the respondents have annual income between Rs. 36001 to Rs. 60000 and 13.0% have annual income of more than Rs. 60000. The unemployed respondents or housewives are unemployed and as such, they have no income of their own.
55. The average annual income of the families of the employed or self-employed respondents shows that, the family income of 7.5% of the respondents is less than 36000, that of 18.0% of the respondents is between Rs. 36001 to Rs. 60000, family income of 20.5% of the respondents is between Rs. 60001 to Rs. 84000, that of 15.0% of the respondents is between Rs. 84001 to Rs. 1 lakh and the family income of only 39.0% of the respondents is more than Rs. 1 lakh.
56. The worth of properties owned by the employed or self-employed respondents in their individual names revealed that, 16.5% have not owned anything, 15.5% have owned properties worth up to Rs. 1 lakh, 22.5% have owned worth of properties between Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 lakhs, 13.5% have owned properties between Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs and 32.0% have owned properties worth more than Rs. 5 lakhs.
57. Few of the respondents have owned more than one type of property. Particularly, 7.5% have owned agricultural land or residential land, 11.0% have owned residential building, 40.5% have owned bank deposits, LICs, Shares, Stocks, etc., 57.0% of the respondents have owned gold or silver, 2.0% have owned other types properties also and 16.5% have not owned any properties in their own names.

58. Worth of the properties owned by respondents' families revealed that, families of 9.0% of the respondents have not owned any properties, families of 20.5% have owned properties worth less than Rs. 2 lakhs, families of 23.5% of the respondents have owned properties worth between Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 lakhs, families of 19.5% of the respondents have owned properties worth between Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and families of 27.5% of the respondents have owned properties worth more than Rs. 10 lakhs.
59. Only 69.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents have agreed that their annual income is sufficient to meet their family expenses, whereas 23.5% have not agreed to the same and 7.5% have not expressed their opinions on the same.
60. To meet the family expenses, as stated by the employed or self-employed respondents, 4.5% are borrowing loans to meet their family expenses, 5.5% are work for overtime in other occupations, 13.5% are reducing their unnecessary expenses and it is not applicable to 76.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents as their family income is meeting their expenses.
61. A few of the respondents are facing more than one type of problem in their families due to their outside work. As stated by employed or self-employed respondents, 19.0% are facing problems of role conflicts, frequent quarrels, etc., 33.0% are not able to care their husband, elders, children, etc., 25.5% are suffering from problems of stress, fatigue, anxiety, ill health, etc., 3.5% are facing such other problems and 26.6% of the working respondents are not facing such problems.
62. Few of the employed or self-employed respondents are getting more than one type of benefit from their employment or self-employment. As stated by employed or self-employed respondents, 30.5% have gained self-economic independence, 39.0% have gained improved economic status and standard of living, 6.0% have achieved gender equality, 3.5% have achieved caste equality, 26.5% have gained

- participation in family decision making and 5.0% have gained other types of benefits also from their employment or self-employment.
63. 52.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents are members to Self-Help Groups, whereas 48.0% are not members to Self-Help Groups.
 64. A few of the respondents have gained more than one type of benefits from Self-Help Groups. 32.5% of the respondents have gained economic independence and economic security, 11.5% have gained socio-economic equality in family and society, 28.0% have gained financially to start income generating activities, 7.5% have gained in other ways also and it is not applicable to 48.0% of the respondents as they are not members of Self-Help Groups.
 65. Feelings of employed or self-employed respondents about their work revealed that, 26.5% are feeling inferior as they are engaged in work that is having lower status, 41.0% are feeling satisfied as they are getting economic status from their work and 32.5% are feeling proud as they have more status compared to others.
 66. Due to their employment or self-employment, 40.0% of the respondents have stated that they are personally recognized in society, 32.5% have expressed that they are socially appreciated and given with cooperation, 15.5% have felt their work is means to caste and gender equality and 12.0% have agreed that there is hostile and inferior attitudes of society towards employed respondents.
 67. Few of the respondents have gained benefits from more than one social security scheme and majority of the respondents have not gained benefits from these schemes. 10.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have gained benefits from National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), 7.5% have gained benefits from Dr. Ambedkar, Indira Awas, Ashraya Yojana, etc., 12.0% have gained benefits from Streeshakti, Myrada, Self-Help Groups, etc., 18.0% have gained benefits from Yeshaswini, Bhagyalaxmi, Madilu, etc., 17.5% have gained benefits from SGSY, JRY, etc., 6.0% have gained benefits

from other schemes also and a great majority, that is 71.5% have not gained benefits from any of these schemes.

68. All the respondents are visiting to holy places and it shows that they believe in their religions.
69. On the frequency of visit to holy places as expressed by the employed or self-employed respondents, 4.5% are visiting daily, 26.0% are visiting weekly, 11.5% are visiting to holy places monthly and 58.0% are visiting to the holy places occasionally or on festival days.
70. 82.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents believe and actively participate in caste or religion based socio-cultural activities, whereas only 18.0% are not believing or participating in these activities.
71. Few of the respondents are participating in more than one type of socio-cultural activity. Particularly, 7.0% have agreed that they are participating in beating drums, conventional musical instruments, etc, 11.5% are participating in folk songs, dance, play, drama, etc., 19.0% are actively participating in religious rallies, etc., 56.0% encourage and support such socio-cultural activities and it is not applicable to 18.0% of the respondents as they are not participating in these activities.
72. The reasons for their non-participation in socio-cultural activities, 6.0% of the respondents have expressed that they are not interested in socio-cultural activities, 8.5% have mentioned that they have no time to participate in these activities, 2.5% have remarked that there is gender discrimination in these activities, 1.0% have also given other reasons and it is not applicable to 82.0% of the respondents as they are actively participating in these activities.
73. None of the respondents have agreed that there is gender equality in their religion or castes.
74. On the impact of religion or caste on society, among the employed or self-employed respondents, 14.0% have expressed that religion or caste give social recognition, 34.0% have mentioned that religion or caste help to extend caste or community relations, 12.5% have remarked that

religion or caste helps to maintain harmonious relations in society, 18.0% have stated that religion or caste increase feeling of unity in religion or community and 21.5% have opined that religion or caste divides the society.

75. Surprisingly, only 46.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents are voting regularly, 32.5% are voting somewhat regularly and 21.0% are not voting and electing their political representatives.
76. The reasons furnished by the employed or self-employed respondents on irregular voting or not voting shows that, 7.0% have expressed that the politicians have not done anything for the development of their communities, 16.5% have stated that they have not time or not interested in politics, 26.5% have informed that their name is not there in voters' list, 3.5% have felt that it is rewardless work and it is not applicable to 46.5% of the respondents as they are voting regularly.
77. On the determination of their votes in elections, 8.5% of the respondents have mentioned that personal character of the candidates determines the votes in elections, 19.0% have stated that political party determine their votes, 20.0% have felt that religion or caste of the candidate determines their votes, 31.5% have expressed that the developmental contributions of candidates determines their votes and it is not applicable to 21.0% of the respondents as they never vote in the elections.
78. Only 2.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents have contested in elections in the last 25 years, whereas almost that is, 98.0% have not contested in elections.
79. Among the employed or self-employed respondents who were contested in elections, 0.5% belongs to Congress (I) party, 1.5% belongs to independent party and it is not applicable to 98.0% of the respondents as they were not contested in elections in the last 25 years.
80. Only 32.0% of the employed or self-employed respondents have agreed that there is adequate and equal representation for Scheduled Caste

women in politics, whereas 55.5% have not agreed to the same and 17.5% of the respondents have not expressed their opinions on the same.

81. On the means to achieve adequate and equal representation for Scheduled Caste women in politics, 11.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents suggested for women's party at local or national level, 15.5% have suggested for political reservation for Scheduled Caste women at national and state level, 21.0% have suggested that the political parties should give importance to women candidates, 2.5% have also given other suggestions and it is not applicable to 49.5% of the respondents as they have agreed that there is adequate and equal political representation for Scheduled Caste women.

82. Only 39.5% of the employed or self-employed respondents have agreed that government is solving problems of backward Scheduled Caste women working in caste based occupations, whereas 52.0% have not agreed to the same and 8.5% have not expressed their views on the same.

83. Among the employed or self-employed women, 3.5% have expressed that there is need for more reservation and free compulsory education, 9.0% have stated that there is need for strict enforcement of legislations, 25.5% have mentioned that there is need for more welfare schemes for education and employment, 14.0% have remarked that there is need for gender and caste based reservation in employment and politics and it is not applicable to 48.0% of the respondents as they have already agreed that the Government is solving the problems of Scheduled Caste women.

