SURGE' 17
Effect of Interaction Among Different Group on Social and Religious Prejudices

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ABSTRACT

India is a country of ethnic diversity with people of different language, caste and religion living together. There were instances of tension among people of different religion and caste. In 2015, more than 30% crimes were reported in just two states combined, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, together. These riots may led to some kind of prejudices among future generation developed by their own family members. Although it is not the only reason for example prejudices in caste may be due to a strict hierarchal feeling of one born "better" than other.The focus of this project is to see how interaction with people from different social background change these biases. Research not only emphasized on presence of member from different community but also on how increasing that number affects mindset of people. Analysis of peer effect is also included.

METHODOLOGY

This research analyses the ICCSR data before and after training programme which was performed in 30 slum areas of Kanpur Nagar district. 30 women were included from each slum which then further divided into 6 groups.

Multiple Linear Regression and its estimation using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) has been used to find the association between dependent variable (y) and different independent variables ($x_1, ... x_n$ and $dummy$ $inter$ x_1).

Following equation was used to see the main effect of x_1 on y.

$$y = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 * x_1 + ... \alpha_n * x_n + \varepsilon$$

Base approach is used to include the 'main effect' variable and the multiplicative terms between and dummy variables.

Regression equation is given by:

$$y = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 * x_1 + \alpha_2 * (dummy\ inter\ x_1) + \varepsilon$$

$dummy\ inter\ x_1 = dummy * x_1$, where dummy takes value 0 or 1.

Index is equally weighted mean of six **Likert items (each, ranging, 1-5)** where five represents highly positive attitude toward target group and one represents the opposite.

$$Index = \left(\frac{Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3 + Q_4 + Q_5 + Q_6}{6} \right)$$

Where $Q_i (i = 1,2 ... ... 6)$'s are question asked about different social (religious) group from respondent

List of Independent, Dependent and Control variables:

Variables	Description
Post Caste(Religion) Index***	Caste (Religion) Index of respondent after training.
Pre Caste(Religion) Index###	Caste (Religion) Index of respondent before training.
Group Member Index###	Average index of group members other than respondent.
Group Member Index Hindu (Muslim)###	Average index of Hindu (Muslim) group members other than respondent.
Different Share Group###	Number of persons other than his Caste (Religion) in a group (or Slum)
Different Share Hindu (Muslim)###	Number of Hindus (or Muslims) in group other than respondent's
Different Share General (Back)###	Number of Gen. (or Back.) in group other than respondent's
At Least One Group###	Binary variable which takes the value 1 if there is at least one member of other Caste (Religion) in a group (or Slum) and 0 otherwise.
At Least One Hindu (or Muslim)###	Binary variable which takes the value 1 if there is at least one Hindu (or Muslim) in a group - other than respondent – 0 otherwise
At Least One General(Backward)###	Binary variable which takes the value 1 if there is at least one General (or Backward) in a group - other than respondent - and 0 otherwise.
Interaction Variables#	There are different interaction variable to see the effect of interaction of one variable with another.
Health Index	Equally weighted mean of questions related to health of individual
Satisfaction Index	Equally weighted mean of questions related to satisfaction of life.

