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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	BANKING FOR THE POOR IN THE CONTEXT OF ISLAMIC FINANCE	
2.	DAVOOD MANZUR, HOSSEIN MEISAMI & MEHDI ROAYAEE THE RELATIONSHIP OF INSURANCE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE	
3.	ADERAW GASHAYIE ETHNIC CONSIDERATION IN POLITICAL COVERAGE BY NIGERIAN MEDIA	10
4.	DR. IFEDAYO DARAMOLA ECONOMICS OF PROMOTING HIGHER EDUCATION: A CASE OF ROLE OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE SULTANATE OF OMAN	
5.	HASINUL HUSSAN SIDDIQUE ANALYSIS OF CHRONIC AND TRANSIENT POVERTY IN RURAL OROMIYA - ETHIOPIA	
6.	DEREJE FEKADU DERESSA TOWARDS A NEW MODEL FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN NIGERIA	
-	DR. AHMAD SANUSI, DR. AHMAD MARTADHA MOHAMED & ABUBAKAR SAMBO JUNAIDU PERCEIVED EASE OF ACCESS/USE, PERCEIVED USEFULNESS, PERCEIVED RISK OF USAGE AND PERCEIVED COST OF USAGE OF MOBILE BANKING	
7.	SERVICES AND THEIR EFFECT ON CUSTOMER COMMITMENT FROM SELECTED COMMERCIAL BANKS IN RWANDA MACHOGU MORONGE ABIUD, LYNET OKIKO & VICTORIA KADONDI	
8.	LOST IN TRANSLATION: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SWEDISH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AGENCY – KRAV KHAN RIFAT SALAM & MAHZABIN CHOWDHURY	
9.	STOCK MARKET, INFLATION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA (1990-2010) ADEGBITE, TAJUDEEN ADEJARE	38
10.	DETERMINANTS OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN FORMATS IN FOOD AND GROCERY: THE CASE OF INDIAN RETAIL DR. SNV SIVA KUMAR & DR. ANJALI CHOPRA	44
11.		52
12.	PROBLEMS FACED BY THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THENI DISTRICT-AN OVER VIEW DR. A. SUJATHA	61
13.	AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON PROFITABILITY AND CONSISTENCY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR IN INDIA MOHAMMED NIZAMUDDIN & DR. PERWAYS ALAM	64
14.		69
15 .	ANALYSIS OF VARIOUS POULTRY SOCIETIES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE AASIM MIR & SHIV KUMAR GUPTA	72
16.		74
17.	A STUDY OF ISSUES AND CHALLENGES WITH REFERENCE TO THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA	78
18.	DR. MARUTHI RAM.R., MANJUNATHA.N., ASRA AHMED & PARVATHY.L INFLUENTIAL FACTORS OF CEMENT CONSUMPTION IN INDIA FOR 2011-12	82
19.	ANJAN REDDY VISHWAMPATLA & DR. P. SRINIVAS REDDY WOMEN IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS	87
20.	S. VIDHYANATHAN & DR. K. DEVAN NON-FARM SECTOR LOANS BY DINDIGUL CENTRAL COOPERATIVE BANK IN TAMIL NADU	91
21.	DR. T. SRINIVASAN DEVELOPMENT OF WEAKER SECTION OF SOCIETY: A ROLE OF STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS	94
22.	DR. SUSHIL KUMAR & MAHAVIR SINGH AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON CONSUMER BUYING BEHAVIOR WITH RESPECT TO CONSUMER DURABLES	97
	ANU GUPTA & PRIYANKA SHAH	100
	C.A VISALAKSHI & K. BABY ROLE OF GRAM SACHIV IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT - A CASE STUDY OF KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT	
24.	PARDEEP CHAUHAN	105
25.	AGMARK CERTIFICATION AND CONSUMERS' PERCEPTION- A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO MADURAI DISTRICT OF TAMILNADU DR. M. SANTHI	108
	PERFORMANCE AND PROSPECTS OF HOPCOMS IN KARNATAKA – A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN FARMERS AND CONSUMERS KRISHNA.K M. & DR. S. MOKSHAPATHY	
27.	HEALTH IMPACT OF IRON ORE MINES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON MINING AND NON-MINING INHABITANTS OF KEONJHAR DISTRICT OF ODISHA MINATI SAHOO	118
28.	IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION ON SCs AND STs IN INDIA- A BIRD VIEW DEEPA HANMANTHRAO & PADMAVATI R. SOMANI	
29.	TO STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STRESS-WORK LIFE BALANCE AND WORK ALIENATION AMONG WOMEN EMPLOYEES OF KERALA STATE GOVERNMENT IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT CHITHRA MOHAN.K	
30.		130
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK	137

