AN INQUIRY ON KPSC RANKING AND INTER COMMUNITY DISPARITY AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBES OF WAYANAD

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Abstract

The Scheduled Tribes are socially and economically most disadvantaged communities. Compared to many other states in India, the status of STs in Kerala is slightly better. We can see that there is a disparity between the mainstream and the tribal groups as well as within the scheduled tribal groups. In this study researcher conduct an inquiry on Kerala PSC ranking and inter community disparity among scheduled tribes of Wayanad district of Kerala state. For this purpose 31 general ranked list and 7 special recruitment ranked lists published by the KPSC during 2018 and 2019 years were analysed. Results of the study showed that the number of scheduled tribes representation in KPSC main lists are negligibly low. There exist a inter community disparity in representation of ST candidates in KPSC main lists, supplementary lists and special recruitment lists.

Key words: Kerala PSC, Inter community disparity, scheduled tribes, ranked lists

INTRODUCTION

Tribes constitute 8.6 per cent of the total population of India (Census, 2011). The tribal population of India is distributed among 500 different communities. Most of the tribal settlements lag behind in economic development. The majority of the tribal communities are found in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra (Singh 1994:3). Each ST has its own traditions, culture, way of life and language (Rao, 2008). The unique heritage of STs differs within their respective groups. The literacy rate in India is 72.99 per cent and that of STs is 59 per cent. Tribal literacy rate is highest in Mizoram (91.7%) and lowest in Andhra Pradesh (49.2%). Studies showed that the socio economic statuses of scheduled tribes are very poor as compared the mainstream society (Rao, 2013).

As per the latest list of the Government of Kerala (2003), there are 36 Scheduled Tribes in the state of Kerala. The ST population in Kerala is about 4.84 lakhs which is 1.5 per cent of the total population (Census, 2011). Wayanad district has the highest Scheduled Tribes population in Kerala which accounts for 15 per cent of the total ST population. Paniya, Adiya, Kuruman, Kurichiya and Kaattunaikka are the main tribal communities in Wayanad district. The literacy rate of Kuruman and Kurichiya is about 75% but the literacy rate of others is less than 60%. If we look at the social advancement criteria and not just the literacy rate, we can see that some scheduled tribes outperform others.

Studies shows that inter cast disparity exist in the social development of the peoples of Kerala (Deshpande, 2000). Not only the inter cast but also the inter community disparities are observed in livelihood, income and education of tribal communities in kerala (paul, 2013). Suresh and Rajasenan (2015) identified that various factors like attitude, family environment, motivation, social environment, poverty and financial indebtedness are determines the social

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and educational development of scheduled tribes. The lifestyle of each group varies according to their livelihood and their social environment. Whether in higher education or higher social environments, the number of STs is low; in this small representation we can clearly see the dominance of some certain tribes. In this study investigators made an attempt to find Kerala PSC ranking and inter community disparity among scheduled tribes of wayanad districts of Kerala state.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the representation of scheduled tribes in public service commission (PSC) list of Kerala.
2. To analyse the inter community disparity observed in the representation of scheduled tribes in PSC list of Kerala.

METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF

Descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. The data were collected from the

rank lists published by the Public Service Commission (PSC), Kerala in Wayanad District in the years 2018 and 2019. For this purpose, 31 rank lists (17 -2018, 14-2-19), 7 NCA lists and 3 special lists were examined. The major tribal communities of Wayanad district viz., Paniya, Kuruman, Adiya, Kurichiya and Kaattunaikka were selected for the study. Analyses were made based on the data obtained from these sources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study mainly focused to find out the representation of STs in PSC lists and the inter community difference in their representation. By analyzing the 31 ranked list, it is clear that in 11(6- 2018, 5- 2019) lists there was no representation of scheduled tribes. In 13 lists there was no scheduled tribes representation in main list of the ranked list. The details of representation of scheduled tribes in ranked list are presented in table 1.