Unemployed Housewives:

1. Age of the housewives or unemployed Scheduled Caste women revealed that, 31.5% of the respondents are between 46 to 60 years followed by, 27.0% are between 26 to 35 years, 18.5% of the respondents are between 36 to 45 years, 12.5% are between 18 to 25 years and the remaining 10.5% are of more than 60 years respectively.

2. Due to social discrimination, a few of the respondents have converted into other religions and hence, 1.5% of the unemployed housewives are Christians, 3.0% are Buddhists and almost that is, 95.5% are Hindus.
3. Particular castes of the unemployed housewives shows that, 51.0% of the respondents are from Holeyá or Chaluwadi community, 16.0% are from Madiga or Dhor community, 7.5% are from Bhangi or Scavenger community and the remaining 25.5% of the respondents are from other communities.
4. Marital status of the unemployed housewives shows that, 5.5% are single or unmarried, 84.5% are married, 7.0% are widows and the remaining 3.0% are divorcees, separated or alienated from their husbands.
5. Type of marriage of the respondents depicted that, 4.5% of the respondents have stated that they have bounded with love marriage, 1.5% have mentioned that they have bounded with inter-caste marriage, 88.5% have remarked that they have bounded with arranged marriage and it is not applicable to 5.5% of the unemployed respondents or housewives as they are not married.
6. Education of the unemployed housewives shows that, 11.5% of the respondents have not went to schools and are illiterates, 32.5% have completed primary education, 30.5% have completed secondary education, 12.5% of the respondents have completed under-graduation and 13.0% have completed graduation or more education.
7. It is observed that, 65.5% of the unemployed respondents or housewives are living in joint families, whereas 34.5% are living in nuclear families.
8. Among the unemployed respondents or housewives, 47.5% are from rural areas, whereas 52.5% are from urban areas.
9. Residential status of the respondents depicted that, 29.5% of the respondents are living in own house, 34.0% are living in rented house and 36.5% of the respondents are living in huts and sheds.
10. It is observed from the study that, 78.0% have remarked that there are problems at their residential environment, whereas 22.0% have expressed that there are no any problems at their residential areas.

11. Many of the respondents are facing more than one type of problems at their residential environment. Among the unemployed housewives, 31.0% have stated that there is poor sanitation in their areas, 14.5% have mentioned that there is scarcity of drinking water in their areas, 22.5% have expressed that there are poor roads or lack of adequate transportation, 18.0% have mentioned that there are lack of health centre or schools in their areas, 2.5% have given other problems at their areas and it is not applicable to 22.0% of the housewives as they have already mentioned that there are no any problems at their residential environment.
12. On the authority in family decision making, 30.0% of the respondents have expressed that their parents or parents-in-law are making their family decisions, 37.5% have mentioned that their husbands are making family decisions, 21.5% have stated that they are making family decisions along with their husbands, 6.5% have remarked that they are making decisions on their own and 4.5% have stated that others like children are making their family decisions.
13. Number of children of the respondents disclosed that, 7.0% of the housewives have no children, 37.0% have 1 to 2 children, 31.0% have 3 to 4 children, 19.5% have more than 4 children and it is not applicable to 5.5% of the respondents as they are unmarried and living single.
14. On their status in their families, 2.5% unemployed housewives have mentioned that their status is superior to male members in their families, 18.0% have stated that their status is equal to male members and majority that is, 79.5% of the unemployed respondents have expressed that their status is subjugated to male members in their families.
15. All the unemployed housewives are following sacraments associated with their castes.
16. It is observed that, 86.0% of the unemployed housewives believe in religious or social practices, whereas the remaining only 14.0% don't believe in such practices.

17. Many of the respondents believe and follow more than one type of practice. Among the unemployed housewives, 75.5% have stated that they believe and support dowry practice, 36.0% have mentioned that they believe and support Devadasi, Jogini or Bettale Seve to deities, 5.0% have expressed that they believe in child marriage, 8.0% have remarked that they believe in widows' remarriage, 33.5% have expressed that they believe in animal dedication to deities, 2.5% have stated that they believe in such other practices and it is not applicable to 14.0% of the respondents as they don't believe and don't support such practices.
18. On their marital relations with their husbands and among housewives, 21.0% have stated that they have best or cordial relationships with their husbands, 17.0% have expressed that they have very good or friendly relationship with their husbands, 46.5% have mentioned that they have satisfactory relationship with their husbands and it is not applicable to 15.5% of the respondents as they constitute divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.
19. On the attitudes of husbands and of the unemployed housewives, 22.0% have remarked that their husbands are violent, abuse and neglect them, 47.0% have mentioned that their husbands are dominant and suppress them, 10.0% have stated that their husbands are cooperative and equally treat them, 5.5% have expressed that their husbands are always giving importance to them in family matters and it is not applicable to 15.5% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.
20. It is surprising to note that, 17.5% of the housewives or unemployed respondents are facing domestic violence, whereas 67.0% are not facing such violence and it is not applicable to 15.5% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.
21. Though majority of the respondents are not facing any domestic violence, still it is observed that a few of the respondents are facing domestic violence of more than one type. Of the unemployed

housewives, 7.0% are facing use of filthy language, abuse, etc., 5.5% are facing physical violence, attack, etc., 6.5% are facing mental depression, harassment, exploitation, etc., 1.0% are facing other problems, 67.0% are not facing any problems of domestic violence and it is not applicable to 15.5% of the respondents as they include divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.

22. On the reasons for domestic violence, 5.5% of the unemployed housewives have stated that due to dowry or behavior of parents-in-law, they are facing domestic violence, 9.0% have expressed that due to alcoholism and gambling of husband, they are facing domestic violence, 1.5% have mentioned that due to conflicts from other family members, they are facing domestic violence, 1.5% have remarked that due to poverty, illiteracy and negligence, they are facing domestic violence and it is not applicable to 82.5% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
23. Even though facing domestic violence, 17.5% of the housewives or unemployed respondents have not filed caste with police against domestic violence and it is not applicable to 82.5% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
24. The reasons for not filing case against revealed that and among unemployed housewives, 2.5% have stated that they fear for loss of respect in front of others, 10.5% have expressed that they fear for family disorganization, 4.5% have felt that it is against social custom to complain against police and it is not applicable 82.5% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
25. On the attitudes of society, 7.5% of the unemployed housewives have stated that they are getting cooperation and sympathy from society, 13.5% have mentioned that they are getting equal attitudes and help from society, 60.5% have expressed that they are getting inferior attitudes and negligence from society, 7.0% have opined that they are facing untouchable and deprivation from society and 11.5% have remarked that they are facing discrimination and alienation from society.

26. The social problems faced by unemployed housewives shows that, 21.0% are facing discrimination and alienation from society, 38.0% are facing exploitation and harassment from society, 25.0% are facing suppression, oppression and inferiority from society and only 16.0% are not facing any social problems.
27. It is surprising to note that, 38.0% of the unemployed respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society whereas, 62.0% are not facing the same in society.
28. Only few of the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society and these respondents are also facing more than one type of exploitation and harassment. As expressed by housewives and unemployed respondents, 30 (15.0%) are facing mental suppression and depression, 26.5% are facing lower treatment at public places, 2.5% are facing sexual harassment and exploitation and it is not applicable to 62.0% of the respondents as they are not facing any types of exploitation and harassment in society.
29. On the actions taken by unemployed housewives against exploitation and harassment, 2.5% have registered complaint with police against exploitation and harassment, 8.0% have brought to the notice of Panchayats and social welfare departments, 11.0% have discussed with their caste leaders in community meetings, 16.5% have not done anything and it is not applicable to the remaining 62.0% of the respondents as they are not facing exploitation and harassment in society.
30. On their social life satisfaction, only 44.5% of the unemployed housewives are very much satisfied, 48.0% are somewhat satisfied and the remaining 7.5% of the housewives or unemployed respondents are not satisfied in their social life.
31. As stated by the unemployed housewives, fathers of 21.0% of the respondents are illiterates that of 49.0% of the respondents have completed only primary or secondary education, fathers of 8.5% of the respondents have completed pre-university or under-graduation and the fathers of 21.5% have completed graduation or post-graduation.

