



# A Comparative Study on Educational Attainment Level of Working and Non-Working Women among Scheduled Castes

**Priyanka**

Research Scholar (Ph,D)  
Deptt. of Geography  
M.D.University, Rohtak

**Dr. Renu Arya**

Professor  
Deptt. of Geography  
M.D.University, Rohtak

**Abstract:** Educational attainment among Scheduled Castes women in India has been a topic of significant importance due to historical disadvantages and social inequalities faced by this marginalized community. The present study examines the differentials in education attainment level working and non-working women among Scheduled Castes in rural Haryana. This study is based on primary data collected through field survey using structured questionnaire from selected villages on the basis of stratified random sampling. The surveyed Scheduled caste women are represented by eight Scheduled Castes. Caste wise distribution of educated women's at different levels of education has been worked out. Thereafter, the aggregate weighted score, among working women it has been found that the Balmiki obtained the first rank with total weighted score of 238.93. Chamar and Dhanak obtained the second and third rank with a total weighted score of 195.38 and 175.68 respectively. On the lower side the Od (sixth) Bawaria (sixth) and Doom castes groups that obtained seventh rank with a total weighted score of 100, 100 and zero respectively. Among non-working women it has been found that the Banjara obtained the first rank with total weighted score of 300. Balmiki and Chamar obtained the second and third rank with a total weighted score of 261.52 and 256.00 respectively. On the lower side were the Bawaria, Doom Od, and Bazigar castes groups that obtained fifth rank with a total weighted score of 100 each. In this study we observe that the percentage of women with matriculation and higher education level is lower compared to primary and middle-level. This could indicate additional barriers and challenges faced by Scheduled Castes women in accessing and completing education at the matriculation level. These barriers may include limited availability of matriculation level educational institutions, financial constraints, cultural and social factors that discourage girls from pursuing education beyond a certain level.

**Key Words:** Scheduled Caste Women, Educational Attainment Level, Rank and Weighted Score.

**Introduction:** Educational attainment among Scheduled Castes in India has been a topic of significant importance due to historical disadvantages and social inequalities faced by this marginalized community. Scheduled Castes women historically faced discrimination, social exclusion, and limited access to resources, including education. They are discouraged from obtaining education due to prevailing sociocultural factors and accepted practises in some cases groups. The options and assistance available for Scheduled Caste women to

pursue education but restricted by discrimination, cultural expectations, traditional gender roles and obligations. At the same time, economic challenges may prevent Scheduled Castes women from pursuing courses since they may not have access to enough financial aid or scholarships. Efforts have been made by the Indian government to improve educational opportunities for Scheduled Castes and bridge the educational gap. Several policies and initiatives have been implemented to promote access to education, including reservation policies, scholarships, and special schools. **Reservation Policies:** The Indian government has implemented reservation policies that reserve a certain percentage of seats in educational institutions, both at the central and state levels, for Scheduled Castes and other socially disadvantaged groups. These policies aim to provide opportunities for representation and access to education. By addressing these issues and providing equal educational opportunities, it is possible to improve the educational attainment among Scheduled Castes women and promote social inclusiveness and empowerment.

**Study Area:** Haryana state is located between latitude 27° 39' to 30° 35' N and 74° 28' to 77° 36' E longitude having an area 44,212 sq. km. It has natural boundaries of the Shivalik hills in the north, the river Yamuna in its east and Ghaggar River is situated in the north-western part and southern boundary is provided by the Aravali hills which run through southern Gurugram, Rewari and Mahendergarh. The state is bounded by Himachal Pradesh on its north, Punjab on its west, Rajasthan on its south and Uttar Pradesh on its east.

**Objective:** The study has undertaken to identify Differentials in levels of educational attainment level of working and non-working Women among Scheduled Castes in rural Haryana.