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IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION ON SCs AND STs IN INDIA- A BIRD VIEW

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ABSTRACT

Present study was based on the secondary sources and explores information on the status of SCs and STs by impact of globalization and liberalization. Globalization may be defined as a process by which international interactions have increasingly greater importance on decision making at all levels: local, regional, national, and international. It is also a powerful driving force in today's processes of economic, social and environmental change in the world. In spite of constitutional safeguard and state intervention in favor of Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes, their socio-economic condition is deteriorating and the main objective of social and economic equality remain mirage for them. Most of SC and ST population who resides in rural areas are engaged in Unorganized sector as landless laborers become more vulnerable, because of positive discrimination policy could not help them much and the new economic reforms have little or nothing favorable for them in the agenda. The country needs economic liberalization but not at the cost of the fiscal deregulation and concepts of a welfare state. It is desirable that in restructuring of country the equality concern of SCs and STs should be given priority so that they could empower themselves to take benefit of reforms. Strong intervention of the state is essential to protect the weak and disadvantaged sections and to provide level playing ground and an adequate safety net to those who are directly and indirectly affected by new reforms of Liberalization Privatization and Globalization. Therefore the prerequisite to reforms could be distributive justice and the effective implementation in rural India.

KEYWORDS

Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, Dalits, Globalization Liberalization Privatization, Socio-economic.

INTRODUCTION

the first time the suffering of these people agonized by the great soul of Lord Gautam Buddha. He introduced the concept of 'equality' to the society. This was the first opportunity imparted to these people to prosper and live in dignity. In the 19th century the social reformers especially Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Chhatrapati, Shahu Maharaja and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar started many movements to impart them human rights. After independence, the Constitution of India piloted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar prescribed certain protection and safeguards for the SCs and STs to promoting their educational, economic and political interests. It is observed that the Government programmes - especially those concerning SC and ST welfare are never taken seriously, and there are no effective monitoring system to pinpoint the failures of the plan objectives. There are diversion of resources and lack of utility of the schemes.

Therefore, the condition of these communities is remained very miserable. Most of the SC and ST communities are still striving to fulfill their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. Besides these, today they require better opportunities to live in dignity and self-respect. Hence, ample opportunities should be made available to them, which would ensure them a secured and dignified life in this 21st century which is practicing new reforms like Globalization Privatization and Liberalization. This paper puts a light on the title called impact of globalization and liberalization on SCs and STs.

MEANING OF GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION

In a general sense, *Globalization* is the increasing worldwide integration of economic, cultural, political, religious, and social systems. Economic globalization is the process by which the whole world becomes a single market. This means that goods and services, capital, and labour are traded on a worldwide basis, and information and the results of research flow readily between countries. According to economists, there are a lot of global events connected with globalization and integration like Improvement of International Trade, Technological Progress, Increasing Influence of Multinational Companies, Power of the WTO, IMF, and WB, Greater Mobility of Human Resources across Countries, Greater Outsourcing of Business Processes to Other Countries and Civil Society refers to NGOs (nongovernment organizations). Globalization however the word is understood implies the weakening of state sovereignty and state structures.

Liberalization refers to laws or rules being liberalized, or relaxed, by a government. Economic liberalization is generally thought of as a beneficial and desirable process for emerging and developing countries. The underlying goal is to have unrestricted capital flowing into, and out of the country to boost growth and efficiencies within the home country. The effects of liberalization should interest investors as it can provide new opportunities for diversification and profit.

