

PROBLEMS OF SC, ST & OBC

(SS-10, UNIT -3)

1. Lowest Status in the Hierarchy: In the Caste hierarchy the Scheduled Castes are ascribed the lowest status. They are considered to be 'unholy', 'inferior' and 'low' and are looked down upon by the other castes. They have been suffering from the stigma of 'untouchability'. Their very touch is considered to be polluting for the higher caste people.

2. Education Disabilities: These SC/STs were forbidden from taking up to education during the early days. Sanskrit education was denied for them. Public schools and other educational institutions were closed for them. Even today majority of them are illiterate and ignorant.

3. Civic Disabilities: Prevention from the use of Public Places. For a long time the untouchable castes were not allowed to use public places and avail of civic facilities such as—village wells, ponds, temples, hostels, hotels, schools, hospitals, lecture halls, dharamashalas, choultries, etc.

(b) Religious Disabilities: These SC/STs also suffer from religious disabilities even today. They are not allowed to enter temples in many places. The Brahmins who offer their priestly services to some lower castes, are not prepared to officiate in the ceremonies of the 'untouchable' castes. They do not even bow down to the duties of these 'untouchable' castes.

c) Economic Disabilities: These were are economically backward and have been suffering from various economic disabilities also.

1. No Right of Property Ownership: For centuries these were not allowed to have land and business of their own. It is only recently their ownership to the property has become recognized. The propertied people are comparatively less in them. Majority of them depend upon agriculture but only a few of them own land.

2. **Selection of Occupations Limited:** The Caste system imposes restrictions on the occupational choice of the members. The occupational choice was very much limited for the Sc/Sts. They were not allowed to take up to occupations which were reserved for the upper caste people. They were forced to stick on to the traditional inferior occupations such as—curing hides, removing the human wastes, sweeping, scavenging, oil grinding, shoemaking, leather works, carrying the dead animals, etc. These occupations were regarded as ‘degraded’ and ‘inferior’.

3. **Landless Labourers:** Majority of the these Communities were today forking as landless labourers. More than 90.1 of the agricultural labourers in India belong to the depressed classes which include the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. More than 77.1% of the Sc/Stswere workers in rural areas are agricultural labourers.

(d) **Political Disabilities:** The untouchables hardly participated in the political matters. They were not given any place in the politics, administration and the general governance of India, they were not allowed to hold any public post.

REFERENCES:

1. National Commission For SC/ST.
2. <http://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1805348.pdf>
3. www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1805245.pdf