

Vol III Issue VI March 2014

ISSN No : 2249-894X

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*Monthly Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal*

*Review Of  
Research Journal*

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**RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595**

**ISSN No.2249-894X**

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India  
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.ror.isrj.net



## SOCIO ECONOMIC SITUATION OF DALITS & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Vikramsingh

Research scholar, Department of Economics, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga.

### Abstract:

*Dalits are being punished by God for sins in a previous life. Under the religious codes of Hinduism a Dalit only hope is to be a good servant of the high caste and upon death and rebirth. They will be reincarnated a high caste. The Dalit status has often been historically associated with occupations regarded as ritually impure. Such as any involving leatherwork. Butchering or removal of rubbish animal carcasses and waste. Dalits work as manual labourers cleaning streets. Latrines, and Screws engaging in these activities were considered to be polluting to the individual and this pollution was considered contagious almost 90 percent of Dalits live in rural areas economic exploitation remains their most acute problem they are almost all marginal farmers or landless labourers. Large number of migrate to cities or to labour scarce rural areas in different parts of India. Many are in debt and are obliged to work off their debts as bonded labourers despite the fact that this practice was abolished by the law in 1976. Dalit workers have joined labour unions or made progress in gaining education and economic mobility. Many Dalit families have left rural areas to live in slums and on the pavements; Inclusive growth has become the buzzword in policy-spheres with recent phenomenon of rapid growth with characteristic patterns of exclusion. The social inequalities have raised questions about welfare approaches of Government planning, Employment generation programmes, social development, infrastructure, health-care and rural diversification very much important especially for the Dalits. This paper highlights the origin of Dalits, Need, socio-economic situation, Inclusive growth and the objectives of the paper is to know the socio-economic situation of dalits, employment generation programmes and various elements of inclusive growth.*

### KEY WORDS:

Inclusive growth, inequality, Social groups, Employment .

### INTRODUCTION:

Dalits since Independence in terms of constitutional/legal safeguards and provisions for political representation and economic betterment, the educational scenario, the employment status of the Dalits, and the question of empowerment. Notwithstanding improvement in literacy and education among Dalits. The achievement of social justice implies the removal of the inequalities in social, political and economic life and the creation of a just society. The term has taken on a specific meaning in the context of Indian society, where it has come to stand for justice for those social groups to whom it had been systematically denied in the past in this sense inclusive growth plays an important role in achieving social justice and removal of inequalities. Inclusive growth has become the buzzword in policy-spheres with recent phenomenon of

Title: "SOCIO ECONOMIC SITUATION OF DALITS & INCLUSIVE GROWTH" , Source: Review of Research [2249-894X] Vikramsingh yr:2014 | vol:3 | iss:6

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rapid growth and it is a major concern for human development in India with rising inequalities. Despite tremendous growth of economy, failure on distributive front has aggravated the progressive journey towards collective well-being. Employment generation, social and developmental infrastructure, health-care and rural diversification are some of the major suggestions from experts.

India is home to great religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism) and many sacred scriptures (the Upanishads, the Vedas and the Puranas, the Gita and the Adi Granth), home to many sacred rivers and numberless temples and pilgrim centers. One aspect that would make every Indian feels ashamed...that is the situation of caste discrimination; we are living with this shame for centuries now. India is a land of untold inequalities and injustices, of superstitious beliefs and ungodly practices, of the so-called pure people and the impure 'untouchables;' on this holy land are carried out the most noble as well as the most evil deeds, those who toil in the lands of the rich as bonded labourers for generations, those who are kept more as inanimate things than as normal human beings. How long this sickly psyche blaming all these to 'fate' or 'god's will' will go on? Sadly none can be sure when, if ever, this blotch would be cleansed once for all from the face of Indian society. Statistics of the Dalits in India, 200 million estimated Dalits in India, 17% of the Indian population, 110,000 registered cases of rape, murder and violence against Dalits in 2005, 38% of Indian state schools make Dalits sit separately when eating, 36% of rural Dalits live below the poverty line, 38% of urban Dalits live below the poverty line.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To Inclusive Growth and Pro-Poor Growth
2. To know the importance of inclusive growth among Dalits
3. To know the various employment generation programs
4. To know various elements of inclusive growth

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

Inclusive growth is largely depended on the development of all the social groups specially the Dalits because they are the oppressed class and facing many problems like Education, employment and etc. Hence, we are going to find out some important elements of inclusive growth, strategies and various employment generation programmes to lift their socio-economic situation and so that we can achieve inclusive growth.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The data is collected with the help of secondary sources such as Books, Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Government orders, Internet, etc