Table 1

Summarization of representation of scheduled tribes in PSC ranked list

Year	Number of list analysed	Number of list without STs	Number of list without STs in main list
2018	17	6	9
2019	14	5	4
Total	**31**	**11**	**13**

The ranked list of PSC consists of the main list and the supplementary list. In the main list, people from all categories are sorted based on their marks. In the Supplementary List, a specific number of person from particular community in proportion to the number of persons in main list, are arranged according to their marks. In this study main list and supplementary list of scheduled tribe is considered.

From the analysis of the PSC ranked lists it is clear that the representation of the scheduled tribes is very low in the main list. The

numbers are negligible as compared to the other section. In 2018 only 19 scheduled tribes are included in main list of 17 ranked lists and in 2019 only 5 are in the main list of 14 ranked lists. In the last 2 years, only a total of 24 scheduled tribes were included in the main list of 31 ranked lists published by the Kerala PSC in Wayanad district. This is a very small percentage compared to other parts. It is seen as a serious impediment to the social development of the scheduled tribes.

Analysis of inter community disparity in PSC lists shows that there is a clear inequality in

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the lists. The numbers of persons included in the main lists from Kuruma and Kurichiya communities are very much higher than that of Paniya, Adiya and Kaattunaikka communities. More than 80 % of persons belongs to Kuruman (n= 11) and Kurichiya (n =9) community. Table 2

Despite being the most populated ST community in Kerala, the representation of the Paniya is very low. The data and results of representation of scheduled tribes in PSC main list are presented in table 2.

Data and results of representation of scheduled tribes in PSC main list

Community	Number of candidates		
	2018	**2019**	**Total**
Paniya	3	0	**3**
Kuruman	8	3	**11**
Adiya	0	1	**1**
Kurichiya	8	1	**9**
Kaattunaikka	0	0	**0**
Total	**19**	**5**	**24**

Graphical representation of the number of scheduled tribes in PSC main list are presented in figure 1
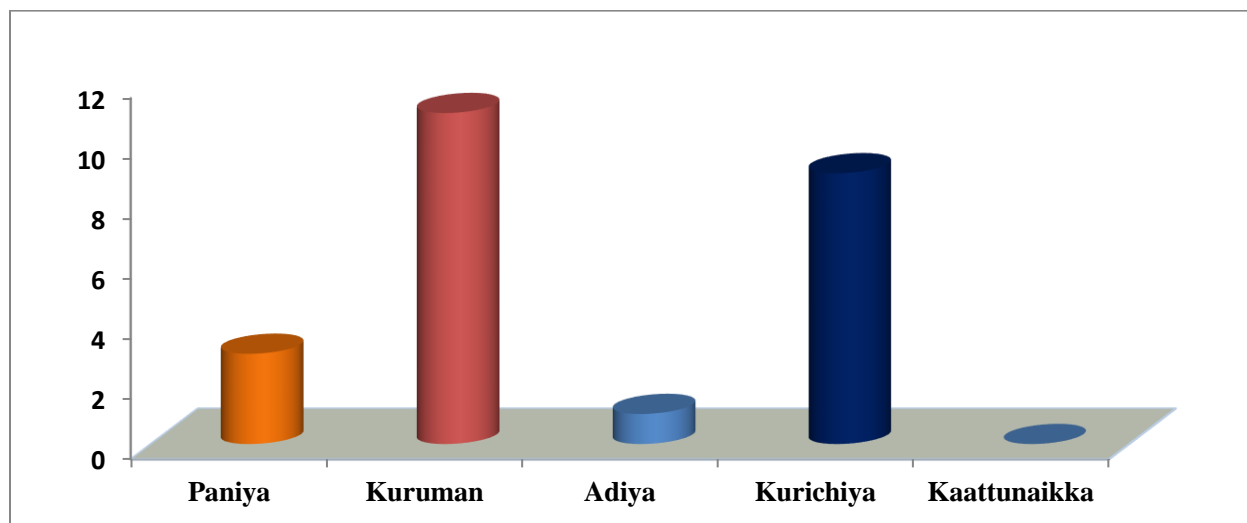