AN OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

The 'Sudras' were classified as inferior and the last varna to other three varnas, in ancient social system in India. Along with this several social, economic and political restrictions were imposed on them. They were treated as untouchable castes. These untouchables or castes were officially defined as depressed castes in 1932 and they were systematically listed in the 1931-Census of India. The Simon Commission in 1935 first coined the term 'Scheduled Castes'. All the untouchable castes, which were listed in 1931-Census of India, came to be known as the 'Scheduled Castes' (SCs) through the Government of India Act of 1935. The Scheduled Castes are defined under article 366 (244) of the Constitution of India as, "the Scheduled Castes means such Castes, Races, Tribes or parts of, or groups within such Castes, races or tribes, deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for this Constitution." Thus the Scheduled Castes are those castes which are listed as Scheduled Castes in the Constitution of India. The Scheduled Castes constitute a significant demographic strength in India. In the year 1935, the Scheduled Castes were estimated as about 5 Crores, According to the 2001 Census, the Scheduled Caste population in India is 166,635,700 persons, constituting 16.2 percent of the country's total population. Being rural people, four fifth (79.8 percent) of them live in rural areas and rest one-fifth (20.2 percent) live in urban areas. The highest percentage of Scheduled Caste population to the total Scheduled Caste population of the country live in Uttar Pradesh (21.1 percent) followed by West Bengal (11.1 percent) and Bihar (7.8 percent), Andhra Pradesh (7.4 percent) and Tamil Nadu (7.1 percent). In fact, more than 57 percent of total Scheduled Castes population inhibit in these five States.

IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION ON SCs AND STs

The international capitalist economy is undergoing a process of fundamental transformation in the organizations of production accompanied with institutional arrangements necessary for such transformation. Neo-liberalism, the structural adjustment policy of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and the WTO followed by the new GATT agreement constitute the institutional framework for transnational capitalism. This transformation since lasted two decades is known as a process of Globalization .Two more processes, namely, Privatization and liberalization accompany it. With the globalization and economic reforms there is a sea change in the debate on SC/STs rights. Globalization eased the marginalization of SCs and STs from socio, economic and cultural fields at the same time consolidating the opportunities in the hands of privileged. Under globalization caste conflicts and atrocities against SC and STs are migrated from individual ethical space to social and economic space. Globalization opened new opportunities for the upper caste cluster The changed scenario helped them to sustain their hegemony over the economy as well as over the social life in rural India with the coupling of upward linkages made available to them under globalization with already existing inward linkages within the systems.

Even after sixty years of Independence, the reservation status of SCs in all Government branches has been unsatisfactory. The rate of disparity in the implementation has been high. In the phase of globalization, the government policy is discouraging the reservation policy. This situation has created various social and economic problems in the contemporary period. In a way, the social justice for the SCs has been denied even in the contemporary period. An In spite of Constitutional provision, the reservation policy has been neglected. This must be taken as violation of Constitution. There must be significant representation of SCs in the decision-making posts, which could help further, for the development of SCs, as a whole. Similar kind of trend could be found among Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Owing to the democratic process since independence, increasing means of communication and the spread of education, there is increasing awareness among all the sections of society and the Scheduled Castes are not exceptions to it. The Constitution has released the forces of liberalism. Because these forces, an era of politicization has started in all walks of life and traditional gap between politics and society has come to an end. Now politics has become a new instrument for achieving socio-economic development. Socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes would be the precondition for their integration in the mainstream of society, which the constitution has visualized. Much has been done by way of constitutional provisions, administrative efforts and proper response from a larger section of the upper castes. However, whatever is done is not enough to match the rising expectations of the weaker sections including then Scheduled Castes. Still they are unorganized and constitute the larger chunk of the population. On the other hand, the organized sections even in Scheduled Castes have grabbed the benefits of socio-economic development. If we want to analyze this reality, the study should be interdisciplinary and based on variables -caste, class, religion, region, ideology, gender, identity etc. Because the problem of the Scheduled Castes is interdisciplinary, having many dimensions, and complex, it is also dynamic in nature.

