

# Educational Mobility among Dalit Women in Patna (Bihar) District: A comparative study between two Blocks

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper has been tried to examine various aspect of the educational Mobility of Dalit women in Patna district. Educational mobility is the indicator of social change and social progress. It is the movement of an individual or a group in a social structure. Dalit are traditionally untouchable and depressed class in India According to Verna system they are bottom on the line and are excluded from educational system and property .After Independence; Indian traditional society has undergone a change due to various factors, e.g., urbanisation, changing occupational structure, rising literacy, democratic value system, Constitutional and legal measures for protective discrimination. Government started socially desirable and economically viable developmental measures to protect equality of opportunity of every individual. But all social groups have not benefited equally in last seven decades .Scheduled Castes (Dalit, used in exclusive sense of the term) is designated as 'disadvantaged group' even today. A stock taking of the status of Dalit reveals that problem of dignity and freedom from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment remained unresolved. The paper is descriptive and analytical in design, based on primary and secondary both sources of data.*

**Keyword:** - Education, social Mobility and Dalit women

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## Introduction

In india, on one hand-like women are treated as a symbol of goddess; Lakshmi, Saraswati, Santoshi, Durga, Parvati etc. On the other hand they are denied from independent identity and status. It is a universal fact that education is an important tool for improving the status of women. Women's education and literacy play an important role in the social, economic, cultural, and political development of the individual, family, community, and nation. Women are an integral part of society According to parson "Educate a girl and you educate a family" Similarly argument given by James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey "If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family (nation)."

## Social Background

Social background of the individual plays an important role in the formation of personality. In this study a set of personal characteristics namely age, education, occupation, sub-caste etc of the 200 respondents have been examined and presented in this paper. The present study reveals that out of 100 respondents in developed block and 100 respondents in under-developed Block, the greater number of respondents are from the age 18-35, i.e., 62 % in developed block and 46 % in under-developed block, of which the next higher is under the age group 36-55, i.e., 32% in developed block and 44 % under-developed block . Of all these age group the lowest population stands at 6% in developed block and 14 % in under-developed block the age group 56 and above.

The religion of the people living in developed block and under-developed block are almost same. Above 90% of the Respondents in Hindu. In developed block 92.5 % are Hindu and in underdeveloped block 92.14 % in Hindu. Out of the total respondents in developed block 3.75 % belong to Islam religion. While in underdeveloped out of the total respondents there were 0 % who belong to Islam religion. Christians comprised of 3.75 % in developed block and 7.85 % in under-developed block.

Caste is another important factor when it comes to the social background of the respondents in this study. From the present study it was found six sub-caste groups from both block mostly belong to the dushadh caste group that is 30 % in developed and 66 % is underdeveloped. The second chamar caste group in majority is the 18 % in developed and 20% in underdeveloped block. Thirdly caste group pasi in majority are 22 % in developed and 14 % underdeveloped village. Fourth mushar caste group are 22 % in developed, 4 % is Nat caste group in developed and last Dhobhi caste group is 4 % in developed block. Mushahar, nat, Dhobhi is not available in underdeveloped block during my field study

In this study it has been found that the literacy rate is satisfactory among the Dalit women. In developed block 18 % women are illiterate and in underdeveloped block 42 % are illiterate among the Dalit women. In developed block educational level are following literate (28%), primary (2%), upper primary (16%), Metric (2%), inter(18%), graduation(12%), post-graduation (2%), technical education(2%) . in underdeveloped block educational level are following literate (10%), primary(8%), upper-primary(6%), metric(12%), inter(14%), graduation(4%), post-graduation(0%), and technical education (4%). In the study it is found that majority of respondent are into occupation of agricultural labour. in developed block 30 % are agricultural labour, 4 % are non-agricultural labor, 2 % are animal husbandry, 1 % are Gov-job 6 % are no-Gov job,, 4 % Dalit women are businessman. In underdeveloped block are agricultural labor, non-agricultural labor, animal husbandry, Gov-job, non-Gov job, housewife following are 8%,6%,8%,2%,16%,

### **Field of the study**

An attempt has been made to place entire knowledge and process pertaining to field study and the use of different methodologies at the different steps of research work. For the purpose the research work has been divided into two parts. The first part deals with the general description of the field and the second parts highlights on the methodologies used during different stages of the research work.

The field study concentrates around two prominent Villages under the two blocks of Patna districts. Where one developed block (Gonpura village) and another under- Developed block (langarpur). Therefore, for the purpose of location of the work, it is essential to provide a brief account of the state of Bihar in general and of the two blocks of Patna districts that is Fhulwari and Barh in particular. Bihar is an important state of northeast India. It has a total area of 94,163 Km<sup>2</sup> and total population is 104,099,452 (2011, census). The density of population is 1,102/km<sup>2</sup> i.e. 2850/sq mi. its literacy rate is 69.83 percent. Where male is 70.32 percentages and female is 53.57 percentages.

