

CONCEPT OF SCHEDULED CASTE: **(CC -10, UNIT-3)**

Scheduled Castes are those castes named in the Scheduled Castes order of the Government of India, promulgated in August 1950. Hence, a person is considered to be a member of a Scheduled Caste, if he or she belongs to a caste which, under the constitution, has been declared to be a Scheduled Caste for the area, for which he or she is a resident.

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Scheduled Castes are the ex-untouchables, who continue to follow the Hindu faith. The term, “Scheduled Castes” was first incorporated into the Government of India Act of 1935. The purpose of classification of castes as Scheduled Castes is to safeguard the interest of those who suffer from caste discrimination and to provide for them special concessions to help them catch up with the rest of the population in the process of development. The criteria to bring a caste under Scheduled Castes are that

- 1) they occupy a low position in Hindu social structure,**
- 2) they are backward in education,**
- 3) they have inadequate representation in government service and**
- 4) in the fields of trade, commerce and industry, and that**
- 5) they suffer from social and physical isolation from the rest of the population.**

The Scheduled Castes have been suffering from three social disabilities:

- 1) untouchability;**
- 2) atrocity, which is an act of extreme cruelty committed against them; and**
- 3) bonded labour.**

In 1932, the nomenclature 'Scheduled Castes' was proposed before the Indian Franchise Committee by the then provincial government of Bengal. Accordingly, in the Government of India Act, 1935, a schedule containing a list of these classes was added for the first time. Prior to this, they had been classified as the 'Depressed Classes'. The Constitution of India, through Article 341, authorizes the President of India to specify castes to be notified as SC's.

The Government of India Act, 1935, determined these forms of deprivation, particularly **social and economic, on the bases that →**

- 1. They occupy a low position in the Hindu social structure**
- 2 Their representation in government services is inadequate**
- 3. They are inadequately represented in the fields of trade, commerce and industry**
- 4. They suffer from social and physical isolation from the rest of the community and**
- 5. There is a general lack of educational development amongst the major section of this community.**

People from Scheduled Castes (SCs) – otherwise known as dalits – are socially excluded in India, facing discrimination on the basis of their position at the very bottom of the Indian caste system. As a result, dalits find themselves excluded from many aspects of day-to-day life including health services, economies and educational establishments.

They suffers from

- ❖ Cultural discrimination
- ❖ Health discrimination
- ❖ Economic discrimination
- ❖ Educational discrimination
- ❖ Multiple forms of exclusion
- ❖ Lowest status of hierarchy.
- ❖ Civic disability.

Reference:

1. *"2011 Census Primary Census Abstract" (PDF)*. [Censusindia.gov.in](http://censusindia.gov.in). Retrieved 1 October 2017.
2. *"National Commission for Schedule Castes"*. Indiaenvironmentportal.org. Retrieved 1 October 2017.
3. [Census of India 2011, Primary Census Abstract](#)  [PPT](#), Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Government of India (28 October 2013).
4. Sengupta, Chandan (2013). *Democracy, Development, and Decentralization in India: Continuing Debates*. Routledge. p. 23. ISBN 978-1136198489.