



SOCIAL GROUP AND CASTE DISPARITIES IN HOUSING, HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES, AND ASSETS

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Abstract: On the basis of secondary data from Census 2011, from Socio-Economic and Caste Census for 2011 and from NSS 69th survey for 2011-12 social group disparities in housing, essential household amenities, and assets are analyzed for rural India and Madhya Pradesh. Data show that relatively lower proportion of households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had good quality houses and sufficient houses to live both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh when compared with corresponding figures for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Likewise, relatively larger proportion of households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were deprived of essential household amenities (such as electricity, water, and toilet) in house/ house premises for both in rural India and in rural Madhya Pradesh. Larger proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes households were also deprived of ownership of specified household assets both in rural India and rural Madhya Pradesh.

Primary data show even higher deprivation (what are seen on the basis of secondary data) for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in ownership of good and sufficient housing, in access to essential household amenities and assets. Besides, Primary data helps to analyze in addition to social group disparities, caste disparities within the respective social group. Caste discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in housing, access to household amenities, income earning assets and household assets are also analyzed on the basis of primary data. Thus, primary data explain the reason for continuing social group and caste disparities in housing, household amenities and household assets.

Index Terms – Housing, household amenities, assets, social group disparities and caste discrimination.

1. Introduction

Housing is an essential prerequisite of human development and an important determinant of quality of life. Besides, access to essential household amenities such as safe drinking water, electricity, and toilet in house premises are strongly associated with health, productivity and income of an individual (Thorat, 2009). The aim of this paper is to analyze social group and caste disparities in housing, essential household amenities and assets. Analysis is divided into following sections. Section 4.2, describes resources of secondary data and methods used to analyze social group and caste disparities in housing, essential household amenities and assets in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh. Section 4.3, presents an analysis of social group disparities in housing, in access to essential household amenities and in ownership of household assets on the basis of secondary data. Section 4.4, analyses social group and caste disparities in housing, in access to essential household amenities, and in ownership of income earning assets and household assets on the basis of primary survey data. Section 4.5 summarizes the discussion.

2. Data and method

There are three sources of secondary data on housing and household amenities: first, the Census of India, second, the National Sample Survey, and third, Socio-Economic and Caste Census. Data for 2011-12 from all three sources are used to analyze social group inequalities in housing and essential household amenities and assets. Two indicators— quality of houses (construction material utilised for building walls, roofs and floors of houses) and availability of living space in houses—are used to measure and analyse social group disparities in ownership of good quality and sufficient houses to live. Additionally, data from Socio-Economic and Caste Census for 2011 are used to analyse social group disparities in ownership of pucca houses. Census data for 2011 and NSS data for 2011-12 are used to analyze social group disparities in access to essential household amenities (such as drinking water, electricity and toilet) in house/ house premises. Census data for 2011 are also used to analyze social group disparities in ownership of selected household assets (such as ownership of Radio/ Transistor/ T.V. / Computer/ Laptop, Mobile, Bicycle, Scooter/ Motorcycle/ Moped, Car/ Jeep/ Van, and none of these assets). Primary data collected for PhD thesis is used to analyze social group and caste disparities in access to good quality and sufficient housing, in access to essential household amenities and in ownership of assets.

3. Results from secondary data

3.1. Social group disparity in ownership of good houses

The Census classifies houses into three categories; first good houses (houses which did not require any repair), second, livable houses (houses which required minor repair) and third, dilapidated houses (houses which show the signs of decay or those breaking down or are far from being repaired). The available data show that lower proportion of households both in India and in Madhya Pradesh had good houses to live. Besides, wide social group disparity existed in ownership of good quality houses. For Instance, as per data from Census for 2011, at all India level, less than two fifth (38 per cent) rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes had good houses to live, which was 12 percentage points lower when compared with figures for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. Data show similar wide social group disparity between Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in ownership of good houses for Madhya Pradesh too (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Proportions of households those possessed different types of houses by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011, (in per cent)

Social Group/ Type of House	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Good Houses	Liveable Houses	Dilapidated	Good Houses	Liveable Houses	Dilapidated
SC	38	53	9	42	53	6
ST	38	56	7	38	56	7
non-SC/ST	50	46	6	53	47	4
Gap between SC and non-SC/ST	-12	7	3	-11	6	2

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

Census provides data on type of materials utilized for constructing walls, roofs and floors of houses. At all India level, a little less than two fifth (39 per cent) of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes utilised burnt bricks (relatively stronger and long lasting materials) for constructing walls of houses which was five percentage points lower when compared with the figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Data show relatively wider social group disparity in Madhya Pradesh in use of burnt bricks for making walls of houses (Table 4.2 A). Similarly, at all India level, 16 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes had concrete roofs (relatively stronger and long lasting) which was five percentage points lower than the figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. Similarly, wide social group disparities are seen in use of relatively stronger and long lasting (concrete) materials for making roofs and floors of houses in rural Madhya Pradesh too, (Table 4.2 A).

Socio-Economic Caste Census categorizes houses into three categories namely, pucca, semi-pucca and kutcha houses, on the basis of types of materials utilized for constructing houses. These data, summarized in Table 4.2 B, also show that a smaller proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes households had pucca houses in both rural India and Madhya Pradesh than non- Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households (Table 4.2 B). Thus, available data show that larger proportion of rural households were deprived from access to good quality houses and historically deprived social groups further lagged behind non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes groups in ownership of good quality houses.