32. On the mothers' education, 23.5% of the unemployed housewives have stated that their mothers are illiterates, 44.5% have mentioned that their mothers have completed primary or secondary education, 15.5% have remarked that their mothers have completed pre-university or under-graduation and 16.5% have expressed that their mothers have completed graduation or post-graduation.
33. Of the housewives or unemployed respondents, 13.0% have remarked that their husbands are illiterates, 49.0% have stated that their husbands have completed only primary or secondary education, 16.5% have mentioned that their husbands were completed pre-university or under-graduation, 16.0% have expressed that their husbands were completed graduation or post-graduation and it is not applicable to 5.5% of the respondents as they are not married.
34. 51.5% of the unemployed respondents or housewives were faced problems and deprived during their education, whereas 48.5% have not faced any of such problems.
35. Many of the respondents have given more than one type of reasons for deprivations and problems during their education. On the particular reasons, 23.0% of the respondents have stated that they are deprived due to caste inequality, 21.5% have mentioned that they are deprived due to gender inequality, 17.0% have expressed that they are deprived in education as the schools are far away, 19.0% of the respondents have remarked that they were unable to bear educational expenses, poverty and negligence, 2.5% have given other reasons and it is not applicable to 48.5% of the housewives as they were not deprived from education.
36. On their children's education and among unemployed housewives, 23.5% have expressed that their children were completed higher education, 25.0% have stated that their children are going to schools or colleges, 24.5% have remarked that their children are drop outs from schools, 13.0% have opined that their children are illiterates or not sending their children to schools or colleges, 1.5% have given other

reasons and it is not applicable to 12.5% of the respondents as they don't have children.

37. The reasons for illiteracy or discontinuation of children's education, 16.5% of the unemployed housewives have stated that their children discontinued education due to poverty or negligence, 13.5% have mentioned that social inequality or caste based discrimination are the reasons for discontinuation of their children's education, 7.5% have remarked that their children are not interested in education and it is not applicable to 62.5% of the respondents as their children are going to schools and colleges and a few of them don't have children.
38. Only 59.0% of the housewives or unemployed respondents have agreed that education is essential for women, whereas the remaining 41.0% have not agreed to the same.
39. On the purpose of female education and among unemployed housewives, 40.5% have stated that girls' education is needed to gain good employment, 14.5% have stated that education is needed for girls to get better marriage prospects, 4.0% have mentioned that education is needed for girls to get knowledge, to learn reading and writing and it is not applicable to 41.0% of the respondents as they are not supported for girls' education.
40. The reasons furnished by unemployed housewives for not supporting girls' education, 22.5% have mentioned that girls are for household work and education is not needed for household work, 15.5% have remarked that no grooms are available for educated girls in their communities, 3.0% have mentioned other reasons and it is not applicable to 59.0% of the respondents as they have supported for girls' education.
41. On whether internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women, 29.5% of the unemployed housewives have mentioned that there is need for internal reservation for Scheduled Caste women, whereas 33.5% have not agreed to the same and 37.0% have not expressed their views on the same.

42. Many of the respondents have given more than one type of areas or aspects of internal reservation for Scheduled Caste women. Among unemployed respondents or housewives, 13.0% have agreed that there is need for internal reservation in higher or professional education for Scheduled Caste women, 9.0% have mentioned that internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women in employment, 7.5% have stated that internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women in political decision making, 5.0% have expressed that internal reservation is needed for schemes of self-employment, 2.5% have given other areas of internal reservation and it is not applicable to 70.5% of the respondents as they have felt internal reservation is not needed for Scheduled Caste women.
43. Of the housewives or unemployed respondents, 22.5% have expressed that their health is always fine, 65.0% have mentioned that their health is mostly fine with minor health problems and 12.5% have stated that they are always facing health problems.
44. Whenever there is ill health, 57.0% of the unemployed housewives are visiting to government or civil hospitals, 13.5% are visiting to private hospitals and 29.5% are visiting to private clinics.
45. Of the housewives or unemployed respondents, 19.0% have remarked that hospitals are less than 05 Kms away from their residences, 52.5% have mentioned that hospitals are 06 to 20 Kms away from their residences and 28.5% have stated that hospitals are 20 to 40 Kms away from their residences.
46. On the attitudes of family members towards ill health of the respondents, among the unemployed housewives, 60.0% have stated that their family members always care them during their ill health, 34.0% have mentioned that their family members somewhat care during their ill health and 6.0% have responded that their family members don't care or neglect during their ill health.
47. Among the housewives or unemployed respondents, 16.5% have agreed that doctors are discriminative and hesitate to treat them, 21.5% have

felt that doctors are sympathetic and positive towards the respondents and 62.0% have opined that doctors treat all patients equally irrespective of caste or gender.

48. 32.0% of the housewives or unemployed respondents have remarked that present reservation is satisfactory, 16.0% have opined that there is need to keep creamy layer outside the reservation, 34.0% have mentioned that there is need to provide internal reservation based on individual castes, 15.5% have stated that there is need to increase the percentage of reservation and 2.5% have also suggested for improvement of reservation in other ways.

49. Among the unemployed housewives to prevent atrocities and violence against Scheduled Caste women, 36.0% have mentioned that there is need to pass strong legislations to prevent atrocities and violence against Scheduled Caste women, 28.0% have suggested for higher education for Scheduled Caste women, 28.5% have suggested to increase awareness on atrocities law in society and 7.5% have suggested for quick settlement of pending cases and punishment related to atrocities cases.

50. Family occupations of 14.5% of the respondents is agriculture or animal husbandry, that of 13.5% of the respondents is industry, business or self-employment, family occupation of 49.0% of the respondents is employment in organized or unorganized sector and family occupations of 23.0% of the respondents is caste based.

51. As stated by unemployed respondents or housewives, husbands of 13.5% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture or animal husbandry, husbands of 14.0% are engaged in industry, business and self-employment, husbands of 49.5% of the respondents are working in organized sector or unorganized sector, husbands of 7.5% are working in caste based occupations and it is not applicable to 15.5% of the respondents as they include unmarried respondents, divorcees and widows.

52. Among the housewives or unemployed respondents, 4.5% have stated that their family income is less than 36000, 15.0% have expressed that their family income is between Rs. 36001 to Rs. 60000 per year, 28.5% have mentioned that their annual family income is between Rs. 60001 to Rs. 84000, 19.0% have remarked that their annual family income is between Rs. 84001 to Rs. 1 lakh and 33.0% have given information that their family income is more than Rs. 1 lakh.
53. The worth of properties owned by the employed or self-employed respondents in their individual names revealed that, 24.0% have not owned any properties in their name, 21.5% have owned properties worth up to Rs. 1 lakh, 18.5% have owned properties between Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 lakhs, 24.5% have owned properties worth between Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs and 11.5% have owned properties worth more than Rs. 5 lakhs.
54. Few of the respondents have owned more than one type of property. Among the unemployed housewives surveyed, 4.5% have owned agricultural land or residential land, 13.0% have owned residential building, 26.5% have owned bank deposits, LICs, Shares, Stocks, etc., 46.5% have owned gold or silver, 2.5% have owned other types of properties also and 24.0% have not owned any properties in their own names.
55. The worth of properties owned by the families of unemployed respondents shows that, families of 12.0% have no owned any properties, families of 19.0% have owned properties worth less than Rs. 2 lakhs, families of 25.5% of the respondents have owned properties worth between Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, families of 24.5% of the respondents have owned properties worth between Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and families of 19.0% of the respondents have owned properties worth more than Rs. 10 lakhs.
56. Among the housewives or unemployed respondents, 57.5% have agreed that their annual income is sufficient to meet their family expenses, whereas 36.5% have not agreed to the same and 6.0% have not expressed their views on the same.

57. To meet their family expenses, as stated by unemployed housewives, 10.5% are managing their family expenses by borrowing loans, 3.0% are (husbands of the respondents) working for overtime in other occupations, 23.0% are reducing their unnecessary expenses and it is not applicable to 63.5% of the housewives as their income is sufficient to meet their family expenses.
58. Only 36.5% of the housewives or unemployed respondents are members to Self-Help Groups, whereas 63.5% are not members of Self-Help Groups.
59. A few of the respondents have gained more than one type of benefits from Self-Help Groups. Particularly, 8.0% of the unemployed housewives have gained economic independence and security, 20.5% have gained socio-economic equality in family and society, 11.5% have gained from Self-Help Groups in other ways and it is not applicable to 63.5% of the respondents as they are not members of Self-Help Groups.
60. The status of unemployed housewives revealed that, 39.0% of the unemployed housewives have possessed subjugated or dependent status to their husbands, 18.0% have possessed significant status to look after the family, 13.5% have got neglected and inferior status in their families and only 29.5% have got equal status with all other family members.
61. Attitudes of society towards unemployed housewives disclosed that, 17.5% of the unemployed housewives are getting more social recognition, 55.0% are getting lesser socio-economic status and respect and 27.5% are getting positive in social relations.
62. Few of the respondents have gained benefits from more than one social security scheme and majority of the respondents have not gained benefits from these schemes. Of the housewives or unemployed respondents, 7.0% have gained benefits from NREGS, 9.0% have gained benefits from Dr. Ambedkar, Indira Awas, Ashraya Yojana, etc., 15.5% have gained benefits from Streeshakti, Myrada, Self-Help Groups, etc., 11.0% have gained benefits from Yeshaswini, Bhagyalaxmi, Madilu, etc., 5.0% have gained benefits from SGSY, JRY, etc., 7.0% have

gained from other social security benefits and majority that is, 65.5% have not gained benefits from any of these social security schemes.