### **Geographical and Demographic Features of Patna district**

Patna is situated at 25°12'-25°44' north latitude and 84°42'-84°48' east longitudes with a height of 67 meters from sea level. The district is located on south bank of Ganga River. It has a long river line. Four rivers Sone, Ghagra, Gandak and Punpun, flow in its vicinity.

The geographical area of the districts is 3, 17,236 hectare which includes 4.13 percent land not suitable for cultivation. Being state capital, it is also the biggest urban center of the state. It has highest literacy rate as well awareness level among the district of Bihar

The Districts has mainly four types of soils ranging from moderately well drained to poorly drain, acidic to slightly alkaline and medium to heavy textured. The net area sown in the district is 65.16 percent of the total geographical area. Remaining area (34.85 percent) is divided into non-agricultural uses (21.45 percent), current fallow land (8.55 percent) barren and uncultivable land (0.11 percent), permanent pastures and other grazing land (0.04 percent), plantations (0.15 percent), gross cropped area is 256694.99 hectare and net area sown is 201103.63 hectare, indicating cropping intensity of 127.64 percent in the District, which is a bit low as both Tal and Diara areas are mostly mono cropped. Total irrigated area in the district is 60545 hectare.

According to census 2011; Patna districts has a population of 58,38,465 of which male and female are 52.73 and 47.27 percent respectively population of the districts constituted 5.6 percent of total Bihar population and 15<sup>th</sup> most populous district of India. It has a population density of 1,823 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth over the decade 2001-2011 was 22.34 percent. This district has sex ratio of 897 females for every 1000 males. In 2011, child sex ratio was 909 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 923 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census. Average literacy rate of Patna districts in 2011 were 70.68 compare to 62.92 of 2001. Gender wise, male and female literacy were 78.47 and 61.96 respectively. In 2001 census, same figures stood at 73.34 and 50.83 in Patna district.

### Brief Demographical profile of phulwari and Barh block

A number of majorities Dalit Population came up from these two blocks of Patna districts. Phulwari block covers an area of 116 Km<sup>2</sup>. and it is bounded by Punpun, Sampachak, Daniawan block and districts head quarter. Phulwari consist of 60 villages and 15 Panchayats. As per 2011 census, phulwari block has population of 273,129. Whereas Male is 143,576 and female is 129,553. Pulwari has a sex ratio of 902 female per 1000 male, and literacy rate of 74.33 percentage in which male and female literacy is 81.51 percentages and 66.34 percentages respectively. Total scheduled caste population in Phulwari block is 50686 males and female are 26403 and 24283 respectively. In this block Hindi and Urdu is the local language Magahi, Bhojpuri, and English are also used.

Barh block is a under-developed block comparative to Phulwari block. It is located 70 km towards east from district head quarter Patna. Barh block cover total area of 122 km<sup>2</sup> and it is bounded by Pandarak block toward south, Athamalgola block towards west. Barh consist of total 45 village. As per 2011 census, Barh block has population of 216348 male is 115354 and female is 100,994. Barh has a sex ratio of 876 female per 1000 male, and literacy rate of 64.09 percentage in which male and female literacy is 72.32 percentages and 54.62 percentages respectively. Total scheduled caste population in Barh block is 39672 male and female are 21090 and 18582 respectively. In this block Hindi is the local language Magahi, Bhojpuri are also used.

### Research Methodology:

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources. Primary data has been collected through non-participant observation and semi-structured interview schedule. Open-ended individual and Group Discussion (PRA technique) and case history has been also be used to describe exercise of power by the educated Dalit women and change in power relationship. Main sources of secondary data are various publications of Census of India, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, district and state level Gazetteers. Related data has been collected from documents of Revenue officials of the area, Land Records, Ministry and Welfare Department.

### Views on educational related issues

Educational status of the family is a measure of its economic condition in one way or the other. No doubt up to a certain standard there are facilities of free education to the sons and daughters of the Dalit women. Yet some of the families are not willing to send their sons and daughters to school and they are asked to take up some jobs and earn their livelihood for the well being of the family. The findings about the educational trends of Dalit women at present are presented in the table below:

### Future aspiration of Dalit women regarding children education

As per field data has shown that, future aspiration of Dalit women has significantly changed. After many educational program and policy lunched by government Dalit women prefer to send their children outside their village and aspire for higher education. This must have impact on participating Dalit women's education in Bihar.