4.2 A: Proportions of households those used different types of materials for making wall, roof and floor of houses by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011, (in per cent)

India/ Madhya Pradesh	Social groups	Walls			Roofs			Floors		
		Grass/ Thatch/ Bamboo/ Polythene	Mud/ un- burnt brick	Burnt brick	Grass/ Thatch/ Bamboo/ Wood/ Mud/ polythene	Hand Made tiles	Concrete	Mud	Cement	Mosaic/ Floor tiles
India	SC	13	33	39	26	16	16	71	21	2
	ST	18	51	17	21	36	6	81	11	1
	Non - SC/ST	11	26	44	19	16	21	57	28	5
Madhya Pradesh	SC	4	64	24	12	51	5	90	7	1
	ST	11	67	12	17	66	2	96	2	0.4
	Non- SC/ST	2	54	33	9	46	11	79	14	2
Gap between SC and Non- SC/ST	India	2	7	-5	7	0	-5	14	-7	-3
	Madhya Pradesh	2	10	-9	3	5	-6	11	-7	-1

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

3.2. Social group disparity in availability of living space in houses

Number of rooms available for living is used to measure availability of living space in houses. More than half of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes (53 per cent) had either no exclusive room or only one room to live in India which was 13 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. In addition to this, social group disparity for three, four and more than four rooms disproportionately increased as number of rooms increased (Table 4.3). Data show even wider social group disparities in ownership of either no exclusive room/ only one room and in ownership of two, three, four and above number of rooms. Similar to all India level trend, social group disparities in ownership of rooms increased with number of rooms in Madhya Pradesh too (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Proportions of households and number of rooms available for them for living by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

India/ state	No of rooms	Social groups			
		SC	ST	(Non- SC/ST)	Gap between SC and non-SC/ST
India	No exclusive room	5	4	4	1
	1	48	46	36	12
	2	32	33	32	0
	3	9	11	14	-5
	4 and above	6	6	14	-8
Madhya Pradesh	No exclusive room	3	4	2	1
	1	53	53	38	15
	2	31	31	34	-3
	3	9	9	14	-5
	4 and above	4	3	12	-8

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

Census of India also provides data on number of rooms available for living in the house by number of married couples in households and also by number of members in household. As per data from Census for 2011, about three-fourth rural households each in India and in Madhya Pradesh had four and more than four members, and about 90 per cent rural households each in India and in Madhya Pradesh had one and more than one married couple in the household. Data compiled in Table 4.4 A and B show that relatively higher proportion of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with four or more members and with one and more married couple had either no exclusive room or only one room to live than the figure for non- Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. This was true for rural India as a whole as well as for rural Madhya Pradesh. The magnitude of social group disparities further increased with number of rooms for both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.4 A and B). Thus, data show relatively more overcrowding in houses occupied by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Table 4.4 A: Proportions of households with family size four and above and numbers of rooms available for them to live, by social group, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

India/ state	No of rooms	Social groups			
		SC	ST	Non-SC/ST	Gap between SC and others
India	1	48	45	35	13
	2	34	35	33	1
	3	11	12	16	-5
	4 and above	7	8	16	-9
Madhya Pradesh	1	50	52	35	15
	2	34	33	36	-2
	3	10	10	16	-6
	4 and above	6	5	14	-8

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

Table 4.4 B: Proportions of households those had one and more married couples in family and number of rooms available for them to live, by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

India/ state	No of rooms	Social groups			
		SC	ST	Non-SC/ST	Gap between SC and Non-SC/ST
India	1	51	48	38	13
	2	32	33	33	-1
	3	10	11	15	-5
	4 and above	7	7	14	-7
Madhya Pradesh	1	54	55	38	16
	2	32	32	35	-3
	3	9	9	14	-5
	4 and above	5	4	13	-8

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

3.3. Social group inequality in essential household amenities

Availability of essential household amenities (such as water, electricity and toilet) is not only associated with good physical health of inmates but also increases mental health and efficiency at work (Chowdhury et al. 2017). As per data from Census for 2011, half of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes in India had electricity for lighting houses which was nine percentage points lower when compared with figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. Relatively larger proportion of rural households in Madhya Pradesh (belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) had electricity for lighting than the corresponding figures for rural India. The magnitude of social group disparity in access to electricity was also lower in rural Madhya Pradesh than that of figure for rural India (Table 4.5 A).

Little more than one-fourth (28 per cent) of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes in India had drinking water in their house/ house premises which was 13 percentage points lower when compared with identical figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. In rural Madhya Pradesh, relatively lower proportion of households (belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) had water in house premises, and larger proportion of them had water away from house premises when compared with corresponding figures for rural India. However, along with lower access to water in house premises social group disparity was also lower in rural Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.5A column 2-4).

The situation in respect of availability of sanitation facilities in house premises was even worse. Less than one-fourth rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes (23 per cent) in India had some types of toilet in house/ house premises, which was 14 percentage points lower than the figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. Consequently, three-fourth Scheduled Castes households were defecating in open which was 13 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. In Madhya Pradesh, relatively larger proportion of rural households (belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) were deprived from access to any type of toilet facility in house/ house premises and consequently larger proportion of them were defecating in open when compared with figures for rural India as a whole. However, along with lower access to toilet, the magnitude of social group disparity in access to toilet was also lower in rural Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.5 A).