63. All the respondents are visiting to holy places and it shows that they believe in their religions. As stated by the unemployed housewives, 6.5% are visiting to holy places daily, 23.5% are visiting to holy places weekly, 9.0% are visiting to holy places monthly and 61.0% are visiting to holy places occasionally or only on festival days.
64. Of the unemployed housewives, 86.5% believe and actively participate in caste or religion based socio-cultural activities, whereas only 13.5% don't believe and participate in these activities.
65. Few of the respondents are participating in more than one type of socio-cultural activity. Among the unemployed housewives, 7.5% are participating in beating drums, conventional musical instruments, etc, 17.0% are participating in folk songs, dance, play, etc., 26.5% are participating in religious rallies, etc, 67.5% are encouraging and supporting such activities and it is not applicable to 13.5% of the respondents as they are not participating in these activities.
66. The reasons furnished by unemployed housewives for their non-participation in socio-cultural activities, 5.5% of the unemployed housewives have expressed that they are not interested to participate in socio-cultural activities, 2.5% have remarked that they don't find time to participate in these activities, 4.0% have mentioned that there is gender discrimination in these activities, 1.5% have also given other reasons and it is not applicable to 86.5% of the respondents as they are actively participating in these activities.
67. None of the respondents have agreed that there is gender equality in their religion or castes.
68. Impact of religion or caste on society, as stated by unemployed housewives shows that, 17.5% of the respondents have stated that religion or caste give social recognition, 27.5% have remarked that religion or caste help to extend caste or community relations, 17.0%

have mentioned that religion or caste helps to maintain harmonious relations in society, 27.5% have expressed that religion or caste increase feeling of unity in religion or communities and 10.5% have opined that religion or caste divides the society.

69. It is surprising to note that, only 56.0% of the unemployed housewives are always regularly voting and electing their political representatives, 24.5% are voting somewhat regularly and 19.5% are not at all voting and electing their political representatives.
70. As stated by the housewives or unemployed respondents, 9.5% have felt that politicians have not done anything for the development of their communities, 19.0% have remarked that they have no time or not interested in politics, 13.5% have opined that their name is not included in voters' lists, 2.0% have felt that it is rewardless work and it is not applicable to 56.0% of the respondents as they are regularly voting and electing their political representatives.
71. On the determination of their votes in elections, among the unemployed housewives, 3.0% have agreed that personal character of candidate determines their votes, 16.0% have stated that political party determine their votes, 25.5% have felt that the religion or caste of the candidate determines their votes, 36.0% have agreed that developmental contributions of the candidates determines their votes and it is not applicable to 19.5% of the respondents as they never voted in elections.
72. Only 6.5% of the housewives or unemployed respondents are contested in elections in the last 25 years, whereas 93.5% are not contested in elections.
73. Only 2.5% of the unemployed housewives were contested in elections through Congress (I) party, 1.0% were contested from Bharatiya Janata Party, 3.0% were contested as independent candidates and it is not applicable to 93.5% of the respondents as they were not contested in elections since 25 years.

74. Only 37.5% of the housewives or unemployed respondents have agreed that there is adequate and equal representation for Scheduled Caste women in politics, whereas 41.5% have not agreed to the same and 21.0% have not expressed their views on the same.
75. Among the unemployed housewives, 8.5% have stated that there is need for women's party at local and national level, 12.5% have mentioned that there is need for reservation at state or national level, 18.5% have expressed that the political parties should give importance to women candidates in elections, 2.0% have suggested other means to get adequate and equal representation for women in politics and it is not applicable to 58.5% of the respondents as they have already agreed that there is adequate and equal representation for women in politics.
76. Only 28.0% of the housewives or unemployed respondents have agreed that government is solving problems of backward Scheduled Caste women working in caste based occupations, 66.5% have not agreed to the same and 5.5% have not expressed their opinions on the same.
77. Among the unemployed housewives, 4.5% have agreed that there is need for more reservation and free compulsory education, 11.5% have remarked that there is need for strict enforcement of legislations, 28.5% have mentioned that there is need for more welfare schemes for education and employment, 22.0% have expressed that there is need for gender and caste based reservation in employment and politics and it is not applicable to 33.5% of the respondents as they have agreed that the Government is solving the problems of Scheduled Caste women.

Major Findings:

1. Age-wise distribution of all the 400 Scheduled Caste women surveyed revealed that, 14.2% of the respondents are between 18 to 25 years, 26.7% are between 26 to 35 years, 21.5% of the respondents are between 36 to 45 years, 27.7% are between 46 to 60 years and the remaining 9.7% are of more than 60 years. To know the problems of

Scheduled Caste women of all age groups, the respondents from all the age groups are selected while collecting the primary data.

2. Due to social discrimination, a few of the respondents have converted into other religions and hence, 92.7% of the respondents are Hindus followed by, 5.5% are Buddhists and the remaining only 1.7% are Christians respectively. It is emphasized that the Scheduled Caste women, though faced caste based discrimination and such other problems, still they are living with their Hindu religion.
3. Particular castes of the total respondents shows that, 48.7% of the respondents are from Holeya or Chaluwadi communities, 15.5% are from Madiga or Dhor community, 6.7% are from Bhangi or scavenger community and 29.0% of all the respondents are from other communities grouped under Scheduled Castes.
4. Marital status of all the respondents shows that, 4.7% of the respondents are unmarried and single, 83.2% of the respondents are married and living with their husbands, 7.7% are widows and 4.2% are divorcees, separated or alienated from their husbands.
5. Among all the respondents, 5.2% of the respondents have mentioned that their marital relations are bounded with love marriage, 2.0% have stated that their marital relations are bounded with inter-caste marriage, 88.0% have stated that their marital relations are bounded with arranged marriage and it is not applicable to 4.7% of the respondents as they are not married so far. It is highlighted that a great majority of the respondents are married and living with their husbands.
6. Education of all the respondents disclosed that, 7.7% of the respondents have not went to schools and are illiterates, 30.5% have completed primary education, 33.2% have completed secondary education, 10.0% have completed under-graduation and 18.5% of the respondents have completed graduation and higher education. Majority of the respondents have completed only lower education that is, primary or secondary.

7. The nature of families of the respondents revealed that, 59.0% of the respondents are living in joint families, whereas 41.0% are living in nuclear or single families. It is highlighted that majority of the Scheduled Caste women are living in joint families.
8. Family background of the total respondents shows that, 42.7% are from rural areas, whereas 57.2% are from urban areas.
9. Residential status of all the respondents disclosed that, 33.2% of the respondents are living in their own houses, 32.2% are living in rented houses and the remaining 34.5% are living in huts or sheds.
10. 72.2% of the total respondents are having problems at their residential environment, whereas only 27.7% have no any problems at their residential environment.
11. Many of the respondents are facing more than one type of problems at their residential environment. Among all the respondents, 29.2% have stated that there is poor sanitation in their residential environment, 16.2% have mentioned that there is scarcity of drinking water in their areas, 19.5% have remarked that there are poor roads or inadequate transportation in their areas, 16.0% have expressed that there is lack of health centres or schools at their areas, 3.5% have mentioned that there are also other problems at their residential environments and it is not applicable to 27.7% of the respondents as they have already stated that there are no any problems at their residential areas.
12. On their role in family decision making, 28.2% of the respondents have expressed that their parents or parents-in-law are making their family decisions, 29.5% have remarked that their husbands are making family decisions, 28.5% have remarked that they are making family decisions along with their husbands, 8.5% have mentioned that they are making their family decisions and the remaining 5.2% have stated that others like their children are making family decisions.
13. On the number of children they have possessed, 43.0% have 1 to 2 children followed by, 24.5% have 3 to 4 children, 17.5% have more than

4 children, 10.2% have no children and it is not applicable to 4.7% of the respondents as they are unmarried and living single.