*** = Dependent variable
= Independent variable

Control Variables: age (17 and above), education, Income, Health Index, Satisfaction Index, Marital Status, Family Type (Joint family, Nuclear family or Single).
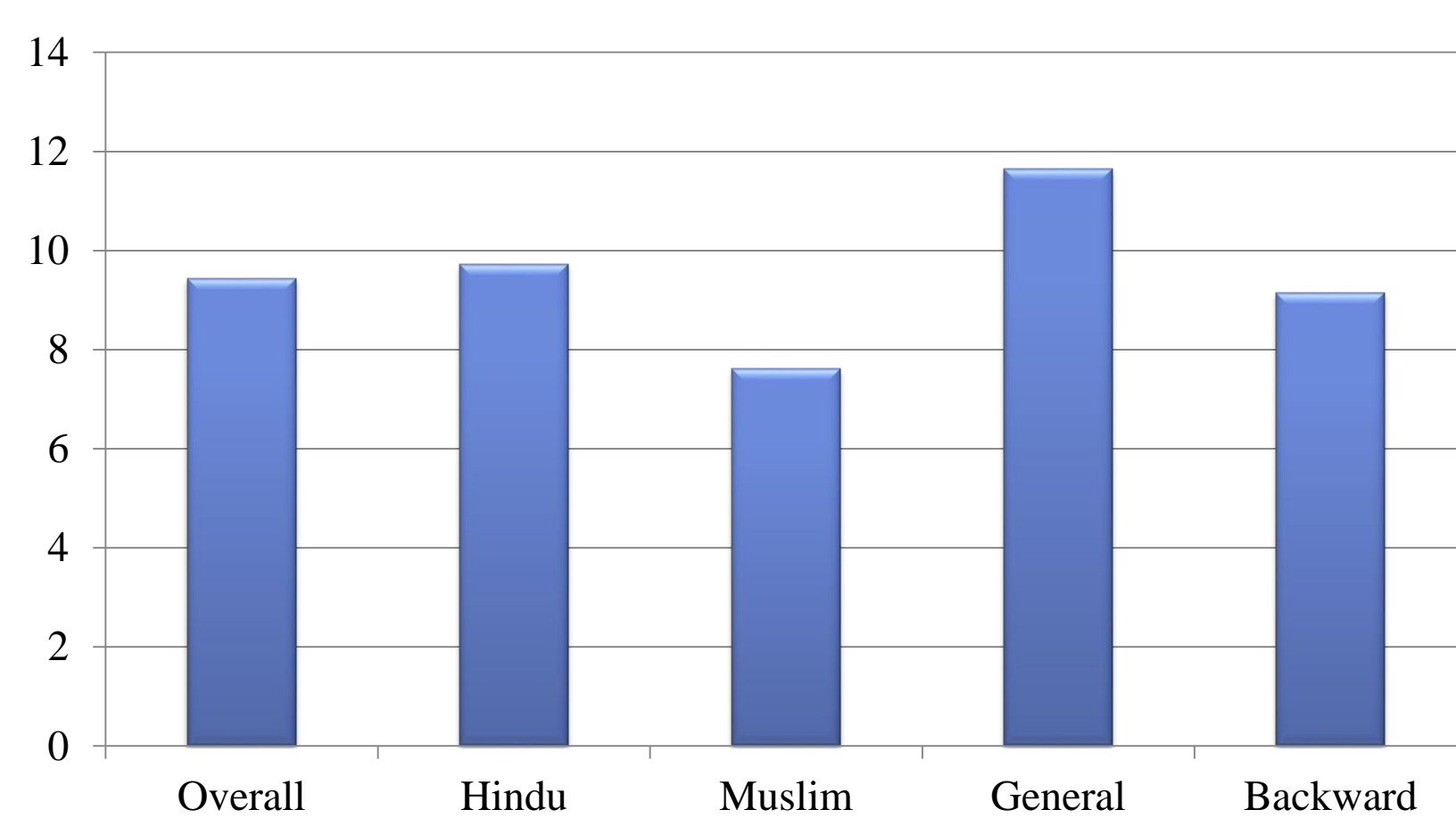
Mean Education

Fig 1: Average years of Education of women from different groups.