Less than two-fifth (37 per cent) of rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes had bathroom in house premises in India as a whole, which was 14 percentage points lower than that of figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households. More than half of them (21 per cent out of 37 per cent of those who had some types of bathrooms), had no roofs in bathrooms, (Table 4.5 A). In Madhya Pradesh, except for Scheduled Tribes, a relatively lower proportion of households (belonging to Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households) had bathrooms in house/ house premises than the figure for India as a whole. However, along with lower access to bathrooms, social group disparity in access to bathrooms in house/ house premises was also lower in rural Madhya Pradesh than that of magnitude of social group disparity for India as a whole (Table 4.5 A). It must be noted that data from NSS (for rural and urban area taken together) for 2011-12 show similar wide social group disparities in access to essential household amenities (electricity, water, toilet and bathroom) in house/ house premises for both in India and in Madhya Pradesh. As per NSS data, social group disparity was higher for Madhya Pradesh for three essential household amenities namely electricity, water and bathroom, and lower for Madhya Pradesh in respect of access to toilets when compared with figures for India as a whole (Table 4.5 B).

Table 4.5 A: Proportions of households those had electricity, water, latrine and bathing facility in house/ house premises, by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

India/ state	Facility type		Social groups			
			SC	ST	Non- SC/ST	Gap between SC and Non- SC/ST
1	2		3	4	5	6
India	Source of lighting	Electricity	50	46	59	-9
		Kerosene	49	51	40	9
		No lighting	0.6	1	0.4	0.2
	Water	Within premises	28	14	41	-13
		Near premises	48	50	40	8
		Away	24	36	19	5
	Latrine facility	Within premises	23	16	37	-14
		No facility	77	84	63	14
		Open defecation	75	82	62	13
	Bathing	Within premises	37	10	51	-14
		Enclosure without roof	21 (of 37)	14	20 of 51	1
		No bathing facility	63	76	49	14
			Electricity	58	52	61

Madhya Pradesh	Source of lighting	Kerosene	42	47	38	4
		No lighting	0.2	0.4	0.2	0
	Water	Within premises	7	6	18	11
		Near premises	54	51	50	4
		Away	39	43	32	7
	Latrine facility	Within premises	9	5	18	9
		No facility	91.4	95	82	9
		Open defecation	91	94	81	10
	Bathing	Within premises	32	18	42	-10
		Enclosure without roof	26 of 32	16 of 18	26 of 42	0
		No bathing facility	68	82	58	10

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

5 B: proportions of households those had essential households amenities in house/ house premises, by social groups, India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in per cent)

Social groups	India				Madhya Pradesh			
	Electricity	drinking water	Latrine	Bathroom	electricity	drinking water	Latrine	Bathroom
SC	75	38	27	25	80	14	16	18
ST	77	21	24	22	85	11	11	14
Non-SC/ST	82	53	45	44	94	26	27	31
Others	88	58	63	56	94	38	42	52
All	80	46	39	38	84	19	21	24
Gap between SC others	-13	-20	-36	-32	-14	-24	-26	-33

Source: Unit-level data from NSS 69th round Survey for 2011-12

3.4. Social group disparity in access to better quality household amenities

Above analysis show very poor access to essential household amenities (such as water, electricity, toilet and bathroom) in house/ house premises for both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh. Data show that the condition of historically oppressed social groups (like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) was worse than other social groups in access to these essential household amenities. Households those had some of these amenities in house/ house premises; the quality of these amenities was further lower/ inferior, and data show even wider social group disparities in access to better quality household amenities. For instance, as per data from Census for 2011, at aggregate level, 9 per cent rural households in India and 2 per cent rural households in Madhya Pradesh had treated tap water in house premises. Social group wise, 8 per cent Scheduled Castes and 3 per cent Scheduled Tribes households had treated tap water in house/ house premises in rural India, as against 10 per cent for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Likewise, less than 2 per cent Scheduled Castes and less than 1 per cent Scheduled Tribes households had treated tap water in house/ house premises in rural Madhya Pradesh, as against 3 per cent for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (Table 4.6).

4.6: Proportions of households those had treated tap water in house/ house premises by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Social group	India	Madhya Pradesh
SC	8	1.5
ST	3	0.7
Non SC/ST	10	3
All	9	2
Gap between SC and others	2	1.5

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

As it has already been described that a very high proportion of rural households (particularly belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) were deprived from sanitation facilities for both in rural India as well as in Madhya Pradesh. Further, those who had toilet, very high proportion of them were deprived from any type of drainage to dispose of waste water. For example, at all India level, only 37 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes had some type of drainage to dispose of waste water and only 4 per cent of them had closed drainage, as against 40 per cent drainage for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households and 7 per cent closed drainage for them (Table 4.7). Access to drainage to dispose of waste water was even poorer in rural Madhya Pradesh, as about three-fourth rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes, nine-tenth Scheduled Tribes and about seven-tenth belonging to non-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes had no drainage at all. Further, only 1 per cent Scheduled Castes and less than 1 per cent Scheduled Tribes households in rural Madhya Pradesh had closed drainage, as against 3 per cent for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes households (Table 4.7).