14. On their status in their families, 71.7% of all the respondents have stated that their status is subjugated in their families to male members, 24.7% have remarked that they are equal to male members in their families and 3.5% have expressed that their status is superior over male members in their families.
15. All the Scheduled Caste women surveyed are following sacraments associated with their castes.
16. It is highlighted that, 81.2% of the total respondents believe in social and religious practices, whereas only 18.7% don't believe the same.
17. Many of the respondents believe and follow more than one type of practice. Among all the respondents surveyed, 71.2% have mentioned that they believe in dowry practice, 31.0% have stated that they believe in Devadasi, Jogini or Bettale Seve, 2.5% have expressed that they believe in child marriage, 7.5% have remarked that they believe in widows' remarriage, 27.5% have stated that they believe in animal dedication to deities, 2.2% have remarked that they also believe in such other practices and it is not applicable to 18.7% of the respondents as they don't believe and don't support such practices.
18. On their marital relations with their husbands as stated by all the respondents, 23.2% have best or cordial relationship with their husbands, 18.2% have very good or friendly relationship with their husbands, 40.2% have satisfactory relationship with their husbands, 1.5% have no satisfactory relationship with their husbands and it is not applicable to 16.7% of the respondents as they are not married or includes divorcees and widows.
19. On the attitudes of their husbands and among all the respondents, 17.5% of the respondents have expressed that their husbands are violent, abuse and neglect them, 44.2% have mentioned that their husbands are dominant and suppress them, 14.2% have stated that their husbands are

cooperative and equally treat them and 7.2% of all the respondents have remarked that their husbands are always give importance to them and it is not applicable to 16.7% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.

20. It is surprising to note that, 15.7% of all the respondents are facing domestic violence, whereas a great majority that is, 67.5% are not facing domestic violence and it is not applicable to 16.7% of the respondents as they include divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.
21. Though majority of the respondents are not facing any domestic violence, still it is observed that a few of the respondents are facing domestic violence of more than one type. Of all the respondents, 6.0% are facing use of filthy language and abuse, 4.5% are facing physical violence, attack, etc., 7.2% are facing mental depression, harassment, exploitation, etc., 1.2% are facing other types of domestic violence, 67.5% are not facing any domestic violence and it is not applicable to 16.7% of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.
22. On the reasons for domestic violence, among all the respondents, 4.0% have mentioned that due to dowry or behavior of parents-in-law, they are facing domestic violence, 8.0% have stated that due to alcoholism or gambling of husbands, they are facing domestic violence, 0.7% have stated that due to conflicts from other family members, they are facing domestic violence, 3.0% have remarked that due to poverty, illiteracy and negligence, they are facing domestic violence and it is not applicable to 84.2% of the as they are not facing domestic violence.
23. Even though facing domestic violence, 15.7% of the respondents have not filed case with police, whereas it is not applicable to 84.2% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
24. The reasons for not filing case against revealed that, 2.2% of the total respondents have expressed that they fear for loss of respect in front of others, 9.0% have mentioned that they fear for family disorganization,

- 4.5% have stated that it is against social custom to complain against their husbands and it is not applicable to 84.2% of the respondents as they are not facing domestic violence.
25. On the attitudes of society, 10.7% of the respondents have mentioned that they are getting cooperation or sympathy from society, 15.2% have stated that they are getting equal and help from society, 58.2% have expressed that they are facing inferiority and negligence from society, 6.2% have mentioned that they are facing untouchability and deprivation from society and 9.5% have remarked that they are facing discrimination and alienation from society.
26. Social problems faced by the respondents shows that, 19.2% are facing discrimination and alienation, 30.0% are facing exploitation and harassment in society, 27.7% are facing suppression, oppression and inferiority, 1.0% are facing other social problems and 22.0% of the respondents are not facing any of such problems.
27. It is surprising to note that, 30.0% of all the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society, whereas the remaining 70.0% are not facing any exploitation or harassment in society.
28. Only few of the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society and these respondents are also facing more than one type of exploitation and harassment. As stated by all the respondents, 11.5% are facing mental suppression and depression, 22.0% are facing lower treatment at public places, 3.5% are facing sexual harassment and exploitation and it is not applicable to 70.0% of the respondents as they are not facing any of such exploitation and harassment in society.
29. On the actions taken by all the respondents, against exploitation and harassment, 2.7% have registered complaint with police, 6.7% have brought the same to authorities, Panchayats and Social Welfare Department, 8.0% have discussed the same with their caste leaders in community meetings, 12.5% have not done anything and it is not

applicable to 70.0% of the respondents as they are not facing any exploitation and harassment in society.

30. Of all the respondents, 51.7% are very much satisfied in their social life, 41.5% are somewhat satisfied in their social life and 6.7% are not satisfied in their social life.
31. Education level of the fathers of all the respondents revealed that, fathers' of 18.2% of the respondents were not went to schools and are illiterates, that of 46.2% of the respondents have completed primary or secondary education, fathers of 11.2% of the respondents have completed only pre-university or under-graduation and fathers of 24.2% of the respondents have completed graduation or post-graduation.
32. On the mothers' education and of all the respondents, 20.7% have stated that their mothers are illiterates, 45.5% have mentioned that their mothers were completed only primary or secondary education, 13.7% have stated that their mothers were completed pre-university or under-graduation and 20.0% have expressed that their mothers were completed graduation or post-graduation.
33. Of all the respondents, 8.7% have expressed that their husbands are illiterates, 50.7% have stated that their husbands have completed primary or secondary education, 14.5% have remarked that their husbands have completed pre-university or under-graduation, 21.2% have mentioned that their husbands have completed graduation or post-graduation and it is not applicable to 4.7% of the respondents as they are unmarried.
34. It is emphasized that, 45.2% have faced problems or deprived in education, whereas the 54.7% have agreed to the same.
35. Many of the respondents have given more than one type of reasons for deprivations and problems during their education. On the particular reasons, 26.0% of the total respondents have mentioned that they were deprived from education due to caste inequality, 18.5% have remarked that they were deprived from education due to gender inequality, 15.2% of all the respondents have mentioned that they were deprived

from education as the schools are far away, 18.2% have remarked that they were unable to bear educational expenses, poverty and negligence, 3.2% have given other problems for their deprivation in education and it is not applicable to 54.7% of the respondents as they were not deprived in education.

36. On their children's education and among all the respondents, 25.5% of the respondents have expressed that their children have completed higher education, 24.7% have mentioned that their children are going to schools or colleges, 21.2% have remarked that their children are drop outs from schools or colleges, 11.7% have opined that their children are illiterates and not sending their children to schools and colleges, 1.7% have given other reasons and it is not applicable to 15.0% of the respondents as they don't have children.

37. The reasons for illiteracy or discontinuation of their children's education, 12.0% have mentioned that poverty or negligence are the major reasons for the discontinuation of education of their children, 10.2% have stated that social inequality or caste based discrimination are the reasons for discontinuation of children's education, 10.7% have remarked that their children are not interested in education and it is not applicable to 67.0% of the respondents as their children are going to schools or colleges or a few of them don't have children.

38. It is surprising to note that, only 68.7% of all the respondents have agreed that education is essential for women, whereas 31.2% have not agreed to the same.

39. On the reasons for girls' education and among the total respondents surveyed, 47.5% have remarked that girls' education is needed to get good employment, 16.5% have mentioned that girls' education is needed to get better marriage prospects, 4.7% have expressed that there is need for girls' education to get knowledge, to learn reading and writing and it is not applicable to 31.2% of the respondents as they have not supported for girls' education.

40. The reasons for not supporting girls' education and among all the respondents, 17.7% have expressed that girls are for household work only and as such, they don't need education, 11.2% have mentioned that no bridegrooms are available for educated girls in their communities, 2.2% have given other reasons and it is not applicable to 68.7% of the respondents as they have supported for education of girls.
41. On whether internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women, 39.0% of all the respondents have agreed that there is need for internal reservation for Scheduled Caste women, whereas 33.0% have not agreed to the same and 28.0% have not expressed their opinions on the same.
42. Many of the respondents have given more than one type of areas or aspects of internal reservation for Scheduled Caste women. Of all the respondents, 18.5% have mentioned that internal reservation is needed for higher or professional education, 12.7% have stated that reservation is needed in employment for Scheduled Caste women, 10.2% have remarked that internal reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women in political decision making, 7.0% have expressed that reservation is needed for Scheduled Caste women in self-employment schemes, 4.0% have also given other areas of internal reservation for Scheduled Caste women and it is not applicable to 61.0% of the respondents as they have not supported for internal reservation.
43. As stated by the total respondents, health of 21.0% of the respondents is always fine, health of 68.0% of the respondents is mostly fine with minor health problems and health of 11.0% of the respondents is always poor.
44. Whenever there is ill health, 51.5% of all the respondents are visiting to government or civil hospitals, 18.0% are visiting to private hospitals and the remaining 30.5% are visiting to private clinics.
45. Of all the respondents, 22.7% have expressed that hospitals are less than 05 Kms away from their residences, 51.7% have responded that hospitals are 06 to 20 Kms away from their residences and 25.5% have mentioned that hospitals are 20 to 40 Kms away from their residences.