RESULTS

RELIGION

Regression Est.	At Least One	Hindu inter At Least One	Single
Post Religion Index	0.275***	-	0.186*
Post Religion Index	0.643***	-0.523***	0.296***

Regression Est.	At Least One Hindu	At Least One Muslim	Hindu inter atlo* Hindu	Hindu inter atlo* Mus	Single
Post Religion Index	0.0871	0.303***			0.306***
Post Religion Index	0.482	0.291*	-0.441**	-0.143	0.354***

Regression Est.	Different Share	Hindu inter Different Share	Single
Post Religion Index	0.132***		0.325***
Post Religion Index	0.176**	-0.112*	0.336***

Regression Est.	Different Share Hindu	Different share Muslim	Hindu inter diffs# Hindu	Hindu inter diffs# Mus	Single
Post Religion Index	-0.0515	0.0553			0.260***
Post Religion Index	0.107	0.0525	-0.157**	-0.0176	0.324***

Regression Est.	Group Index	Hindu inter Group Index	Single
Post Religion Index	-0.0326		0.250***
Post Religion Index	0.0850	-0.154**	0.319***

Regression Est.	Group Index Hindu	Group Index Muslim	Hindu inter gpIx$ Hindu	Hindu inter gpIx$ Mus	Single
Post Religion Index	-0.111	0.0105			0.253***
Post Religion Index	-0.0673	0.0934	-0.0184	-0.129	0.321***

CASTE

Regression Est.	At Least One	Back inter At Least One
Post Caste Index	-0.186**	
Post Caste Index	-0.525***	0.430***

Regression Est.	atlo* General	atlo* OBC	atlo* SC	Back inter atlo* Gen	Back inter atlo* OBC	Back inter atlo* SC
Post Caste Index	-0.0808	0.00140	-0.0631			
Post Caste Index	0.0584	-0.198	-0.405**	-0.151	0.247	0.393**

Regression Est.	Different Share	Back inter Different Share
Post Caste Index	-0.129***	
Post Caste Index	-0.146***	0.0826

Regression Est.	diffs# General	diffs# OBC	diffs# SC	Back inter diffs# Gen	Back inter diffs # OBC	Back inter diffs# SC
Post Caste Index	-0.0353	0.0356	0.0139			
Post Caste Index	-0.0352	-0.0567	-0.151*	0.00438	0.107*	0.183***

Regression Est.	Group Index	Back inter Group Index
Post Caste Index	0.0206	
Post Caste Index	-0.141	0.159***