### **ORIGIN OF THIS CASTE SYSTEM:**

Origin of this caste system in the Indian society dates back to thousands of years. The fair skinned Aryans arrived in India around 1500 B.C. from South Europe and North Asia. When the fair-skinned Aryans invaded India, about two thousand years before Jesus Christ they defeated the dark-skinned indigenous people, Dravidians, who were the founder of the Indian Civilization. The Aryans subjugated them, learnt many things from them and built up another civilization, which came to be known as the Ganges Valley or Hindu Civilization. To perpetuate the enslavement of the original inhabitants of India, the Aryans created the caste system, and thereby excluded them from their own society. These people were left as 'outcastes' who were even denied of human status. In order to secure their status the Aryans resolved some social and religious rules, which allowed only them to be the priests, warriors and the businessmen of the society. History of the Aryan intrusion into India and their dominance over the original inhabitants, Dravidians and the prominence given to the scriptures of the former were the root cause for this caste discrimination. What cannot be denied is the place in Hindu Vedas. According to their tradition and scripture the high class people the Brahmins belong to the priestly class. The next is Kshatriyas who are the warriors, Vaishyas-traders, Shudras-laborers. The Dalits belong no caste. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are two groups of historically disadvantaged people recognized in the Constitution of India. During the period of British rule they were known as the Depressed Classes. According to the 2001 Census, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comprise about 16.2 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively, of India's population (about 24.4 percent altogether). This has increased to 16.6 percent and 8.6 percent respectively in 2011. The population of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) grew

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by 20.8 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively during the period 2001-2011.

**Population of India**

Indicator	Absolute		Percentage		Growth rate (2001-2011)
	2001	2011	2001	2011	
<b>Total Population</b>					
Total	1,02,86,10,328	1,21,05,69,573	100.0	100.0	17.7
Rural	74,23,02,537	83,34,63,448	100.0	100.0	12.3
Urban	28,63,07,791	37,71,06,125	100.0	100.0	31.7
<b>Scheduled Castes</b>					
Total	16,66,35,700	20,13,78,086	16.2	16.6	20.8
Rural	13,30,10,878	15,38,50,562	17.9	18.5	15.7
Urban	3,36,24,822	4,75,27,524	11.7	12.6	41.3
<b>Scheduled Tribes</b>					
Total	8,43,26,240	10,42,81,034	8.2	8.6	23.7
Rural	7,73,38,597	9,38,19,162	10.4	11.3	21.3
Urban	69,87,643	1,04,61,872	2.4	2.8	49.7

Source: Primary Census Abstract for Total population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011 Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

**SOCIO ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE DALITS:**

Indians still believe, and this includes a majority of Dalits, that Dalits are being punished by God for sins in a previous life. Under the religious codes of Hinduism, a Dalit's only hope is to be a good servant of the high castes and upon death and rebirth they will be reincarnated a high caste. The original Aryans who imposed Hinduism on India beginning some 3,500 years ago. The Dalit status has often been historically associated with occupations regarded as ritually impure, such as any involving leatherwork, butchering, or removal of rubbish, animal carcasses, and waste. Dalits work as manual labourers cleaning streets, latrines, and sewers engaging in these activities were considered to be polluting to the individual, and this pollution was considered contagious. As a result, Dalits were commonly segregated, and banned from full participation in Hindu social life. For example, they could not enter a temple or a school, and were required to stay outside the village. Discrimination against Dalits still exists in rural areas and also less when compared to Urban areas.

The term Dalit means 'oppressed', 'broken' or 'crushed' to the extent of losing original identity. The word "Dalit" comes from the Marathi language, and means "ground", "suppressed", "crushed", or "broken to pieces". However, this name has been adopted by the people otherwise referred to as Harijans, untouchables, and has come to symbolize for them a movement for change and for the eradication of the centuries-old oppression under the caste system. In legal and constitutional terms, Dalits are known in India as scheduled castes. The constitution requires the government to define a list or schedule of the lowest castes in need of compensatory programmes. These scheduled castes include untouchable converts to Sikhism but exclude converts to Christianity and Buddhism; the groups that are excluded and continue to be treated as untouchables probably constitute another 2 per cent of the population.