46. On the attitudes of family members towards ill health of the respondents, of all the respondents, 63.5% have responded that their family members always care during their ill health, 31.2% have mentioned that their family members somewhat care during their ill health and 5.2% have remarked that their family members don't care or neglect during their ill health.
47. Of all the respondents, 12.7% have agreed that doctors are discriminative and hesitate to treat them, 26.0% have felt that doctors are sympathetic and positive towards them and 61.2% have agreed that doctors treat all patients equally irrespective of their gender or caste.
48. Of the total respondents surveyed, 37.7% have expressed that present reservation system satisfactory, 13.2% have remarked that there is need to keep creamy layer outside the reservation, 31.7% have mentioned that there is need for internal reservation based on individual castes, 14.5% have felt the need to increase the percentage of reservation and 2.7% have given other suggestions for the improvement of reservation system.
49. Of all the respondents surveyed to prevent atrocities and violence against Scheduled Caste women, 31.2% have suggested that strong legislations against violence and atrocities should be passed, 30.0% have emphasized for higher education for Scheduled Caste women, 25.5% have suggested to increase awareness about atrocities law in society and 13.2% have suggested for quick settlement of pending cases of atrocities to prevent violence and atrocities against Scheduled Caste women.
50. Employment of all the respondents revealed that, 8.0% of the respondents are working in agriculture or animal husbandry, 10.2% are working in industry, business or self-employment, 1.7% are working in organized sector, 24.2% are working in unorganized sector, 5.7% are working in their caste based occupations and 50.0% of all the respondents are unemployed housewives.
51. On the reasons for taking employment and among all the respondents, 8.5% have stated that they are educated and skilled and as such, to make

use of their education, they are engaged in employment, 12.7% have mentioned that they have taken up employment to become economically independent, 23.0% have expressed that they have taken up employment to support their families, 5.7% have remarked that they are engaged in their caste based occupations and the remaining 50.0% of the respondents are housewives or unemployed respondents.

52. On their family occupations, 17.7% have expressed that their family occupation is agriculture or animal husbandry, 15.2% have stated that their family occupation is industry, business or self-employment, 46.7% have mentioned that their family occupation is employment in organized or unorganized sector and 20.2% have remarked that their family occupation is caste based occupation.

53. Of the total respondents, 15.5% of the respondents have stated that their husbands are engaged in agriculture or animal husbandry, 14.7% have responded that their husbands are working in industry, business and self-employment, 46.2% have remarked that their husbands are working in organized sector or unorganized sector, 6.7% have mentioned that their husbands are working in caste based occupations and it is not applicable to 16.7% of the respondents as they include divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.

54. Individual incomes of all the respondents revealed that, 50.0% have no any income as they are unemployed, 13.2% have annual income of less than Rs. 24000, 15.5% have annual income between Rs. 24001 to Rs. 36000, 14.7% have annual income between Rs. 36001 to Rs. 60000 and the remaining only 6.5% have annual income of more than Rs. 60000.

55. On their annual family income, 6.0% of all the respondents have remarked that their annual family income is less than Rs. 36000, 16.5% have mentioned that their annual family income is between Rs. 36001 to Rs. 60000, 24.5% have expressed that their annual family income is between Rs. 60001 to Rs. 84000, 17.0% have stated that their annual family income is between Rs. 84001 to Rs. 1 lakh and 36.0% have expressed that their family annual income is more than Rs. 1 lakh.

56. On the worth of properties owned in their own name, as expressed by the total respondents, 20.2% have not owned any properties, 18.5% have owned properties worth up to Rs. 1 lakh, 20.5% have owned properties worth between Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 lakhs, 19.0% have owned properties worth between Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs and 21.7% have owned properties worth more than Rs. 5 lakhs.
57. Few of the respondents have owned more than one type of property. As stated by the total respondents, 6.0% have owned agricultural land or residential land, 12.0% have owned residential building, 33.5% have owned bank deposits, LICs, Shares, etc., 51.7% have owned gold or silver, 2.2% have owned other types of properties and 20.2% have not owned any properties in their own names.
58. Of all the respondents, 10.5% have expressed that their families have not owned any properties, 19.7% have stated that their families have owned properties worth less than Rs. 2 lakhs, 24.5% have mentioned that their families have owned properties between Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, 22.0% have remarked that their families have owned properties worth between Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and 23.2% have mentioned that their families have owned properties worth more than Rs. 10 lakhs.
59. Of all the respondents, 63.2% have felt that their annual income is sufficient to meet their family expenses, whereas 30.0% have not agreed to the same and 6.7% have not expressed their views on the same.
60. To meet their family expenses, 7.5% of all the respondents have stated that they borrow loans, 8.2% have mentioned that they or their family members work for overtime in other occupations to earn more income, 14.2% have expressed that they reduce their unnecessary expenses and it is not applicable to 70.0% of all the respondents as their family income is sufficient to meet their family expenses.
61. A few of the respondents are facing more than one type of problem in their families due to their outside work. Particularly, 9.5% of the respondents are facing problem of role conflicts, frequent quarrels, etc.,

16.5% are not able to care children, husband, elders, etc., in their families, 12.7% are facing problem of stress, fatigue, anxiety, ill health, etc., 1.7% are facing such other problems and 253 of the respondents are not facing any of such problems or it is not applicable to 200 of the respondents as they are unemployed housewives.

62. Few of the employed or self-employed respondents are getting more than one type of benefit from their employment or self-employment. Of all the respondents, 15.2% are getting self-economic independence, 19.5% are getting improved economic status and standard of living, 3.0% are achieved gender equality, 1.7% are getting caste equality, 13.2% are getting participation in family decision making, 2.5% are getting other benefits also from their employment or self-employment and it is not applicable to 50.0% of the respondents as they are housewives or unemployed respondents.

63. Only 44.2% of all the respondents are members of Self-Help Groups, whereas the remaining 55.7% are not members of any of the Self-Help Groups.

64. A few of the respondents have gained more than one type of benefits from Self-Help Groups. Among all the respondents on the benefits gained from Self-Help Groups, 20.2% have gained economic independence and security, 16.0% have gained socio-economic equality in family and society, 14.0% have gained financially to start income generating activities, 9.5% have gained in other ways and it is not applicable to 55.7% of the respondents as they are not members of Self-Help Groups.

65. The feelings of all the respondents towards their work shows that, 13.2% of the respondents have felt inferior as they are working in work having lower status, 20.5% have felt satisfied as they are getting economic status, 16.2% of the respondents have felt proud as they have more status compared to others and it is not applicable to 50.0% of the respondents as they are not working outside.

66. Due to their outside employment or self-employment, 20.0% of the respondents have mentioned that, they are personally recognized in

society, 16.2% have agreed that society is appreciated and cooperative towards employed respondents, 7.7% have felt that their work has become means to achieve caste and gender equality, 6.0% have agreed that there is hostile or inferior attitudes of society towards working respondents and it is not applicable to the remaining 50.0% of the respondents as they are housewives or unemployed respondents.

67. Status of unemployed housewives shows that, 19.5% have possessed subjugated or dependent status to husbands, 9.0% have possessed significant status in their families as they are looking after families, 6.7% have neglected or inferior status in their families and 14.7% have gained equal status with all other family members.

68. Of all the respondents and on the attitudes of society towards unemployed housewives, 8.7% have mentioned that they have more social recognition, 27.5% have expressed that they have lesser socio-economic status and respect, 13.7% have stated that they have positive in social relations and it is not applicable to 50.0% of the respondents as they are working outside and getting more status and respect.

69. Few of the respondents have gained benefits from more than one social security scheme and majority of the respondents have not gained benefits from these schemes. As stated by the total respondents, 8.7% have gained benefits from NREGS, 8.2% have gained benefits from Dr. Ambedkar, Indira Awas, Ashraya Yojana, etc., 13.7% have gained benefits from Streeshakti, Myrada, Self-Help Groups, etc., 14.5% have gained benefits from Yeshaswini, Bhagyalaxmi, Madilu, etc., 11.2% have gained benefits from SGSY, JRY, etc., 6.5% have gained benefits from other welfare schemes and majority that is, 68.5% have not gained benefits from any of the welfare and social security schemes.