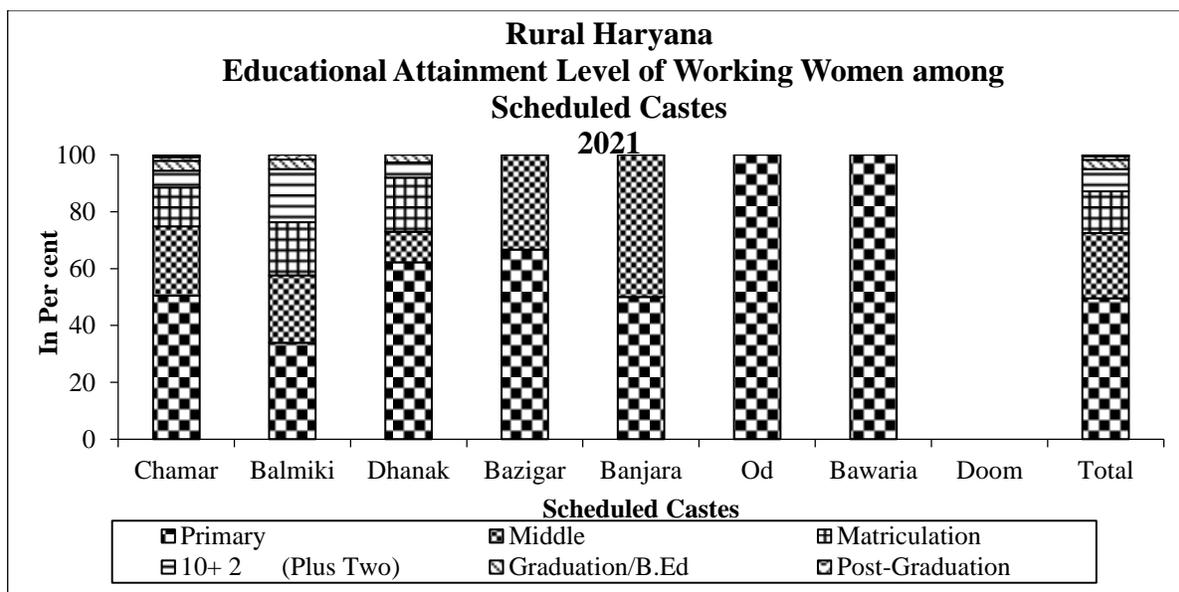
**Data Source Research Methodology:** This study is based on primary data collected through field survey using structured questionnaire from selected villages. On the basis of stratified random sampling based on different parameters like percentage of Scheduled Castes women population, literacy rate of Scheduled Caste women and work participation rate of Scheduled Caste women in the villages. Personal interview were conducted by the researcher with the women respondent. A total 600 women has been surveyed in which 438 are identified as literate. Out of 438 women 341 were literate workers and 97 were literate non-workers from fifteen selected villages. Caste wise percent distribution of educated persons in different levels viz. primary, middle, matriculation, plus two, graduation, post-graduation, M-phil and Ph.D were find out for the total educated women. Thereafter, the weighted score were derived by assigning different weight to different levels. For example 01 to primary, 02 to middle, 03 to matriculation, 04 to plus two, 05 to graduation and B.ED, 06 to post graduation, 07 to M-Phil, 08 to PhD. After that, the weighted score has been calculated to examine the rank differentials in levels of educational attainment among Scheduled Castes.

**Caste Wise Educational attainment among Working Women:** Table no.1 shows level of educational attainment among Scheduled Castes working women in rural Haryana in 2021.

**Table No.:1: Rural Haryana: Educational Attainment Level of Working Women among Scheduled Castes, 2021.**

S. No.	Name of the Sample Castes	Primary	Middle	Matriculation	10+ 2 (Plus Two)	Graduation/ B.Ed	Post-Graduation	M.Phil.	Ph.D.	Total
1	Chamar	118	57	32	14	08	03	01	01	234
	(%)	50.43	24.36	13.68	5.98	3.42	1.28	0.43	0.43	100
2	Balmiki	20	14	11	11	02	01	00	00	59
	(%)	33.9	23.73	18.64	18.64	3.39	1.69	0.0	0.0	100
3	Dhanak	23	04	07	02	01	00	00	00	37
	(%)	62.16	10.81	18.92	5.41	2.7	00	00	00	100
4	Bazigar	04	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	06
	(%)	66.67	33.33	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
5	Banjara	01	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	02
	(%)	50	50	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
6	Od	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02
	(%)	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
7	Bawaria	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01
	(%)	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
8	Doom	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	(%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>(%)</b>		<b>49.56</b>	<b>22.87</b>	<b>14.66</b>	<b>7.92</b>	<b>3.23</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021. Compiled by Research Scholar (B. Ed- Bachelor in Education, M. Phil-Mater of Philosophy, Ph.D.- Doctor of Philosophy).