During the struggle for Indian independence two different approaches emerged for the improvement of the situation of the people now known as Dalits. The first was led by Mahatma Gandhi, who believed in raising the status of Dalit people (or, as he preferred to call them, Harijans) while retaining elements of the traditional caste system but removing the degrading stigma and manifestations of 'untouchability'. The other approach was led by Dr. Ambedkar, a lawyer and himself an 'untouchable', who believed that only by destroying the caste system could 'untouchability' be destroyed. Ambedkar became the chief spokesperson for those 'untouchables' who demanded separate legal and constitutional

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recognition similar in status to that accorded to Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. However, this was opposed by Gandhi and Ambedkar eventually gave up the demand. After rejecting Hindu values, in 1956 he converted to Buddhism and was later followed by a large number of converts.

After independence the Indian constitution abolished untouchability in law. Today Dalit politics largely centres around the just dispensation of the affirmative action benefits in employment, education and electoral representation granted to them under the constitution. However, the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955/1976 and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, both derived from the constitution, remain largely ineffective in their implementation. Many reasons lie behind this, including a lack of political will on the part of both central and state governments, a lack of commitment of upper-caste and class bureaucrats to social justice, the absence of vigilance committees of citizens to monitor the implementation process. Dalit women have been particularly badly affected in recent times. They are discriminated against not only because of their sex but also because of religious, social and cultural structures which have given them the lowest position in the social hierarchy. The stigma of untouchability makes them especially vulnerable victims of all kinds of discriminations and atrocities-almost 90 per cent of Dalits live in rural areas.

### LITERACY AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION:

With respect to education, data reveals that the educational progress of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations is quite remarkable. The total literacy rate for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe for all India recorded 54.7 per cent and 47.1 per cent respectively in 2001. This has increased to 66.1 per cent and 59 per cent respectively in 2011. During 2001 to 2011 the growth rates of literacy rate for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe recorded 20.84 per cent and 25.26 per cent respectively. These rates are much higher than the growth rates 12.65 per cent for total population of India.

### NEED FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN INDIA:

Inclusive growth is necessary for sustainable development and equitable distribution of wealth and prosperity. Achieving inclusive growth is the biggest challenge in a country like India. In a democratic country like India, bringing 600 million people living in rural India into the mainstream is the biggest concern. The challenge is to take the levels of growth to all section of the society and to all parts of the country. The best way to achieve inclusive growth is through developing people's skills. Since independence, significant improvement in India's economic and social development made the nation to grow strongly in the 21st century.

#### Literates and Literacy Rate (Persons) India

**Source:** Primary Census Abstract for Total population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011  
Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

Indicator	Literates		Effective literacy rate	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
<b>Total Population</b>				
Total	56,06,87,797	76,34,98,517	64.8	73.0
Rural	36,17,36,601	48,26,53,540	58.7	67.8
Urban	19,89,51,196	28,08,44,977	79.9	84.1
<b>Scheduled castes</b>				
Total	7,53,18,285	11,37,59,907	54.7	66.1
Rural	5,58,06,266	8,20,20,232	51.2	62.8
Urban	1,95,12,019	3,17,39,675	68.1	76.2
<b>Scheduled Tribes</b>				
Total	3,23,86,821	5,16,35,423	47.1	59.0
Rural	2,82,94,749	4,46,31,645	45.0	56.9
Urban	40,92,072	70,03,778	69.1	76.8

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The following factors encouraged the India to concentrate more on inclusive growth.

1. India is the 7th largest country by area and 2nd by population. It is the 12th largest economy at market exchange rate and 4th largest by PPP. Yet, India is far away from the development of the neighborhood nation, i.e., China.
2. The exclusion in terms of low agriculture growth, low quality employment growth, low human development, rural-urban divides, gender and social inequalities, and regional disparities etc. are the problems for the nation.
3. Reducing of poverty and other disparities and rising of economic growth are the key objectives of the nation through inclusive growth.
4. Political leadership in the country plays a vital role in the overall development of the country. But, the study has found that politicians in India have a very low level of scientific literacy.
5. Studies estimated that the cost of corruption in India amounts to over 10% of GDP. Corruption is one of the ills that prevent inclusive growth.
6. Literacy levels have to rise to provide the skilled workforce required for higher growth.
7. Achievement of 9% of GDP growth for country as a whole is one of the boosting factor which gives the importance to the Inclusive Growth in India.
8. Inclusiveness benchmarked against achievement of monitor able targets related to (i). Income & Poverty, (ii) education, (iii) health, (iv) women & children, (v) infrastructure, (vi) environment.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES/GENERATION PROGRAMMES:

#### (1) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

Launched in December 2000 as a 100 per cent CSS, PMGSY aims to provide all-weather connectivity to all the eligible unconnected rural habitations. Bharat Nirman, envisages connectivity by 2009 to all the habitations with a population of 1000 or more in the plains, and of 500 or more in the hilly, desert and tribal areas. The systematic up gradation of the existing rural road network also is an integral component of the scheme, funded mainly from the accruals of diesel cess in the Central Road Fund, with support of the multilateral funding agencies and the domestic financial institutions. Up to December 2005, with an expenditure of Rs.12, 049 crore, a total length of 82,718 km. of road works had been completed. .

#### (2) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY):

IAY aims to provide dwelling units free of cost, to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and freed bonded labourers, and also the non-SC/ST BPL families in rural areas. It is funded on a cost-sharing basis in the rates of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. Under IAY, the ceiling on construction assistance is Rs.25, 000/- per unit in the plains and Rs.27, 500/- for hilly/difficult areas; and Rs. 12,500/- on upgradation of unserviceable kutch house to pucca/semi pucca house for all areas. Up to January 30, 2006, about 138 lakh houses had been constructed/upgraded with an expenditure of Rs.25, 208 crore.

#### (3) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):

SGSY, launched in April, 1999 after restructuring the Integrated Rural Development Programme and allied schemes, is the only self-employment programme for the rural poor. The objective is to bring the selfemployed above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy. Up to November 2005, the Centre and States, sharing the costs on 75:25 basis, had allocated Rs.8,067 crore, of which Rs. 6,980 crore had been utilized to assist 62.75 lakh self-employed.

#### (4) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):

SGRY, launched on September 25, 2001 to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas, has a cash and food grains component, and the Centre bears 75 per cent and 100 per cent of the cost of the two with the balance borne by the States/UTs. In 2004-05, 82.23 crore persondays were generated with the Centre releasing Rs. 4,496 crore as cash component and about 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the States/UTs. Besides, under the special component of the SGRY, with the States/UTs meeting the cash components, Centre released 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the 13 calamity affected States. In 2005-06 up to November, 2005, the number of persondays generated under SGRY was 48.75 crore, while the Centre's contributions in

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terms of the cash and foodgrains components up to January, 2006 were Rs. 4651 crore and 35 lakh tonnes, respectively. Under the special component, about 11.65 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released to the 11 calamity-hit States in the current year

### **(5) National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP):**

The NFFWP was launched as a CSS in November 2004 in the 150 most backward districts to generate additional supplementary wage employment with food security. States receive food grains under NFFWP free of cost. The focus of the programme is on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation /tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas), and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads. In 2004-05, allocation of Rs 2,020 crore and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains generated 7.85 crore persondays of employment. In 2005-06, of the allocation of Rs 4,500 crore and 15 lakh tonnes of food grains (Revised), Rs.2,219 crore and 11.58 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains had been released up to January 27, 2006. About 17.03 lakh person days were generated up to December 2005.

### **(6) DPAP, DDP and IWDP:**

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) was launched in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those areas constantly affected by severe drought conditions. Desert Development Programme (DDP) was launched in 1977-78 to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) has been under implementation since 1989-90 for the development of wastelands/ degraded lands. The basis of implementation has been shifted from sectoral to watershed basis from April 1995. For 2005-06, Rs.353 crore, Rs.268 crore and Rs.485 crore have been allocated for DPAP, DDP and IWDP, respectively. So far in 2005-06 up to October, 2005, 3000 new projects covering 15 lakh ha., 2000 new projects covering 10 lakh ha. And 340 new projects covering 16 lakh ha have been sanctioned under DPAP, DDP and IWDP, respectively.

### **(7) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):**

In December 1997, the Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), which are the two special components of the SJSRY, substituted for various programmes operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation. The SJSRY is funded on a 75:25 basis between the Centre and the States. In 2003-04, the central allocation of Rs. 94.50 crore plus Rs. 10.50 crore for North- Eastern Region including Sikkim was fully utilized. Even 2004-05 saw the release of the entire budgetary allocation of Rs. 122.00 crore. In 2005-06, out of an allocation of Rs. 160.00 crore, Rs. 84.52 crore had been utilized until November 30, 2005.