70. All the respondents are visiting to holy places and it shows that they believe in their religions.

71. Of all the respondents, 5.5% are visiting to holy places daily, 24.7% are visiting to holy places weekly, 10.2% are visiting to holy places monthly and 59.5% are visiting to holy places occasionally or only on festival days.
72. 84.2% of all the respondents believe and actively participate in religion or caste based socio-cultural activities, whereas 15.7% of the respondents don't believe or don't participate in socio-cultural activities.
73. Few of the respondents are participating in more than one type of socio-cultural activity. As expressed by all the respondents, 7.2% are participating in beating drums, conventional musical instruments, etc, 14.2% are participating in folk songs, dance, play, etc., 22.7% are actively participating in religious rallies, etc., 61.7% are encouraging and supporting in socio-cultural activities and it is not applicable to 15.7% of the respondents as they are not participating in socio-cultural activities.
74. The reasons for their non-participation in socio-cultural activities as stated by all the respondents, 5.7% are not interested to participate in socio-cultural activities, 5.5% have no time to attend such activities, 3.2% are facing gender discrimination in these activities, 1.2% have given other reasons for the same and it is not applicable to 84.2% of the respondents as they are actively participating in religion or caste based socio-cultural activities.
75. None of the respondents have agreed that there is gender equality in their religion or castes.
76. Of all the respondents surveyed on the impact of caste or religion on society, 15.7% have agreed that religion or caste give social recognition, 30.7% have agreed that religion or caste help to extent caste or community relations, 14.7% have felt that religion or caste maintain harmonious relations in society, 22.7% have mentioned that religion or caste increase feeling of unity in religion or community and 16.0% have felt that religion or caste divides the society.
77. It is surprising to note that, only 51.2% of the total respondents are always regularly voting and electing their political representatives,

28.5% are somewhat regularly voting and 20.2% are not voting and electing their political representatives.

78. Of all the respondents surveyed, 8.2% have felt that politicians have not done anything for the development of their communities, 17.7% have remarked that they don't find time for voting or not interested in politics, 20.0% have mentioned that their name is not included in voters' lists, 2.7% have stated that voting is rewardless work and it is not applicable to 51.2% of the respondents as they are voting regularly.

79. On the determination of their votes in elections and of all the respondents, 5.7% have expressed that personal character of candidates determines their votes, 17.5% have stated that political party determines their votes, 22.7% have mentioned that religion or caste of candidate determines their votes, 33.7% have remarked that developmental contributions of the candidate to the constituency determines their votes and it is not applicable to 20.2% of the respondents as they have not exercised votes.

80. Only 4.2% have contested in the elections in the last 25 years, whereas 95.7% have not contested in the elections.

81. Of all the respondents, 1.5% were contested as Congress (I) candidates in elections, 0.5% were contested from Bharatiya Janata Party, 2.2% were contested as independent candidates and it is not applicable 95.7% of the respondents as they were not contested in elections.

82. Only 34.7% of all the respondents have agreed that there is adequate and equal representation for Scheduled Caste women in politics, whereas 48.5% have not agreed to the same and 19.2% have not expressed their views on the same.

83. Of all the respondents, 10.0% have agreed that there is need for women's political party at local and national level, 14.0% have felt that there is reservation in politics at state and national level, 19.7% have mentioned that the political parties should give importance to women candidates, 2.2% have also given other suggestions and it is not

applicable to 54.0% of the respondents as they have already agreed that there is adequate and equal representation for women in politics or few of them can't expressed their views on the same.

84. Only 33.7% of the total respondents have agreed that government is solving problems of backward Scheduled Caste women working in caste based occupations, whereas 59.2% have not agreed to the same and 7.0% have not expressed their views on the same.

85. Of all the respondents, 4.0% have expressed that there is need for more reservation and free compulsory education for Scheduled Caste women, 10.2% have stated that there is need for strict enforcement of legislations, 27.0% have mentioned that there is need for more welfare schemes for education and employment, 18.0% have agreed that there is need for gender and caste based reservation in employment and politics for Scheduled Caste women and it is not applicable to 40.7% of all the respondents as they have agreed that the Government is solving problems of Scheduled Caste women.

7.2. Discussion and Conclusion:

Many of the studies already conducted have proved that employment or self-employment or income generating activities have given women status and respect in family and society. On the other hand, the unemployed housewives have lower status compared to employed or self-employed wives. Hence, to assess the status of employed or self-employed women and also unemployed housewives, both types of respondents were selected for the present study. Further, as the literacy is lower among Scheduled Caste women, age determines the knowledge. As such, the Scheduled Caste women from all age groups were selected for the present study.

It is highlighted that though Scheduled Castes are converting their original Hindu religion into other religions, their number is meager. Only a few of the Scheduled Caste women are converted into other religions so as to become free from caste based atrocities, inequalities, discrimination, etc.

Holeya, Chaluvadi, Madiga, Banjara, Lambani and Bhovi castes are dominated among Scheduled Castes in Gulbarga district. Hence, almost respondents belong to these communities and castes. Almost all the respondents are married and living with their husbands. Majority of the Scheduled Caste women are low-educated, that is primary or secondary education.

Though joint families are disappearing due to modernization, it is emphasized that majority of the Scheduled Caste women are living in joint families and majority of the Scheduled Caste women are from Gulbarga city or towns. Equal proportions of the Scheduled Caste women surveyed under the study are living in their own houses, rented houses or sheds or temporary settlements in slum areas. A great majority of the respondents are facing problems related to their residential environment and the particular problems include, poor sanitation, scarcity of drinking water, poor roads, poor transportation, lack of health centres, etc.

It is surprising to note that though Scheduled Caste women are employed or self-employed, still many of them don't have voice in family decision making. Hence, it is essential that the Scheduled Caste women have to be given with decision making in their families. Considerable numbers of respondents are having more number of children and it is essential that they must have to realize the significance of small family. Majority of these women are facing subjugated or dependent status in their families. Though many of the religious practices are banned by law, still an overwhelming majority of the respondents believe in many practices. The particular practices believed and practiced include Devadasi, Jogini, Nude Service, dowry practice, animal dedication to deities, etc.

The study disclosed that marital relations of almost all the respondents are satisfactory or best. Still, the respondents are facing violence of different from their husbands. These violent acts include physical such as abuse, physical attack, etc. or psychological such as depression, humiliation, etc. The violence by husbands or family members is due to alcoholism of husband, dowry, gambling, etc. Though few of the Scheduled Caste women are facing

domestic violence of different types, there were not registered complaint with police against their family members and it is due to fear of family disorganization or against social custom or even fear of loss of respect in society. Majority of the respondents have expressed that they have equal and cooperative attitudes from their husbands.

As stated by majority of the respondents, society is cooperative, sympathetic and helpful towards Scheduled Caste women. Still as agreed by few of the respondents, society has attitudes of negligence, showing inferiority, untouchability, discrimination and even alienation. Comparatively, less numbers of Scheduled Caste women are facing exploitation and harassment in society. Such exploitation is more in terms of more psychological than physical. The Panchayats, Police, Caste leaders, Caste Associations, etc are playing important role in preventing violence and atrocities against Scheduled Caste women. Though, few of Scheduled Caste women are facing many problems in their families and society, still they are very much satisfied or somewhat satisfied in their social life.

Education background of the Scheduled Caste women surveyed is poor, as father and mothers of majority of the respondents are illiterates or completed only primary or secondary education. As such, nearly half of the respondents have faced deprivation in their education. Such deprivation is due to caste and gender inequality, poverty, negligence, illiteracy of parents, etc. It is surprising to note that, though facilities such as reservation, scholarships, etc are provided by the government for Scheduled Caste children, still many of the Scheduled Caste women have stated that their children are not interested in education and drop outs from schools or colleges. But, majority of the respondents have realized the significance of education in life of women and as such they have supported for women's education. Good employment and better marriage prospects are major aims of female education as stated by majority of the respondents, who supported female education. It is believed by few of the respondents that if females are highly educated, then suitable bridegrooms or even they thought that girls are for household work only. It is noted that for the

improvement of education among Scheduled Caste women, considerable numbers of respondents have suggested for internal reservation based on individual caste or community.

Health status of majority of the respondents is always fine with minor problems. During illness, majority of the respondents are visiting to public hospitals and few of the respondents are also visiting to private hospitals or private clinics. As stated by majority of the respondents, health centres are less than 20 Kms from their residences. Few of the respondents are facing discrimination from the doctors due to their castes.