4.7: Proportions of households with status of waste water disposal system by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Social groups	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Drainage		No drainage	Drainage		No drainage
	Closed	Open		Closed	Open	
SC	4	33	63	1	25	74
ST	2	14	85	0.5	9.5	90
Others	7	33	60	3	29	68
Gap between SC and others	3	0	3	2	4	6

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

As per data from Census for 2011, at all India level, more than 90 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and more than 95 per cent households belonging to Scheduled Tribes used unclean fuel (such as fire wood, crop residue and cow dung cake) as against 84 per cent of non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Data show relatively higher magnitude of social group disparity in use of clean fuel (Table 4.8). In Madhya Pradesh, comparatively, larger proportions of rural households belonging to all social groups (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and non- Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes) used unclean fuel (such as fire wood, crop residue and cow dung cake) for cooking. Similar to all India level

trends, data show even wider social group disparity in use of clean fuel than that of magnitude of social group disparity in use of unclean fuels (Table 4.8).

4.8: Proportions of households those used different type of fuel for cooking by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Social Group/ Type of fuel used	India			Madhya Pradesh		
	Fire wood	Crop residue and cow dung cake	LPG/PNG	Fire wood	Crop residue and cow dung cake	LPG/PNG
SC	63	28	6	77	21	2
ST	86	9	3	87	11	0.6
Others	58	24	14	75	18	5
Gap between SC and non-SC/ST	5	4	8	2	3	3

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

Census of India also provides data on households by different types of fuels used by them to cook food. As per data from Census for 2011, only 9 per cent rural households in India, and 3 per cent rural households in Madhya Pradesh used clean fuel (like LPG or PNG) for cooking food. Social group-wise, less than 5 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and 2 per cent belonging to Scheduled Tribes had kitchen in houses and used clean fuel for cooking food in India, as against 12 per cent for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Likewise, about 1 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and less than 1 per cent belong to Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh had kitchen in houses and used clean fuel for cooking, as against 4 per cent for non- Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (Table 4.9).

4.9: Proportions of households those had kitchen in houses and used clean fuel for cooking, by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Social group	India	Madhya Pradesh
SC	4.5	1
ST	2	0.5
Non SC/ST	12	4
All	9	3
Gap between SC and non-SC/ST	7.5	3

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

The availability of water, electricity and toilet in house/ house premises is essential and a minimum requirement for decent living. Census provides data on households that had three essential amenities (water, electricity and toilet) in house/ house premises. Data show even wider social group disparities in access to these three amenities in house/ house premises. As per data from Census for 2011, at aggregate level, only 15 per cent rural households in India and 5 per cent rural households in Madhya Pradesh had three amenities (electricity, water and latrine) in house/ house premises. Social group wise, at all India

level, 9 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and 4 per cent belonging to Scheduled Tribes had these amenities in house/ house premises, as against 18 per cent for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, 2 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes and less than 1 per cent belonging to Scheduled Tribes had these amenities in house/ house premises, as against 8 per cent for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (Table 4.10A).

Alternatively, data from NSS for 2011-12 also show that very low proportion of households both in India and in Madhya Pradesh had three essential household amenities (electricity, water and toilet) in house/ house premises. However, data show relatively higher deprivation for Madhya Pradesh. Data also show wide social group disparities in access to these amenities for both in India and in Madhya Pradesh, and relatively wider social group inequalities for India when compared with magnitude of social group disparities for Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.10 B).

4.10 A: Proportions of households those had three essential facilities (electricity, water and latrine) in house/ house premises by social groups, rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Social group	India	Madhya Pradesh
SC	9	2
ST	4	0.8
Non SC/ST	18	8
All	15	5
Gap between SC and non-SC/ST	9	3

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

4.10 B: Proportions of households those had three essential amenities (electricity, water and latrine) in house/ house premises, all India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011-12 (in per cent)

Social group	India	Madhya Pradesh
SC	13.5	7.7
ST	11	4.1
Non-SC/ST	29	15
Others	40.5	26.0
All	23.7	10.5
Gap between SC and others	-27.0	-18.3

Source: Unit-level data NSS 69th round Survey for 2011-12

3.5. Social group disparity in ownership of household assets

Census provides data on ownership of specified assets by social group. In addition to entertainment, ownership of Radio/ Transistor, Television, Computer/ Laptop and Mobile phone also provides information and opens new avenues of opportunities for those who own these assets. Latest data from Census for 2011 show that not all rural households (belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) owned all these essential household assets in rural India and or in rural Madhya Pradesh. In case of all the specified assets, relative deprivation was higher in rural Madhya Pradesh than in India as a whole (Table 4.11). Census also provides data on proportion of households that did not own any of specified assets. On an average, overall deprivation (in terms of households those did not own any of specified assets) was also higher for rural Madhya Pradesh (40 per cent) when compared with magnitude of deprivation for rural India (23 per cent). Besides, data show wide social group disparity in ownership of all specified assets both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh. For instance, at all India level, about 15 per cent rural households belonging to Scheduled Castes owned Radio/ Transistor which was about five percentage points lower than that of figure for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Social group disparity was even higher (nine percentage points each) in ownership of Television and Mobile phone and for motorised vehicles (10 percentage points). Similar pattern of wide social group disparities in ownership of all specified assets is seen for rural Madhya Pradesh also (Table 4.11).