Liberalization is an intrinsic aspect of globalization. "The essence of liberalization is that economic management should be left to the market. The prices determined by the interaction of demand and supply forces, whether they be for commodities, labour power, capital, land, or foreign exchange, should be flexible in either direction and should be capable of clearing the market. The resulting allocation of resources, commodities, labour power, foreign currency etc., would be optimal and efficient, while any deviation from it would entail avoidable social costs. In order to ensure that markets are allowed to undertake their jobs, all controls and regulations, as also measures that constitute barriers to entry, should be done away with It follows from this that the state should take a back seat in economic matters. The liberalization is followed by privatization. Globalization does not occur in a vacuum however. Its corrosive effect on democratic governance is being hastened by a cognate ideology of privatization that is prevalent both in the international scene and within the countries whose economies are being globalized. Privatization is an ideology that shapes democracy by attacking public power, by arguing that markets can do everything government once did better than government and with more freedom for citizens. Privatization within nation states open the way for a deregulation of markets and in turn eases the globalization of the economy. It softens up citizen to accept the decline of political institutions and tries to persuade them that they will be better off that way and more 'free'. As an ideology, it insists that government is about illegitimate public power and calls for the substitution of private power, which is simply assumed, without any argument, to be legitimate.

FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES/SCHEDULE TRIBE IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION

1. NEED OF POLITICAL EDUCATION

We have accepted a democratic form of government in an un-democratic society. It is, therefore, necessary to give political education to the people about the need and genesis of welfare policies for the weaker sections. Political education means education about nature, working and the functions of a political system in which you live. This was the duty of the elites and the leaders in the political process. Unfortunately both have miserably failed in their tasks. As a result of it, there is a lack of understanding about the problems of weaker sections which results in social tensions.

2. LACK OF POLITICAL WILL

There is a lack of political will regarding the development of Scheduled Castes. There is increasing populism to fetch the votes of Schedules Castes and very few sincere efforts for their development. Many a time the political process has divided the Scheduled Castes. It is observed that the welfare schemes remain on paper but because of the policies there is a backlash among the upper castes.

3. FAILURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY

A news item in Hindu (9 APR 2007) regarding the failure of administrative machinery in implementing the policies for the Scheduled Castes would throw light on its apathy and indifference. "Budgetary allocation and expenditure for Dalit welfare had fallen, and dedicated funds had been diverted to other departments, Mr. Venkatesh pointed out that Water resource, Food, Civil supplies and Consumer Affairs, Forests, Public Works, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Fisheries Departments did not have any specific programmes for Dali welfare. The committee, he said, was aghast that the Public Works Department did not have any scheme for the Dalits and diverted more that Rs. 200 core for roads, arguing that it would improve the living condition of Dalits as they also use the roads." In Maharashtra, it is experienced that twenty percent budgetary provision in Panchayati Raj bodies is not spent and the amount is transferred to the main budget to other items. There are five development corporations for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes. But for a long time their evaluation has not been made. The amounts declared, amount sanctioned and the actual amount spent is different. The last one being very meager. Three points emerge from such a situation. Number one, the policy provisions by the political process create unrest among the upper castes, as there is no adequate political education. Secondly, despite constitutional and legal provisions the Schedules Castes remain deprived of their adequate due in nation's development. And lastly, the injustice on the part of the Scheduled Castes continues in different forms, which leads to increase social tensions and social disintegration

4. CHALLENGE OF GLOBALISATION

In fact it is a high time that the leaders in the political process and academicians give a serious thought to the consequences of Liberalisation, Privatisation and particularly Globalisation. On the lines of the Scheduled Castes. In globalization the old concepts like nationalism, sovereignty are gradually waning and the there is an erosion of a nation-state. Samuel Huntington argues that now the culture would be an important variable in international politics and not the concepts like nationalism or sovereignty. There is increasing international interdependence on the one hand causing internationalism. On the other hand, the narrow and parochial loyalties are playing significant role. How to reconcile this contradiction? Here we need long term well as short-term policies and avoid adhocism, opportunism and populism. As we have seen above globalization needs quality and the quality assumes acquiring various skills necessary for individual and social development. Because of changing nature of economy and social conditions now there are new needs, which have arisen in society, now new sections have come up in society and they have non-traditional needs. They include the needs of senior citizens, the employed married couples in metropolitan cities, and the demand for crèche is on increase. Multiplexes, food malls, shopping malls, etc have changes the life style of the middle class. In this way new needs can be found out and an attempt can be made to give response to these demands by way of providing service to them. The 21st century is a century of multi- skills and a person having more than one skill will have definitely a bright future.