(atlo* = At Least One, diffs# = Different Share, gpIx$ = Group Index)
(*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1)
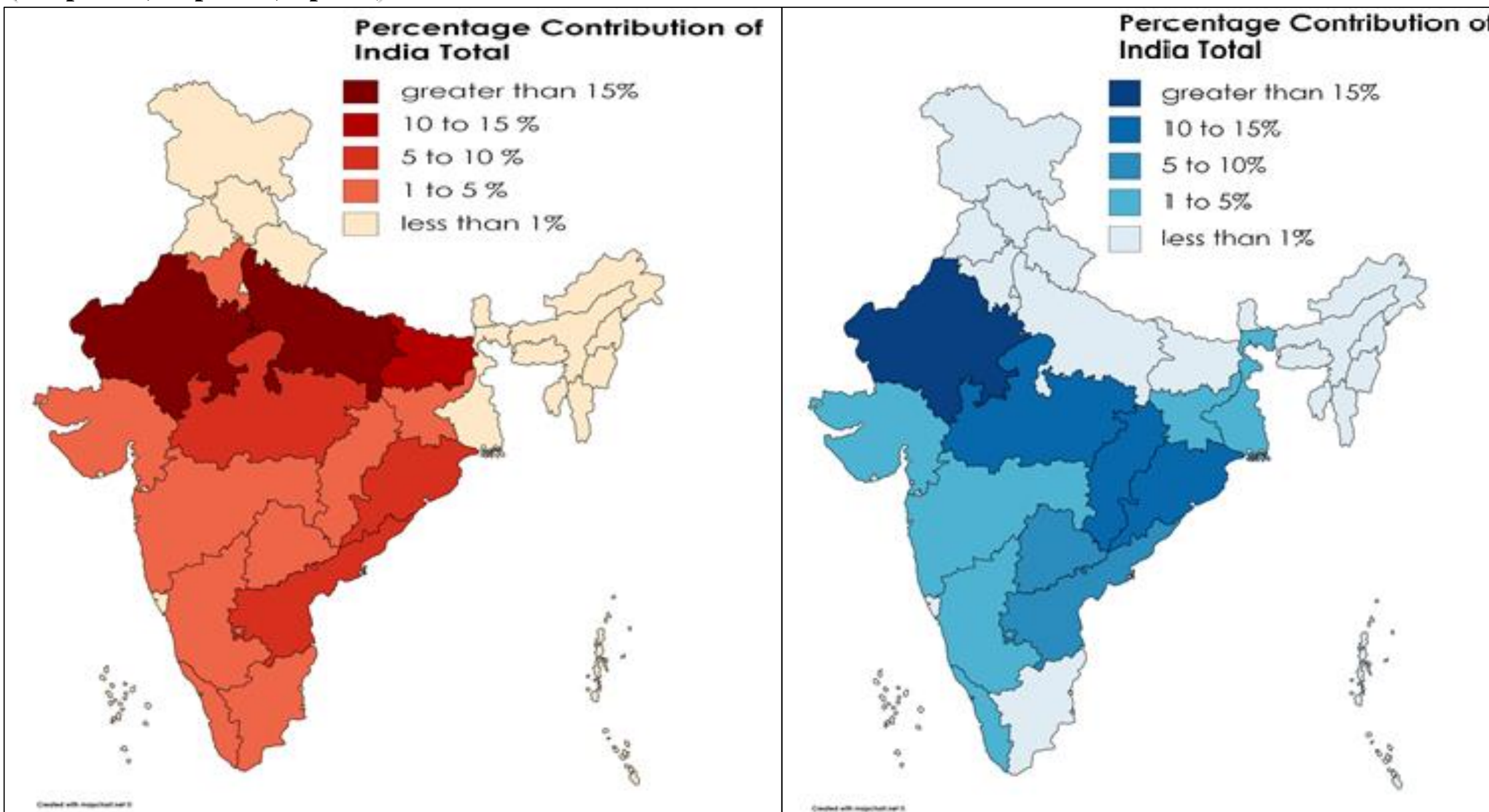
Map 1: Number of crimes committed against schedule caste in 2015.

Map 2: Number of crimes committed against schedule Tribes in 2015.

Source:- NCRB (National Crime Record Bureau)

INFERENCES

RELIGION
- Respondent's behavior towards other Religious group is getting better if there is at least one member of other religion in her group.
- Attitude of Muslims toward Hindus improved more than Hindus toward Muslim. Similar result was obtained, if there was at least one Hindu member in her group.
- Perception is changing for good if there are more number of people from other Religion in her group.
- Muslims improvement is again better if more Hindu women are included.
- No significant results are obtained for Peer effects (what her group members think about other religion). But, whatever may be the effect Muslim woman broke the stigma of religion more than their Hindu counterpart.
- Interestingly, women who don't live with their family have shown statistically significant results. After training their attitude towards other was better than those who live in joint family.