**Table 1.1: Future aspiration of Dalit women regarding children education**

Level of education	Developed villages		Under-developed villages		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Primary	03 (03.00)	03 (03.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	03 (01.05)	03 (01.05)
Upper primary	07 (07.00)	11 (11.00)	05 (05.00)	08 (08.00)	12 (06.00)	19 (09.5)
High school	18 (18.00)	28 (28.00)	15 (15.00)	15 (15.00)	33 (16.5)	43 (21.5)
Intermediate	10 (10.00)	12 (12.00)	02 (02.00)	08 (08.00)	12 (06.00)	20 (10.00)
Graduate	30 (30.00)	20 (20.00)	32 (32.00)	34 (34.00)	62 (31.00)	54 (27.00)
Post- graduate	07 (07.00)	05 (05.00)	07 (07.00)	07 (07.00)	14 (07.00)	12 (06.00)
Technical	10 (10.00)	09 (09.00)	18 (18.00)	08 (08.00)	28 (14.00)	17 (08.5)
No Responses	15 (15.00)	12 (12.00)	21 (21.00)	20 (20.00)	36 (18.00)	32 (16.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>200</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>200</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field data

Above field data has been shows that, majority of Dalit women (31 percent for boys and 27 percent for girls) want their children to study at least up to graduation level. Those who want to educate their children up to post-graduation level are 7 and 6 percent for boys and girls. Up to intermediate level it is 6 and 10 percent respectively. For 14 percent boys and 8.5 percent girl's aspiration is technical degree. Up to High school level it is 16.5 and 21.5 percent respectively.

### Opinion and willingness regarding selection of schools for their children

Field data has been shows that, majority of Dalit women respondents (29.5 and 52.5 percent for boys' and girls') prefer government school due to reason their poor economic condition. Those who prefer private school the percentage is 43 and 37.5 for boys' and girls'. However respondents for 9.5 percent boys' and 10 percent girl' did not reply.

**Table 1.2: Opinion of Dalits women regarding Selection of School for their children**

Types of school	Developed villages		Under-Developed villages		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Govt. School	40 (40.00)	46 (46.00)	55 (55.00)	59 (59.00)	95 (29.5)	105 (52.5)
Private school	54 (54.00)	46 (46.00)	32 (32.00)	29 (29.00)	86 (43.00)	75 (37.5)
No response	06 (06.00)	08 (08.00)	13 (13.00)	12 (12.00)	19 (09.5)	20 (10.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>200 (100.00)</b>	<b>200 (100.00)</b>

Source: Field data

Above trend presents encouraging opinion of Dalit women respondents. Firstly, now they not only value education but also prefer quality education through private schools. Secondly, they are almost equally concerned for sons and daughters. Finally they are willing to spend sufficient amount on quality education for their children.

### Opinion regarding preference of jobs

Followed by aspirations of Dalit women for education, their opinion for kind of jobs has been enquired. For 16 percent boys' and 67 percent girls' women prefer teaching profession. For 10.5 and 19.5 percent boys' and girls' preference is doctor. For advocate it is 5.5 and 1.5 percent, and for engineer it is 33 and 03 percent. For 22.5 percent boys' and 17 percent girls' respondent prefers other any government jobs. For 20 percent boy' and 30 percent girls' Dalit women did not any reply about this.

**Table 1.3: Opinion of dalits regarding preference of jobs of their children**

Post	Developed villages		Under-developed villages		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Doctor	15 (15.00)	23 (23.00)	06 (06.00)	16 (16.00)	21 (10.5)	39 (19.5)
Engineer	35 (35.00)	04 (04.00)	31 (31.00)	02 (02.00)	66 (33.00)	06 (03.00)
Advocate	06 (06.00)	00 (00.00)	05 (05.00)	03 (03.00)	11 (5.5)	03 (1.5)
Teacher	08 (08.00)	34 (34.00)	08 (08.00)	33 (33.00)	16 (8.00)	67 (33.5)
IAS/IPS	05 (05.00)	01 (01.00)	03 (03.00)	00 (00.00)	08 (04.00)	01 (0.5)
Other Gov. job	23 (23.00)	10 (10.00)	22 (22.00)	14 (14.00)	45 (22.5)	34 (17.00)
Not response	08 (08.00)	28 (28.00)	25 (25.00)	32 (32.00)	40 (20.00)	60 (30.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>	<b>200 (100.00)</b>	<b>200 (100.00)</b>

Sources: Field Data

The above analysis indicates that aspiration of Dalit women regarding the job of male and female children varied according to nature and types of jobs. Generally the soft jobs are preferred for the female child, while the harder ones are preferred for the mal children. Now the aspirations of the Dalit women have significantly increased for the next generations.