4.11: Proportions of households those possessed specified assets by social groups rural India and Madhya Pradesh, 2011 (in per cent)

Type of assets	India					Madhya Pradesh				
	SC	ST	Non-SC/ST	All	Gap between SC and Non-SC/ST	SC	ST	Non-SC/ST	All	Gap between SC and Non-SC/ST
Radio/Transistor	14.5	13	19	17	-4.5	11	10	15	13	-4
Television	29	15	38	33	-9	15	6.3	26	19	-11
Computer/Laptop	4.9	3.9	5.5	5	-0.6	3.1	2.8	3.4	3	-0.3
Mobile Phone	42	26	56	51	-9	32	16	39	34	-7
Bicycle	46	36	48	46	-2	37	26	41	36	-4
Scooter/Motorcycle/Moped	8.1	6.4	18	14	-10	6	4	17	12	-11
Car/Jeep/Van	1.1	0.9	2.8	2	-1.7	0.4	0.2	1.7	1	-1.3
Households with TV, Computer/Laptop, Telephone/ mobile phone and Scooter/ Car	0.5	0.3	1.3	1	-0.8	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	-0.4
None of the specified assets	26	41	19	23	-7	43	59	31	40	-12

Source: Census 2011, houses, household amenities and assets

4. Social group and caste disparities in housing, household amenities and assets on the basis of primary survey data

Secondary data show wide social group disparities in access to good quality and adequate houses, in access to essential household amenities (such as electricity, water and toilet) and in ownership of specified household assets. However, secondary data do not shed light on reasons behind these wide social group disparities in access to good quality houses, in access to essential household amenities and in ownership of household assets. Social group disparities may be either due to relatively poorer economic condition of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes or it may be the result of caste discrimination against them in access to good quality houses, in access to essential household amenities and in ownership of assets. Besides, secondary data do not allow us to analyze caste disparities within social groups in access to good quality and sufficient houses, in access to essential household amenities and in ownership of specified household assets.

In view of these limitations, field work was done and data was collected as part of PhD thesis to analyze caste disparities, and also caste discrimination in access to good quality houses, in access to essential household amenities and assets on the basis of primary survey data.

4.1. Social groups and caste disparity in access to good quality houses

The construction material (relatively stronger and long lasting/fragile materials) utilized for building houses is used to determine the quality of houses. If a household utilized burnt bricks/ stones with cement or lime for making walls and used cement and rods or bricks/ stones with cement for constructing roofs, such houses are classified as pucca houses. All other houses (which utilized fragile materials for building walls and roofs of houses) are considered as kutcha houses for analyzing social group and caste disparities in access to qualitative housing.

Primary data show that relatively larger proportion of households in survey village (Tinduhata) were deprived from having pucca walls of houses, and social group disparity was even wider in Tinduhata when compared with magnitude of social groups disparity in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.12 A and 4.2 A). Caste-wise, only Kumhar caste among Scheduled Castes had pucca walls and no household from any other Scheduled Caste had a house with pucca walls. Among OBC castes, only Lodhi and other OBC castes had pucca walls; no household belonging to Kushwaha and Dhobi castes had a pucca house (Table 4.12 A). A very large proportion of households (98 per cent) in Tinduhata were deprived from having pucca (concrete) roofs of houses. Despite low access to pucca roofs, the magnitude of social group disparity in access to pucca roofs was higher in Tinduhata than the corresponding figures for rural India and Madhya Pradesh (4.12 B and 4.2 A). No household belonging to Chamar and Bediya castes among Scheduled Castes, and Lodhi and other OBC castes among OBC castes had a house with a pucca roof. No household belonging to Kol caste of Scheduled Tribe had a house with either pucca walls or a pucca roof (Table 4.12 B).

4.12 A: Proportions of households those utilised different types of materials for constructing walls of houses, by social groups and castes, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social group	Castes	Mud	Brick and mud	Burnt brick and cement
SC	All	79	10	3
	Chamar	98	2	0
	Kumhar	36	36	19
	Bediya	100	0	0
	Other SC	61	6	0
ST	Kol	95	5	0
OBC	All	74	14	3
	Lodhi	71	20	7
	Kushwaha	68	12	0
	Dhobi	100	0	0
	Other OBC	78	9	4
HCH	All	42	21	21
	Brahmin	44	22	20
	Baniya (Gupta)	0	0	50
All social group	All Castes	206 (72)	36 (13)	16 (6)

Source: Survey data

Note: Total may not match, as households those utilized other materials for making walls are excluded

4.12 B: Proportions of households those utilised different types of materials for constructing roof of houses, by social group and castes, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social group	Castes	Handmade tiles	Concrete	Other
SC	All	93	1	6
	Chamar	100	0	0
	Kumhar	36	36	18
	Bediya	100	0	0
	Other SC	61	6	33
ST	Kol	100	0	0
OBC	All	87	1	12
	Lodhi	84	0	16
	Kushwaha	85	2	12
	Dhobi	100	0	0
	Other OBC	91		9
HCH	All	60	9	30
	Brahmin	63	10	27
	Baniya (Gupta)	0	0	100
All social group	All Castes	246 (86)	6 (2)	33 (12)

Source: Survey data

Note: Total may not match, as households those utilized other material for making roofs are excluded

4.2. Social group and caste disparities in availability of living space in houses

The general feature of availability of rooms for living in Tinduhata was that a large proportion of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Castes and OBC castes households lived in single room or two room houses. Whereas, among Brahmin and Baniya castes, few households had one room and there was an even distribution of households for two and three rooms houses and sizable proportion of households owned between four and five, six and more than six rooms (Table 4.13). Bediya caste among Scheduled Castes and Dhobi and Other OBC castes, among OBC castes were relatively more deprived in ownership of sufficient number of rooms to live (Table 4.13).