CASTE
- Respondent's behavior towards other Caste is deteriorating if there is at least one member of other caste in her group.
- Attitude of Backwards toward General deteriorated less than General toward Backwards. Similar result was obtained, if there was at least one SC member in her group.
- More number of people from different caste in her group is worsening the situation. Interestingly, Negative effect for general woman is more than overall effect.
- More number of SC woman changed the perception of backward woman for better than general woman.
- Highly significant results are obtained for interaction of backward with her peers. If more positive peers are in the group then backwards will have better index than general.
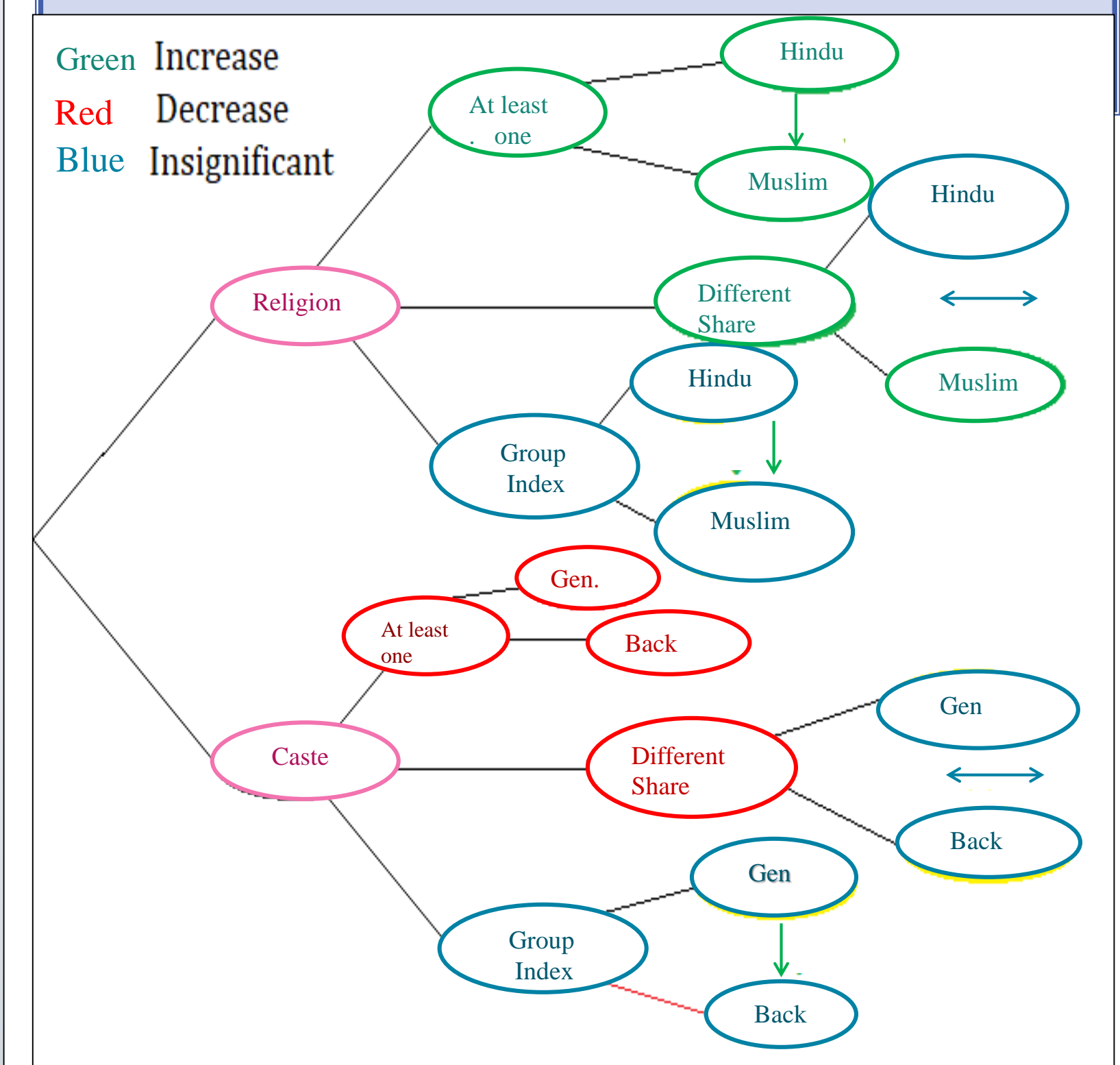
CONCLUSION

Study has shown that working together with people from different social and religious background changes their perception about them. In case of religion it is getting better while for caste it is worsening. Therefore, we can conclude that religious stigma is less deeper than caste stigma and such communication can help to break the ice. Change in attitude for Muslims and Backwards is better than Hindus and General.

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