Figure 1 : Graphical representation of the number of scheduled tribes in PSC main list

The analysis of inter community disparities in the representation of scheduled tribes in supplementary list of PSC ranked list showed the same results obtained in the case of main list. The number of Kuruman (n= 71) and Kurichiya (n = 29) communities are very much higher than (more than 90 %) that of Paniya (n = 5), Adiya (n =0) and Kaattunaikka (n= 3). In

this, the representation of the Kuruman groups was much greater than in the others. The data and results of representation of scheduled tribes in PSC supplementary list are presented in table3.

Table 3

Data and results of representation of scheduled tribes in PSC supplementary list

Community	Number of candidates		
	2018	**2019**	**Total**
Paniya	2	3	**5**
Kuruman	53	18	**71**
Adiya	0	0	**0**
Kurichiya	25	4	**29**
Kaattunaikka	3	0	**3**
Total	**83**	**25**	**108**

Graphical representation of the number of scheduled tribes in PSC supplementary list are presented in figure 2
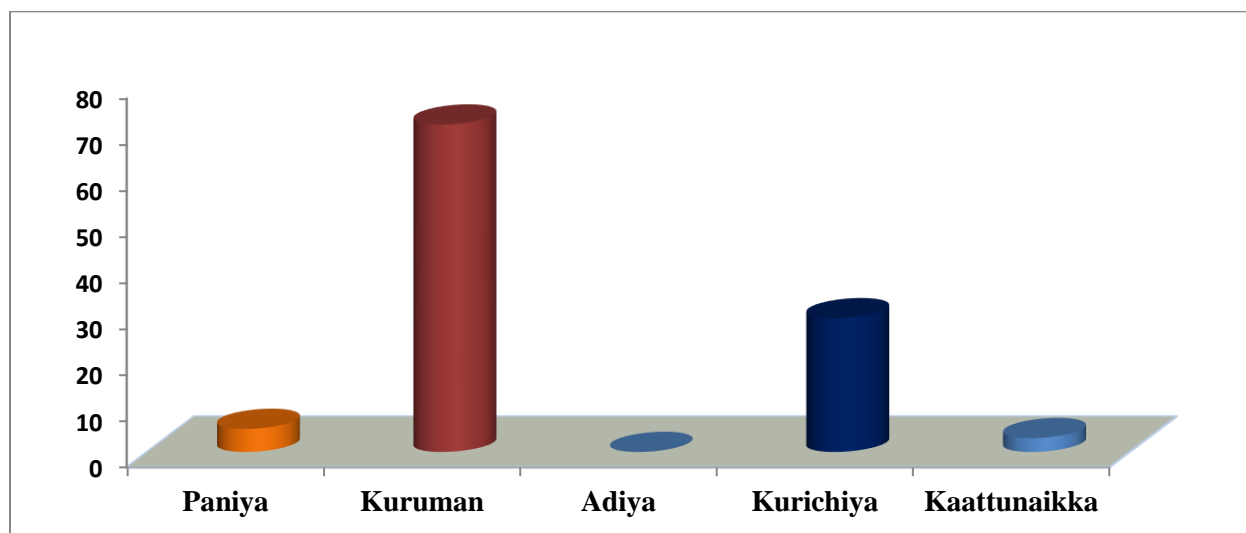

Figure 2: Graphical representation of the number of scheduled tribes in PSC supplementary list

Sometimes the required number of candidates from SC / ST or backward class may not be available in the rank list. This situation is called the no candidates available (NCA). In such cases a special recruitment was conducted, if recruitment is special recruitment for SC / ST, only qualified SC or ST candidates can participate. 7 such rank lists have been published in 2018 (n=2) and 2019 (n=5). The details of the community wise representation of scheduled tribes in special recruitment lists are presented in table 4.