As per field data shows that, 47 percent respondents (52 percent of developed and 42 percent of under-developed villages) are saying status of educated women is good in their family. Next 22.5 percent respondents (25 percent of developed and 20 percent of under-developed villages) reported that status of educated women is very good in their family and 30.5 percent respondents (23 percent of developed and 38 percent of under-developed villages) are saying that educated women status is not good in their family. Main reason due to unemployment.

**Table 1.4: Opinion Regarding Status of Educated Women**

Detail		Developed village		Under-developed villages		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
What is the status of educated women in your family?	Good	52	52.00	42	42.00	94	47.00
	Very good	25	25.00	20	20.00	45	22.5
	Not good	23	23.00	38	38.00	61	30.5
Total		100	100.00	100	100.00	200	100.00

Sources: Field Data

On the basis of above data, it can be analyzed that, condition of educated Dalit women is good but not very good. However; on the basis of field data, condition of educated Dalit women of developed villages is better as compared to under-developed villages. Due to poor condition of Dalit women there is unemployment and patriarchy system which does not allow their socially and economically progress.

Field data has shows that, 31 percent of respondent said (34 percent of developed and 28 percent of under-developed villages) that they sending their girls out of village for education. 30 percent respondents (28 percent of developed and 32 percent of under-developed villages) has reported do not sending our girl out of village for education. Out of total 39 percent respondents are not interested.

Further respondents were asked to main reasons for not sending girls out of village for education. Majority of respondents 36.67 percent replied that due to low economic condition both villages, which is 35.72 and 37.5 percent in developed and under-developed villages respectively. Due to caring 26.67 percent respondents (25 percent of developed and 28.12 percent of under-developed villages) are saying do not sending their girls out of village for education, due to male dominance 18.33 and due to unawareness 18.33 percent respondents reported that reason for it.

**Table 1.5: Opinion regarding girls sending out of village for education**

Detail		Developed village		Under-developed village		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Do you send your girls out of village for education?	Yes	34	34.00	28	28.00	62	31.00
	No	28	28.00	32	32.00	60	30.00
	Not interested	38	38.00	40	40.00	78	39.00
If, no reason	Due to caring	7	25.00	9	28.12	16	26.67
	Due to economic condition	10	35.72	12	37.5	22	36.67
	Due to unawareness	5	17.86	6	18.76	11	18.33
	Due to male dominance	6	21.42	5	15.62	11	18.33

Sources: Field Data

On the basis of above data, we analyze that Dalit families still have the problem of economic backwardness, lack of awareness, problem related to safety of girls and problem of male dominance due to which they do not allow their girls to go out of village to study. However; this problem is seen more in under-developed villages than in developed villages.

When asked about their freedom to get education as compared upper caste women only 41 percent respondents (44 percent of developed and 38 percent of under-developed villages) has positive reported about their freedom to get education. But majority of women respondents out of total 59 percent (56 percent of developed and 62 percent of under-developed villages) reported has negative their freedom to get education as compared to upper caste women.

Further respondents were asked to main reasons for freedom to get education as compared to upper caste women. Highly 58.57 percent respondents reported due to early marriage, followed by 18.64 percent respondent replied due to low economic condition, 13.55 percent respondents are saying due to uneducated family member and 9.32 percent respondents are reported that not freedom to get education as compared to upper cast women due to lack of awareness.

**Table 1.6: Regarding freedom to get education**

Detail		Developed village		Under-developed village		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Are you feeling freedom to get education as compare to upper caste women?	Yes	44	44.00	38	38.00	82	41.00
	No	56	56.00	62	62.00	118	59.00
Total		100	100.00	100	100.00	200	100.00
If, no reason	Due to early marriage	32	57.14	37	59.68	69	58.57
	Due to lack of awareness	4	7.14	7	11.29	11	9.32
	Due to lack of economic condition	12	21.42	10	16.12	22	18.64
	Due to uneducated family members	8	14.28	8	12.91	16	13.55

Sources: Field Data

On the basis of appropriate field data, we analyze that even today very few Dalit women feel freedom to getting education as compared to upper caste women. However; this percentage is less in under-developed villages as compared to developed villages. The main reasons for not feeling freedom to getting education are early marriage, family's economic condition and the family members are not much educated.

### Conclusion

After independence, Indian society is committed to its all-round development. It has started taking measures for its political and economic development as well as its social and educational development. It is trying to eliminate whatever inequalities there are between its different social groups. Some social groups in India have been backward for centuries and Dalit women are the most backward among them. However, after LPG, social and economic status of Dalit women has improved due to educational impact.

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