### **(8) Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY):**

VAMBAY, launched in December 2001, facilitates the construction and up-gradation of dwelling units for the slum dwellers, and provides a healthy and enabling urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, a component of the Scheme. The Central Government provides a subsidy of 50 per cent, with the balance provided by the State Government. Since its inception and up-to December, 31 2005, Rs. 866.16 crore had been released as Central subsidy for the construction/up gradation of 4, 11,478 dwelling units and 64,247 toilet seats under the Scheme. For 2005-06, out of the tentative Central allocation of Rs. 249 crore, up to December 31, 2005, an amount of Rs.96.4 crore had been released covering 60,335 dwelling units and 381 toilet seats.

## **PROBLEMS BEFORE INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGIES IN INDIA:**

For a developing country like India the need of inclusive growth is vital to achieve the overall progress of the country. Though it is positive for macro-Economic stability 2008-09 resulted a relative growth slowdown mostly from the spillover effects of the weakening of the global economic momentum and volatile financial markets, The following problems are the major concerns for developing countries like India to achieve the inclusive growth.

**1. Poverty:** Percent of population living under the poverty line, which is 356.35 Rupees or around \$7 a month in rural areas the world bank estimates that 456 million Indians (42% of the total Indian population)



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now live under the global poverty line of \$1.25 per day (ppp). This means that a third of the global poor now reside in India. However, this also represents a significant decline in poverty from 60 % in 1981 to 42 % in 2005. Although the Rupee has decreased in value since then, while the official standard of 538/356 Rupees per month has remained the same. Income inequality in India is increasing on the other hand the planning commission of India uses its own criteria and has estimated that 27.5 percent of the population was living below the poverty line in 2004-05, down from 51.3 percent in 1977-78 and 36 percent in 1993-94.

2. **Employment:** Employment considered as one of the big problems for inclusive growth in India. Raising population at a great speed after independence showed its impact on employment. The Unemployment became the big worry to the development of the country. Since poverty is much higher than unemployment, employment is the only source to eradicate poverty. The quality and quantity of employment in India is very low due to illiteracy and due to over dependency on agricultural employment the quality of employment is also a problem. Unorganized employed people in India are around 85 percent workers in this sector do not have social security. The generation of productive employment for labour force in the economy as employment is a key to inclusive growth is the toughest task for the country. The country is also facing employment generation in all sectors regions and for all socio-economic groups particularly for poor sections of population backward regions lagging sectors and SC/ST/OBC/Women etc.

3. **Agriculture:** Traditionally, India is considered as the agricultural based country. As the majority of Indians are engaged in agriculture for employment. The recent developments in the sectors decreased this major sectors growth some of the problems in Indian agriculture.

1. Long term factors like steeper decline in per capita land availability, shrinking farm size.
2. Slow reduction in share of employment
3. Decline in yield growth due to land and water problems, vulnerability to world Community Prices, farmers' suicides.
4. Disparities in growth across regions and crops that is growth rate declined more in rain fed areas
5. Thus these problems became the hurdles in the key area for the economic development of the nation that is agriculture. Social development is also one of the key concerns in inclusive growth. The social development became the not criteria in the recent past in India. Social development also facing some problems which is making in the path critical to inclusive growth in the country.

**4. Regional disparities:** Regional disparities are also a major concern for India due to different culture and radiations. Traditional cultures, caste system and the rich and the poor feelings favored some specific groups as a result the regional disparities raised in India. Before and after independence and also due to the development in agriculture and industrial sector some regions in India. In India developed fast and some other places still are facing the scarcity, some of the regional disparities problems.

1. Per capita income is highest at 16,679 in Punjab and lowest per capita income is at Bihar Rs.3557
2. Female infant mortality varies from 12 in Kerala to 88 in Madhyapradesh
3. Richer states grew faster than the poorer states
4. Female literacy rate varies from 33.6 percent in Bihar to 88 percent in Kerala.

The key component of the inclusive growth strategy included a sharp increase in investment in rural areas rural infrastructure and agriculture spurt in credit for farmers increase in rural employment through a unique social safety net and sharp increase in public spending on education and health care. The government also should go for a variety of legislative inventions to empower the disadvantaged.

### CONCLUSION:

The social inequalities have raised questions about welfare approaches of Government planning, Employment generation programmes, social development, infrastructure, health-care and rural diversification very much important especially for the Dalits. The inclusive growth can be achieved only when we overcome from inequalities, disparities.

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