5. DEMAND FOR CHANGE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Dr. Ambedkar gave a message-"educates, agitates and organizes." But what kind of education? Present education is fast becoming irrelevant to the changing needs. It is to be understood that the present education system is the product of the colonial rule and the post-independence period governments have done very little to change the same. In addition to increasing educational opportunities, our demand should be to make the education system more meaningful and more relevant to the changing needs in society. It may be remembered in a way, that present unemployment is mostly false one. It is unemployment of the unskilled people. Therefore an attempt is to be made to improve the quality of the people. It could be achieved by way of acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes in the changing context.

6. MODEL OF NEO-BUDDHISTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Neo-Buddhists can be a good model for other Scheduled Castes for their development. During last sixty years the neo-Buddhists have done a remarkable progress. In all walks of life. It was found in 1971 census that their literacy has become equal to that of the Brahmins and all other castes and Scheduled Castes lag behind them. The neo-Buddhists have modernized themselves, removed superstitions among themselves and entered various professions and occupations. They speak for all weaker sections. They assert for removal of injustice, equal opportunity, organize them and have a clear perception of development. Now there are many more doctors, engineers, pleaders, professors, technicians, artists in films and on the stage, administrative officers. They have surpassed the dominant Maratha caste in many respects. They have ably utilized the policy of reservation in particular and policy of protective discrimination in general. They have made use of the Constitution and the political process in an efficient manner. There would be surprising if any other community has made such a remarkable development in such short period in the history of the world. Progress made by the neo-Buddhists is more because of the strong will for development created by their leader Dr Ambedkar. The spirit among the neo-Buddhists consists of removal of inferiority complex, willingness for hard work, sense of responsibility etc. This spirit is lacking in other Scheduled Castes. They may not follow the neo-Buddhists in totality. However the inspiration from them would be very useful for their development. The other Scheduled Castes should follow this model.

7. RESERVATION POLICY

The policy of reservation should be viewed as a part of the total policy for the development. Efforts should be made to observe that it is carried out sincerely and honestly. However it would be well to remind us that the reservation would not be enough for the development.

8. HELP FROM LIBERAL HINDUS

An effort should be made to seek the help from the liberal Hindus. Contrary to general belief, there is a strong element of liberalism among the Hindus. Dr.Ambedkar made its use wisely in the fight against untouchability. There should be fighting against the conservative elements and not all the Hindus. It should not be treated as a cold war between Scheduled Castes and the Hindus.

9. CASTES AND CLASS

In post-independence period, every caste is now roughly divided into three classes. The elites, middle class and the masses. They have different attitudes. What are necessary are the efforts for the development of the masses in Scheduled Castes. They badly need that it. Globalization has posed a challenge to all and more to the Scheduled Castes. Unless such efforts are done the values in the constitution would not be materialized.

EXPLAINING CAVEATS - SCs/STs, GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMISM

This paper claims at the outset that four caveats have to be underlined to discern the relationship between SCs/STs and globalization.