(Diagram 1)

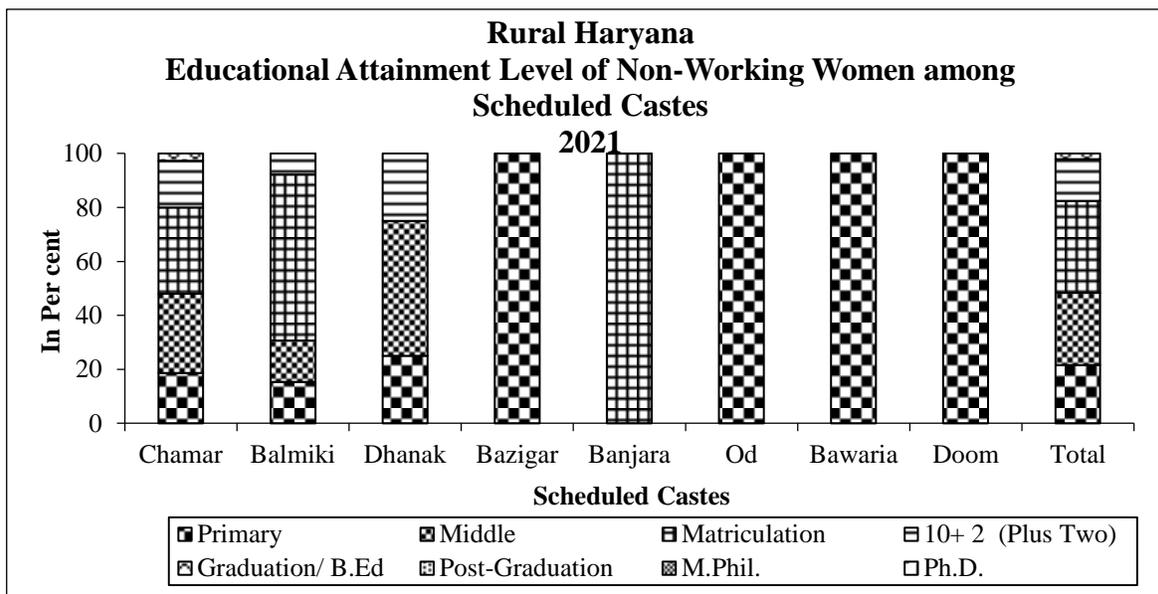
In rural Haryana, there were 169 women belonging to different castes group who achieved primary level education, accounting for 49.56 per cent, middle level education 22.87 per cent, matriculation level 14.66, plus two level 7.92 per cent, graduation/B.Ed level 13.23, post-graduate level 1.17 per cent, Mphil level 0.29 per cent and Ph.D level 0.29 per cent of the total sample population size. Chamar women have the highest number of educational attainments among the listed castes.

**Caste Wise Educational Attainment Level of Non-Working Women:** The percentage of Scheduled Cates women with primary level education is 21.65 per cent, middle level 26.8, matriculation 34.02 per cent, plus two level 15.46 per cent, graduation/B.Ed level 2.06 per cent in rural Haryana. In this context, it is noted that the percentage of women with graduation/B.Ed. level education is very low compared to the previous educational levels such as primary, middle, matriculation, and Plus Two. None of the non-working women from any of the Scheduled Castes who have attained post-graduation level education including M.Phil. and Ph.D level which indicates a significant gap or lack of representation at this level of education. The highest educational attainment among non-working women from Scheduled Castes in rural Haryana is at the matriculation level, with 33 non-working women 34.02 per cent having completed primary education.