4.13: Proportions of households those had different number of rooms for living by social group and castes, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social group	Castes	Number of rooms				
		1	2	3	4-5	6 and above
SC	All	30	35	21	14	0
	Chamar	33	29	27	12	0
	Kumhar	18	32	23	27	0
	Bediya	44	56	0	0	0
	Other SC	22	39	22	17	0
ST	Kol	40	50	10	0	0
OBC	All	27	27	22	15	10
	Lodhi	27	32	18	14	9
	Kushwaha	15	27	24	20	15
	Dhobi	67	11	11	0	11
	Other OBC	30	22	30	13	4
HCH	All	14	23	23	21	19
	Brahmin	15	24	22	22	17
	Baniya	0	0	50	0	50
All social groups	All Castes	76 (27)	88 (31)	60 (21)	41 (14)	28 (10)

Source: Survey data

4.3. Social group and caste disparities in availability of essential household amenities

Availability of kitchen, drinking water, and electricity and toilet in house/ housing premises improves health and working efficiency of the members of households (Deaton and Dreze, 2009). Access to essential household amenities was poorer in Tinduhata when compared with corresponding figures for rural India and Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.14, 4.5 A and B). Besides poorer access, data show wider social group disparities in access to these essential household amenities in Tinduhata than in rural Madhya Pradesh as a whole (Table 4.14 and 4.5 A-B). Chamar and Bediya castes among Scheduled Castes, other OBC castes and Dhobi caste among OBC castes were relatively more deprived among their respective social groups, and Kol caste of Scheduled Tribe was fully deprived from access to all four household amenities (Table 4.14). During my fieldwork, I did not find any direct evidence of discrimination against Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe households in being able to construct kitchen and toilets in their houses. Thus, it is arguable that social group disparities in access to kitchen and toilet may be an outcome of their poorer economic condition (which, in turn, is related to historical and continuing discrimination in various forms). However, electricity line going to Chamar, Kumhar and Bediya castes of Scheduled Castes and Kol caste of Scheduled Tribe was cut off by Brahmin contractor and supplier. It is arguable that social group and caste disparity in access to electricity was the outcome of direct caste discrimination

against them (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe). Similarly, of the six hand pumps in Tinduhata, 5 were installed in Brahmin and OBC castes locality and only one hand pump was installed in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe locality. This suggests presence of direct caste discrimination in access to electricity and drinking water in Tinduhata.

4.14: Proportions of households that had different household amenities in house/ house premises, by social group and caste, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social group	Castes	Kitchen	Water	Electricity	Toilet
SC	All	4	11	12	0
	Chamar	0	4	0	0
	Kumhar	5	9	9	0
	Bediya	6	0	0	0
	Other SC	11	39	61	0
ST	Kol	0	0	0	0
OBC	All	23	34	40	2
	Lodhi	27	27	42	0
	Kushwaha	22	44	46	5
	Dhobi	33	11	56	0
	Other OBC	13	25	38	0
HCH	All	40	35	72	16
	Brahmin	37	34	71	15
	Baniya	100	50	100	50
	All Castes	48 (17)	66 (23)	91 (32)	9 (3)

Source: Survey data

4.4. Social group and caste inequality in ownership of income earning and household assets

4.4.1. Social group and caste inequality in ownership of income earning assets

Ownership of livestock and agricultural implements provides subsidiary, but important source of income to rural households. Households that owned at least one out of four animals (milch cow, buffalo, bullock and goat) are considered to be the owner of some types of livestock. Similarly, the households that owned at least one out of three agricultural implements (electric motor pump, thresher and tractor) are regarded as the owner of agricultural implements.

At aggregate level, about 62 per cent households owned some types of livestock in Tinduhata in 2008. Social group wise, 56 per cent households belonging to Scheduled Castes and 60 per cent belonging to Scheduled Tribe owned some livestock, as against 63 per cent for OBC castes and 74 per cent for households belonging to Brahmin and Baniya castes (Table 4.15). Likewise, at aggregate level about one-fifth households in Tinduhata owned some agricultural implements in 2008. Wide social group inequality was visible in ownership of agricultural implements. For instance, 9 per cent households belonging to Scheduled Castes and only 5 per cent belonging to Scheduled Tribe owned some agricultural implements, as against 28 per cent for OBC castes and 35 per cent for households belonging to Brahmin and Baniya castes (Table 4.15).

- 4.15: Proportions of households those owned livestock and agricultural implements by social groups and castes, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social groups	Castes	Livestock	Agricultural implements
1	2	3	4
SC	All	56	9
	Chamar	53	2
	Kumhar	55	18
	Bediya	50	0
	Other SC	72	22
ST	Kol	60	5
OBC	All	63	28
	Lodhi	73	27
	Kushwaha	59	44
	Dhobi	44	0
	Other OBC	61	0
HCH	All	74	35
	Brahmin	76	37
	Baniya	50	0
All social group	All Castes	177 (62)	58 (20)