On the reservation policies, considerable numbers of respondents have mentioned that the present reservation system is satisfactory and internal reservation is also suggested by the respondents. Higher Education for Scheduled Caste women, passing of strong legislations against atrocities, increase of awareness on atrocity laws in society and quick settlement of atrocity cases are recommended by the respondents to prevent violence and atrocities against Scheduled Caste women.

Though the occupations are based on castes, due to the evils associated to their castes, the ancestors may have changed their family occupations. Hence, as stated by only a few of the respondents their family occupation is caste based and majority of the respondents have stated that their family occupation is agriculture, animal husbandry, business, industry, self-employment or employment in organized or unorganized sector. As such, the employed or self-employed women are also working in these types of employment.

The reasons for employment as stated by the respondents show that, they taken employment to support family economically, to become economically independent and to make use of their education or skills. It is noted that majority of the husbands of the respondents are engaged in unorganized sector employment. It shows that they are facing problems that are faced by workers working in unorganized sector.

Annual income of majority of the employed or self-employed respondents shows that it is lower as they are earning less than Rs. 36000 per annum. Averages annual income of the families of the respondents disclosed that majority of the respondents are living in lower middle class families. Consequently, the worth of properties owned by the respondents and their families is smaller. Considerable proportion of the Scheduled Caste women are suffering from problems of inadequate income compared to their family expenses. To manage their family expenses, the respondents are reducing unnecessary expenses or work for overtime or even borrow loans, whenever there are more expenses.

Few of the employed respondents or self-employed respondents are also facing the problems of role conflicts, family quarrels, anxiety, lack of care towards elders, husband and children, tension, ill health, etc., due to their outside work. On the other hand, working respondents have gained more benefits from their employment or self-employment. The employed or self-employed women have gained benefits such as economic security, economic independence, improved standard of living, participation in family decision making, gender equality, etc. Nearly half of the respondents are members to Self-Help Groups. The benefits gained from their participation in Self-Help Groups shown that, economic security, economic independence, financial assistance for self-employment and socio-economic equality in family and society. Though majority of the employed or self-employed respondents are getting benefits such as more status, economic benefits, etc., still few of the respondents have felt inferior as they are engaged in lower status job. Due to their employment or self-employment, majority of the employed or self-employed respondents are personally recognized in society and even getting appreciation and cooperation in society. Even a few of the employed or self-employed respondents have gained caste and gender equality due to their employment. On the other hand, unemployed housewives have subjugated status or dependent on husband and even few of these respondents are neglected in family. Of course, many of housewives are treated as equal to all

family members. Though unemployed housewives have lower socio-economic status, still they have more social contacts and cordial relations in society.

Though many of the social welfare schemes are formulated by the Government for the welfare and empowerment of Scheduled Castes in general and Scheduled Caste women in particular, still only few of the respondents have gained benefits from one or more of these schemes and majority of the respondents have not gained benefits from these schemes.

All the Scheduled Caste women believe in religion and castes and as such, they are visiting holy places frequently that are weekly, monthly, daily or occasionally. Almost all the respondents are believed and participate in religion or caste based socio-cultural activities. As such apart from their support and encouragement to these activities, many of the respondents are participating in different caste based arts such as play, playing folk musical instruments, singing, folk songs, etc. A few of the respondents are also not participating in these activities as they are not interested or they have no time to participate in such socio-cultural activities. As expressed by all the respondents, there is no gender equality in their communities or castes. Though majority of the respondents have agreed that religion or caste give social recognition, help to extend caste or community relations, maintain unity and harmonious relations.

It is surprising to note that few of the respondents have not exercised their votes and elected their political representatives. Half of the respondents vote and elect their political representatives regularly. It is emphasized that many of the respondents have not satisfied as their political representatives have not done anything for the development of their communities. Due to lack of time, no interest in politics and exclusion of their names in voters' lists, few of the respondents have not exercised their votes in elections. Of course, development of constituency is major factor to exercise their votes in elections. It is also noted that religion and caste are also most important while electing the political representatives. Here it is surprising to note that though Scheduled Caste women were suffered due to their caste in society, still they are giving importance to their castes and communities. The political party and personal

character of the candidate are also important factor while exercising their votes as expressed by few of the respondents. Only a few of the respondents have also contested in elections by contesting as independent candidate or through Congress (I) or Bharatiya Janata Party. It is emphasized that majority of the Scheduled Caste women have agreed that there is inadequate political representation for Scheduled Caste women in politics. For this purpose, as suggested by the respondents, there is need to provide importance to women candidate by political parties, provide reservation at state and national level politics and also start women's political party at national and local level.

The respondents are not satisfied with the Government for not solving the problems of Scheduled Caste women working in caste based occupations. The measures to develop Scheduled Caste women in society as stated by the respondents' shows that, there is need to form more welfare schemes and provide adequate caste and gender based reservation in employment and politics. Even few of the respondents urged for the free and compulsory education and strict execution of legislations.

To conclude, above study is made it clear that, Scheduled Caste women are more orthodox as they believe in caste based rituals. To a greater extent, lower education is main reason for the same. Further, due to such rituals, they are facing gender inequality in their families and they are also subjected to violence and atrocities in society. Due to all these factors, when psychological state of the Scheduled Caste women is explored, it is found that majority of these women are feeling inferior due to their caste and gender. Hence, it is essential to increase self-confidence among Scheduled Caste women. Compared to self-employed or employed Scheduled Caste women, unemployed housewives are suffering from more problems. Of course, employment or self-employment has given Scheduled Caste women status, equality and respect apart from economic benefits. Hence, it is essential to empower unemployed housewives among Scheduled Castes.

To serve this purpose, wherever necessary, it is essential to provide basic education to these women. Further, it is needed to provide self-employment training to these women, so that they can earn and generate their own income. Though there are good numbers of schemes of self-employment, many of these women are not aware about these schemes. Hence, it is necessary to increase awareness of Scheduled Caste women in self-employment training, financial assistance, education, empowerment, etc. Self-Help Groups are playing important role in empowerment of Scheduled Caste women. Hence, it is suggested to Panchayats, Banks, Non-Governmental Organizations and Anganawadis to increase awareness about benefits of Self-Help Groups, self-employment, income generating activities, etc and help Scheduled Caste women to get benefits from different schemes of the Government formulated for the welfare of Scheduled Caste women.

7.3. Suggestions from the Study:

Following suggestions are made from present research study.

1. It is suggested to forward castes, especially Hindu people to realize the social equality and as such, they treat Scheduled Castes as equal in society, so that, Scheduled Castes must not convert their Hindu religion to other religions.
2. It is suggested to awareness about significance of education for Scheduled Castes. Hence, free and compulsory education up to 10th standard should be given to all people and Scheduled Caste women must send their children to schools to get education.
3. The local Governments such as Municipalities and Panchayats must have to study the problems faced by the people and must try to improve basic facilities such as health care, education, roads, transportation, pure drinking water, sanitation, etc., so as to enable healthy residential environment.

4. It is suggested to Scheduled Caste men to realize the gender equality and give importance to women and get their suggestions in their families while making family decisions.
5. Scheduled Caste women realize the gender equality and as such, they persist for their equal rights in marital relations.
6. Scheduled Caste women must give up orthodox rituals, evil practices and blind beliefs such as Devadasi, Nude Service, dedication of animals to deities, child marriage, dowry, etc., and support good practices such as widows' remarriage.
7. It is essential to restrict alcoholism, gambling, etc., which are spoiling society and also encouraging domestic violence and violence against women.
8. The people and society must realize the caste and gender equality and provide equal importance to all castes including Scheduled Caste women in socio-economic, education and political aspects.
9. Strict legislations should be passed against violence, discrimination and atrocities against Scheduled Caste women in their families and at public places.
10. It is suggested to Scheduled Caste women to get education or develop skills of employment or self-employment and must participate in outside work, so that they gain economic benefits along with socio-economic and political benefits.
11. It is suggested to unemployed housewives of Scheduled Castes to form Self-Help Groups and participate in Self-Help Groups so as to participate in income generating activities.
12. It is suggested to Non-Governmental Organizations and Panchayats to organize mass awareness camps on the social welfare schemes of the Government for the welfare of Scheduled Caste women and help these women to get benefits from these schemes.

13. Scheduled Caste women must realize that no caste has provided subjugated status to women and hence, they urge for equal status in their castes.
14. It is suggested to Scheduled Caste women to exercise their votes regularly in elections and elect their political representatives, who develop their community, caste and constituency.
15. It is suggested to political parties at the local and national level to provide adequate representation to women in general and Scheduled Caste women in particular.