**Table No.:2: Rural Haryana: Educational Attainment Level of Non-Working Women among Scheduled Castes, 2021.**

Sr. No.	Name of the Sample Castes	Primary	Middle	Matriculation	10+ 2 (Plus Two)	Graduation/ B.Ed	Post-Graduation	M.Phil.	Ph.D	Total
1	Chamar	14	22	24	13	02	00	00	00	75
	(%)	18.67	29.33	32.00	17.33	2.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
2	Balmiki	02	02	08	01	00	00	00	00	13
	(%)	15.38	15.38	61.54	7.69	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
3	Dhanak	01	02	00	01	00	00	00	00	04
	(%)	25.00	50.00	0.0	25.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
4	Bazigar	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01
	(%)	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
5	Banjara	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
	(%)	0.0	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
7	Od	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01
	(%)	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
6	Bawaria	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01
	(%)	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
8	Doom	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01
	(%)	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>(%)</b>		<b>21.65</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>34.02</b>	<b>15.46</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021. Compiled by Research Scholar (B. Ed- Bachelor in Education, M. Phil-Mater of Philosophy, Ph.D.- Doctor of Philosophy).



(Diagram 2)

**Educational differential among Scheduled Caste Working Women:** The table no.3 illustrates the educational differentials among Scheduled Caste working women in Haryana in 2021. It compares the highest and lowest values within each educational level and highlights the differences between them. These differences shed light on the variations in educational attainment among different Scheduled Caste groups in Haryana. At the primary education level, Bawaria women have the highest attainment with 100.00 per cent, while Balmiki women have the lowest with 33.9 per cent. This 66.1 per cent difference can be attributed to factors such as socio-economic conditions, access to educational resources, and cultural attitudes towards education. In middle education, Bazigar women have the highest attainment at 33.33 per cent, whereas Od, Bawaria and Doom working women show no attainment. This 33.33 per cent difference might be influenced by factors like access to schools, economic conditions, and availability of educational resources. Moving on to higher levels, the disparities in educational attainment become more pronounce.

For matriculation, Dhanak women exhibited the highest value of 18.92 per cent, while Bawaria, Banjara, Doom, Bazigar and Od women have no educational attainment, resulting 18.92 per cent difference. In 10+2 (Plus Two) education level, Balmiki women have the highest attainment at 18.64 per cent, while Banjara, Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, and Od women have no attainment. This 18.64 per cent difference could be due to variations in educational opportunities, infrastructure, and support systems. Similarly, in graduation/B.Ed., Chamar women achieve the highest value with 3.42 per cent educational attainment, while Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, and Od women have no attainment, resulting 3.42 per cent difference. For post-graduation Balmiki working women exhibited the highest value 1.69 per cent, while Bawaria, Banjara, Doom, Bazigar and Od women have no educational attainment, resulting in a 1.69 per cent difference. For M.Phil., and Ph.D. levels, with Chamar working women showing higher attainment compared to other Scheduled Caste groups.

**Educational differential among Scheduled Caste Non-Working Women:** At the primary education level, Bazigar, Bawaria and Doom non-working women have the highest educational attainment with 100 per cent, while Banjara non-working women have no educational attainment, resulting in a significant difference of 100 per cent.

**Table N. 3: (A) Difference in Levels of Educational Attainment of Working Women among Scheduled Castes, 2021**

Educational Levels	Scheduled Castes		Difference
	Highest Value	Lowest Value	
Primary	Bawaria (100.00)	Balmiki (33.9)	<b>66.1</b>
Middle	Bazigar (33.33)	Od, Bawaria and Doom (0.00)	<b>33.33</b>
Matriculation	Dhanak (18.92)	Od, Bawaria, Doom, Bazigar and Banjara (0.00)	<b>18.92</b>
10+2 (Plus Two)	Balmiki (18.64)	Od, Bawaria, Doom, Bazigar and Banjara (0.00)	<b>18.64</b>
Graduation/ B. Ed	Chamar (3.42)	Od, Bawaria, Doom, Bazigar and Banjara (0.00)	<b>3.42</b>
Post-Graduation	Balmiki (1.69)	Od, Bawaria, Doom, Bazigar, Banjara and Dhanak (0.00)	<b>1.69</b>
M. Phil.	Chamar (0.43)	Od, Bawaria, Doom, Bazigar, Banjara, Dhanak and Balmiki (0.00)	<b>0.43</b>
Ph.D.	Chamar (0.43)	Od, Bawaria, Doom, Bazigar, Banjara, Dhanak and Balmiki (0.00)	<b>0.43</b>

