

Project title	Report on pilot study of non-representation of selected OBH communities in professional courses in Kerala
Source of funding	Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes, Thiruvananthapuram
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Abstract

The Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) was entrusted with the task of evolving a scheme for excluding Creamy Layer from SEBC communities in the State, taking into consideration of their socio-economic status, educational background, and family income. The Commission noticed that certain communities listed under Other Backward Hindu (OBH) category were either not represented or marginally represented in Professional courses in the state.

KSCBC entrusted with Kerala Statistical Institute (KSI), to carry out a sample survey of selected OBH communities in the districts of Ernakulam, Palakkad, and Kasaragod. KSCBC provided a list of communities coming under SEBC list from which no candidates applied for medical entrance examination, applied but not secured admission during the period 2009-2013. The sample survey covered 627 households representing 18 SEBC communities to collect necessary data. The communities covered were Agasa, Boya, Chavalakkaran, Devadiga, Ganika, Gowda, Hegde, Kalarikurup, Kerala Muthali, Koppala Velama, Mogaveera, Mukhari, Naicken, Padayachi, Parkavakulam and Peruvannan.

Demographic, education, social, economic, income and expenditure statuses of the above communities were analysed in the study. Three communities (Melakudi, Paravans and Mogers) appearing in SEBC list of Common Entrance Examinations were included in SC/ST list in the State. Families belonging to communities like Aremahrati, Bestha, Gudigara and Maratta were quite insignificant in number in Kerala.

The general reasons for non/marginal participation of members of the above communities in professional courses were general economic backwardness, low educational attainment of households, lack of individual initiatives and lack of household/societal motivation.

Recommendations like updating SEBC list of Kerala State, steps to verify the absence and insignificant presence of certain SEBC communities, steps to understand the possibility of SEBC claim under different quota and steps for proper assessment of the social, economic, educational and income status of SEBC communities were given to KSCBC.