- 1. It's in the binary analysis that the argument that so far the state has not done anything for dalits versus globalization would do the required; Caste Capitalism versus Casteless Capitalism; Openness versus Closeness; American Companies versus Indian Companies; American Democracy versus Indian Democracy; Availability of Goods versus Scarcity of Goods; Restricted Consumptions versus Liberated Consumptions and so on. The severest deficit of issues like exploitation and presence and role of structure in relational manner like inter linkages of various exploitative structures and their working in concert The issues picked up by them are important but solutions end up as mere appendages in form of reaction to the existing theories and practice. And this does not lead to transgression of other theories/realities' and complete analysis. This analysis begins and ends with reaction in place of transcendence.
- 2. The second caveat is rejection of 'referential' treatment of SCs discourse. Referential treatment entails that there has been an arrival of arguments in defense of globalization and it is referred as 'globalization for SCs ' without exhibiting tenets of SCs discourse and evaluation from its perspective. Actually evaluation of globalization has been done thoroughly from neoliberal perspective under the influence of binary analysis and there is a complete absence of analysis from the perspective of SCs discourse. The defenders never take pain to arrive at the argument from within SCs discourse rather impose it from outside and term it as great emancipator.
- 3. The third caveat is rejection of 'preferential' treatment to 'sovereignty' over democratic rights. The sovereignty of the nation state and democratic rights though linked, occupies a different sphere altogether. As far as the 'external' aspect is concerned, both 'sovereignty' aspect and democratic rights share the common podium because without sovereignty of the nation states, democratic rights would not exist. And it is also possible that in the 'presence' of sovereign nation state, democratic rights may not be functional. Moreover, without sovereignty certain classes and castes would benefit because globalization needs alliance of dominant social forces in each country. The analysis of globalization is vital and becomes complete only when it takes both factors into awareness: 'sovereignty' to discern the nation state and 'democratic rights' to explore the sovereignty of deprived sections in various aspects.
- 4. The fourth and last is straight away rejection to coalescing modernity with globalization. Modernity is the enabling factor for billions of people who have been deprived and subjugated in the name of orthodoxy, superstition and heavenly orders. Globalization is a distinct phenomenon. The buzzword in globalization is 'integration' not 'inquiry.' Modernity enables the people to question whereas globalization focuses on acceptance of 'integration.' At best, globalization can be described as a process of modernization. The process of modernization that is globalization also cannot be termed modernity. The difference between two is that one can be modernized without being modern.

WELFARE AND EMPOWERMENT OF SCs AND STs IN THIS GLOBALIZED AND LIBERALIZED WORLD SOME POINTS DISCUSSED AS FOLLOWS IN UNDER TWELFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (2012-17)

- To review the progress of the implementation of the existing legislations related to the SCs, STs and mechanisms for their enforcement and suggest corrective measures.
- To review the existing approach, strategies and priorities, the on-going programme and their implementation for the welfare, development and empowerment of SCs, STs and suggest rationalization/ minimization of the on-going related programmes and effective inter-sectoral convergence and harmonization of schemes with the other similar social groups.
- To identify neglected areas and groups, gaps, weaknesses and bottlenecks in the implementation of schemes and take note of the persisting and emerging problems/ situations related to welfare, protection, development and empowerment of SCs, STs and other groups in the changing scenario and suggest necessary interventions.
- To assess the impact of the on-going economic reforms and progressive globalization/liberalization of economy on the socio-economic conditions of the SCs, STs and suggest effective strategies to cope up with the situation.
- To assess/evaluate the efficacy, strengthening and expanding the NGOs network, PRIs /Local Self Government and suggest specific measures for their effective involvement in the planning process to reaching the most needy on priority basis to SCs, STs.
- To undertake special issues pertinent to the sector, which needs study so that a suitable policy framework may be formulated by the working group.

CONCLUSION

Globalization has primarily been defended by the integrators who either fathom the emancipatory virtues out of it or expect its 'would be' fruitions. The fruitions get explication through economic integration especially in the realm of political and social integration. Dalits are not worried about globalization per se but share therein. They are afraid that in the name of unity for the struggle against globalization, their own struggle could be asked to be suspended' Ambedkar's basic faith was in representative political bodies "To empower both the SC/STs and non-SC/STs economically he proposed that the state should be given political power for the regulation and control of both key industries and agriculture. To this end he proposed the economic powers should be incorporated into the body of the constitution itself" Concerning economic rights and its vitality, Ambedkar appositely calls attention: "What we must do is not be content with mere political democracy. We must make our political democracy, a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless their lies at the base of it a social democracy...We must begin by acknowledging the fact that there is complete absence of two things in Indian society. One of these is equalities. On the social plane, we have in India a society based on the principle of graded inequality, which means elevation for some and degradation for others. On the economic plane, we have a society in which there are some who have immense wealth as against many who live in abject poverty". And the second aspect is to investment in the realms of education, health, house, water, and so on. Both constitute empowerment and envisage the subjugation free world thereby nonnegotiable variables. The fundamental aspect of democratic rights has to ensure the availability of these as non-negotiable resources. The functionality of globalization contravenes the democratic rights. The democratic rights not only ensure the SC/STs partaking in decision making process but also the exhibition of

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