Source: Survey data

Column 3 of Table 4.16 shows share of different social groups and castes in total population and Columns 4 to 8 show share of respective social groups and castes in ownership of different types of livestock (such as cow, buffalo, bullock, goat and hen). Data show that the share of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe households in ownership of milch cows was little less than their share in total population. Social group disparities were greater in ownership of buffaloes. In particular, no Scheduled Tribe household owned a buffalo. Whereas, households belonging to OBC castes and Brahmin caste owned more buffaloes than their share in total population (Table 4.16). It may be noted that relatively cow requires less feed when compared with buffalo and can live on grass and straw (even on paddy straw). Therefore, due to higher incidence of landlessness among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe and also due to marginal land holding (as all households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe those owned land, owned only marginal holdings in Tinduhata) they were unable to feed buffaloes. Thus, due to deprivation in access to land among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe resulted in deprivation in ownership of buffaloes. Brahmin households were not ploughing land in Tinduhata as touching the plough was considered polluting for Brahmins. Therefore, households belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe and OBC castes owned more bullocks than their share in total population. Keeping goat and hen in houses was also considered as an unclean activity, and therefore, none of the household belonging to Brahmin and Baniya castes owned any goat or hen. Households belonging to Yadav caste were traditionally rearing goats in Tinduhata. Consequently, except for Scheduled Tribe, all other social groups were deprived from ownership of goat and Yadav households among other OBC caste owned 57 per cent of total goats, whereas their share in total population was less than 2 per cent. Rearing of hen did not require feeding, as they find food themselves in villages. Since rearing hens was perceived to be unclean, only households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe had hens in their houses in Tinduhata (Table 4.16).

Households mostly belonging to Bediya and Kumhar castes among Scheduled castes and Kol caste belonging to Scheduled Tribe reared hens in Tinduhata. However, they suffered discrimination and caste oppression in selling of hens. Members belonging to Thakur caste (Kshatriya) from neighbouring village (Hinauta which was about two kilometres away from Tinduhata) came to their houses to buy hens. On some occasions they came with alcohol, cooked chicken in the houses of these Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe households, and after drinking and eating chicken, left either without paying for

chicken or paid only a little bit. They would abuse family members (including women and children) if they asked more money for chicken. Therefore, households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe that owned poultry faced direct caste discrimination, were humiliated and did not get a fair price for poultry.

4.16: Share of different social group and castes in total population and their share in different types of livestock, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social group	Castes	Share of different social groups and castes in total population	Share of different social groups and caste in different types of livestock available in village.				
			Milch cow	Buffalo	Bullock	Goat	Hen
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SC	All	37	31	6	41	15	67
	Chamar	17	14	4	19	3	13
	Kumhar	8	7	2	12	9	24
	Bediya	6	3	0	3	3	30
	Other SC	6	7	0	7	0	0
ST	Kol	7	6	0	8	9	33
OBC	All	41	36	62	49	76	0
	Lodhi	15	13	20	25	6	0
	Kushwaha	14	14	35	14	11	0
	Dhobi	3	2	0	3	2	0
	Other OBC	9	7	7	7	57	0
HCH	All	15	26	33	2	0	0
	Brahmin	14	26	33	2	0	0
	Baniya	1	0	0	0	0	0
All social groups	All Castes	285 (100)	173 (100)	55 (100)	165 (100)	99 (100)	103 (100)

Source: Survey data

The share of households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe in ownership of each individual agricultural machinery (such as electric motor, thresher and tractor) was lower than their share in total population, whereas, households belonging to OBC castes and high caste Hindu (Brahmin) owned more agricultural machinery (electric motor pump, thresher and tractor) than their share in total population (Table 4.17).

Except for "other SC" castes, all castes belonging to Scheduled Castes and Kol caste of Scheduled Tribe was deprived in terms of ownership of all three agricultural machinery (electric motor pump, thresher and tractor). The magnitude of deprivation was higher for Chamar and Bediya castes among Scheduled Castes. Similarly, Dhobi caste among OBC castes was deprived in ownership of agricultural machinery. Lodhi households owned more electric motor pumps and threshers than their share in total population; however, they (Lodhi caste) did not have a proportionate share in ownership of tractors. Whereas, Kushwaha, owned more electric motor pumps and tractors than their share in population, their share in ownership of threshers was low. All other remaining OBC castes had less than proportionate share in all three types of agricultural machines. Households belonging to Brahmin caste owned more agricultural machinery (all three types of machines- electric motor pumps, threshers and tractors) than their share in

total population, whereas, households belonging to Baniya caste did not have any machinery (Table 4.17).

Caste discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe

Three households belonging to Scheduled Castes that owned threshers faced discrimination in renting out threshers to OBC castes and households belonging to Brahmin Caste who hired threshers on rent for threshing wheat and gram. Usually, on the last day of threshing, 1/20th share of produce was given as rent of thresher to the owner of thresher. However, Scheduled Caste owners of threshers reported that higher caste households frequently made complaints about quality of threshing or higher cost after the threshing was done and underpaid them. All Scheduled Caste owners of threshers received rent lower than the usual 1/20th share and in some cases were not paid at all.