Table 4

Details of the community wise representation of scheduled tribes in special recruitment lists

Community	Number of candidates		
	2018	2019	total
Paniya	0	0	**0**
Kuruman	15	13	**28**
Adiya	1	1	**2**
Kurichiya	10	4	**14**
Kaattunaikka	1	2	**3**
Total	**27**	**20**	**47**

From table 4 it is clear that as in the earlier cases the representation of Kuruman (n=28) and Kurichiya (n= 14) community members in special recruitment list is very much higher than (around 90 %) that of Paniya (n=0), Adiya (n=2) and Kaattunaikka (n=3) community. Graphical representations of the community wise representation of scheduled tribes in special recruitment list are presented in figure 3.
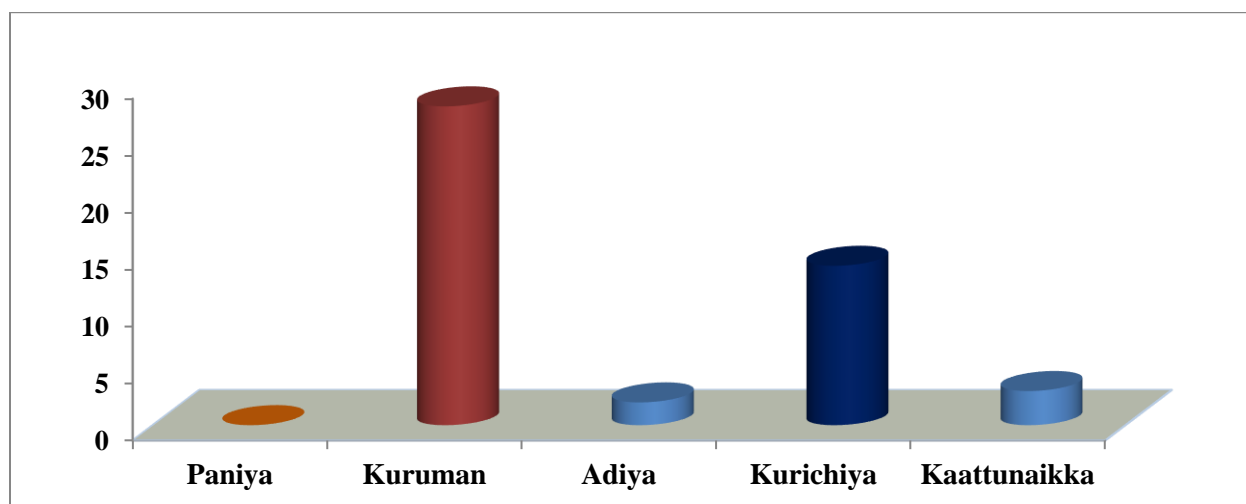

Figure 3: Graphical representations of the community wise representation of scheduled tribes in special recruitment list

CONCLUSION

The major findings of the study are

1. The number of scheduled tribes representation in KPSC main lists are negligibly low.
2. There exist a inter community disparity in representation of ST candidates in KPSC main lists, supplementary lists and special recruitment lists. The numbers of candidates from Kuruman and Kurichiya community are very much higher than that of Paniya, Adiya and Kaattunaikka community.

Many studies showed that there are many disparities between tribes and mainstreams in various aspects of life. This study revealed that the disparity is not only with the mainstream population but also there is a great deal of disparity among the STs, both educationally and

socially. The state of the tribal population paniya, which is the most populated ST community in Kerala, is in a very poor state. From the results of this study, it is clear that the representation of these groups in KPSC lists is very small. The situation of these sections in different areas is similar. If the social upliftment of the scheduled tribes is to be achieved in the fullest sense, there is the need to eliminate these inequalities. For this purpose special schemes need to be adopted for the most backward tribes. Such a precaution has come from the Kerala PSC. KPSC has issued a notification in 2017 for the special recruitment to the Police and Excise Department for the most backward STs. The list was published in 2018 by including the eligible candidates. In this list the priority was given to the scheduled tribes in the category of Paniya, Adiya and Kaattunaikka. This kind of initiative from authorities in various sectors is essential for the upliftment of STs.

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