4.17: Share of different social groups and castes in total population and their share in different types of agricultural implements, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social groups	Castes	Share of different social groups and castes in total population	Share if different social groups and castes in different types of agricultural implements.		
			Electric motor pump	Thresher	Tractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
SC	All	37	15	25	0
	Chamar	17	2	0	0
	Kumhar	8	7	0	0
	Bediya	6	0	0	0
	Other SC	6	6	25	0
ST	Kol	7	2	0	0
OBC	All	41	60	50	45
	Lodhi	15	20	33	9
	Kushwaha	14	35	8	27
	Dhobi	3	0	0	0
	Other OBC	9	6	8	9
HCH	All	15	24	25	55
	Brahmin	14	24	25	55
	Baniya	1	0	0	0
All social group	All Castes	285 (100)	55 (100)	12 (100)	11 (100)

Source: Survey data

4.4.2. Social group and caste inequality in ownership of household assets

In Tinduhata, a relatively higher proportion of households were deprived from ownership of household assets than the Census estimates for rural India and Madhya Pradesh. Data show wider social group disparity in Tinduhata than what is seen in the Census data for rural India and Madhya Pradesh (Table 4.18 and 4.11). Chamar and Bediya castes among Scheduled castes and Dhobi and other OBC castes among OBC castes were relatively more deprived in their respective social groups.

A lower proportion of households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe in Tinduhata owned bicycles. Further, of those who owned bicycles could not ride them in presence of persons belonging to Brahmin castes and other dominant OBC castes (Lodhi and Kushwaha castes).

4.18: Proportions of households those owned certain assets by social groups and castes, Tinduhata, 2008 (in per cent)

Social group	Castes	Sofa/ Chair/ Stool	Radio/ Transistor	Television	Mobile	Bicycle	Motor bike
SC	All	2	6	5	24	42	9
	Chamar	2	4	4	20	35	6
	Kumhar	0	9	5	27	50	9
	Bediya	0	6	0	25	38	0
	Other SC	6	6	11	28	56	22
ST	Kol	0	0	0	15	25	0
OBC	All	35	15	25	36	63	20
	Lodhi	41	18	30	41	68	27
	Kushwaha	46	17	29	49	68	24
	Dhobi	11	11	22	11	44	11
	Other OBC	13	9	9	13	52	0
HCH	All	79	26	40	77	65	26
	Brahmin	78	28	39	76	66	27
	Baniya (Gupta)	100	0	50	100	50	0
	All Castes	77 (27)	35 (12)	51 (18)	115 (40)	151 (53)	43 (15)

Source: Survey data

Note: Data in parenthesis show percentage of respective value

5. Conclusions

Secondary data from Census for 2011 and from Socio-Economic and Caste Census for 2011 show that relatively lower proportion of households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had good quality houses to live both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh when compared with corresponding figures for non-Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Further, data show relatively more overcrowding in houses occupied by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe. Thus, lower quality of houses coupled with overcrowding in houses does not affect only the health of inmates (particularly of children) but may also restrict the freedom of married couples to organize personal lives and therefore, may affect emotional, psychological and mental wellbeing and thereby their motivation and productivity at work place (Sinha, 2014).

Although, larger proportion of all households (belonging to different social groups), were deprived from essential household amenities (such as electricity, water and toilet) in house/ house premises for both in rural India and in rural Madhya Pradesh. Besides, data show wide social group disparities in access to essential household amenities for both in rural India and Madhya Pradesh. Social group disparities in access to better quality household amenities (such as treated tap water, closed drainage, and use of clean fuel- LPG/ PNG) was even wider for both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, larger proportion of rural households were deprived from ownership of specified household assets (such as Radio/ Transistor/ Television, Computer/ Laptop, Mobile phone, Bicycle, Scooter/ Motor cycle/ Moped,

Car/ Jeep/ Van). Relatively, average deprivation- in terms of households those did not own any specified assets, was higher for rural Madhya Pradesh (40 per cent) than that of figure for rural India (23 per cent). Besides, wide social group disparity was visible in ownership of all specified assets for both in rural India and in Madhya Pradesh.

Secondary data show wide social group disparities in access to good quality and sufficient housing, in access to essential household amenities, and in ownership of essential household assets. However, secondary data do not shed light on reasons behind existing wide social group disparities. Primary data collected from field survey show even wider social group disparities and in addition, also show castes disparities in access to qualitative and sufficient housing, in access to essential household amenities and in ownership of income earning assets and household assets. Besides, primary data also help to analyze caste discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribe in access to essential household amenities, in ownership of income earning assets and in ownership of household assets.

Households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe in Tindhata did not face any direct discrimination in constructing of houses and in building more houses/ or rooms. However, in terms of locations of house, households belonging to Chamar, Kumhar and Bediya castes among Scheduled Castes, and Kol caste of Scheduled Tribe faced acute discrimination, as they were compelled by OBC castes and households belonging to Brahmin and Baniya castes to stay about one kilometre away from main village. In respect of access to household amenities (such as kitchen and toilet) households belonging to these social groups (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe) did not face any direct discrimination though their poorer economic condition, which was related to historical and continuing discrimination of various kinds, resulted in caste disparities in access to these amenities. In case of access to electricity, a specific instance of direct caste discrimination was found in Tindhata. Households, belonging to these social groups directly did not face any discrimination in ownership of different types of livestock and agricultural implements. However, due to relatively higher incidence of landlessness they were unable to feed buffalo and thereby were deprived from their share in buffalo. Hens were reared in Tindhata only by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe. However, persons belonging to Thakur caste (Kshatriya) from neighboring village exploited them by paying lower prices for chicken/ and, in some cases, not paying at all. Three households belonging to Scheduled Castes that owned threshers were discriminated against in rental payments. Persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe who owned bicycles were not allowed to ride them in present of persons belonging to Brahmin caste and dominant OBC castes (Lodhi and Kushwaha).

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