**(B) Difference in Levels of Educational Attainment of Non-Working Women among Scheduled Castes, 2021**

Educational Levels	Scheduled Castes		Difference
	Highest Value	Lowest Value	
Primary	Bazigar, Bawaria and Doom (100.00)	Banjara (0.00)	<b>100.00</b>
Middle	Chamar (29.33)	Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, Banjara and Od (0.00)	<b>29.33</b>
Matriculation	Banjara (100.00)	Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, Od and Dhanak (0.00)	<b>100.00</b>
10+2 (Plus Two)	Dhanak (25.00)	Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, Banjara and Od (0.00)	<b>25.00</b>
Graduation/ B. Ed	Chamar (2.67)	Balmiki, Dhanak, Banjara, Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria and Od (0.00)	<b>2.67</b>
Post-Graduation	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
M. Phil.	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Ph.D.	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2021. Compiled by Research Scholar.**

This disparity could be influenced by factors such as access to educational opportunities, socio-economic conditions, and cultural attitudes towards education. Moving on to middle education, Chamar women achieve the highest value with 29.33 per cent attainment, while Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, and Od women have no attainment. This 29.33 per cent difference suggests variations in access to educational resources, socio-economic factors, and cultural influences among these communities. In terms of matriculation, Banjara non-working women demonstrate higher attainment with 100 per cent, while the lowest-scoring groups (Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, and Od) have no educational attainment. Similarly, in the 10+2 (Plus Two) level, Dhanak women achieve the highest value of 25.00 per cent attainment, while the lowest-scoring groups have no attainment. This indicates discrepancies in access to higher secondary education among different Scheduled Caste communities, possibly influenced by socio-economic factors and available educational facilities. In the context of graduation/B.Ed., Chamar women exhibit higher attainment with 2.67 per cent, while Balmiki, Dhanak, Doom, Bazigar, Bawaria, and Od women have no attainment, resulting in a 2.67 per cent difference. The observed disparity can be attributed to varying levels of educational opportunities, resources, and support systems within these communities. However, it is important to note that the lowest value is also 0.00 per cent, indicating a lack of post-graduation attainment among certain Scheduled Caste.

**Rank Status of Educational Attainment Level among Scheduled Caste Working Women and Non-Working women:** The rankings of individual Scheduled Castes on the basis of distribution of Scheduled Castes working women as recorded through the primary survey in different levels have been determined (table 4). For this, weighted aggregate scores have worked out. On the basis of aggregate weighted score, it has been found that the Balmiki obtained the first rank with total weighted score of 238.93. Chamar and Dhanak obtained the second and third rank with a total weighted score of 195.38 and 175.68 respectively. On the lower side were the Od (sixth) Bawaria (sixth) and Doom castes groups that obtained seventh rank with a total weighted score of 100 and 100 and zero respectively. The rankings of Scheduled Castes non-working women as recorded through the primary survey in different levels have been determined (table 5). On the basis of aggregate weighted score, it has been found that the Banjara obtained the first rank with total weighted score of 300. Balmiki and Chamar obtained the second and third rank with a total weighted score of 261.52 and 256.00 respectively. On the lower side were the Bawaria, Doom Od, and Bazigar castes groups that obtained fifth rank with a total weighted score of 100 each.

**Table No.: 4: Rural Haryana: Rank Status of Educational Attainment Level of Working Women among Scheduled Castes, 2021.**

Name of the Scheduled Caste	Primary (W.S)		Middle (W.S)		Matriculation (W.S)		10+ 2 Plus Two (W.S)		Graduation (W.S)		Post-Graduation (W.S)		M.Phil. (W.S)		Ph.D. (W.S)		Total (W.S)	Ranks
Chamar	50.43x1	50.43	24.36x2	48.72	13.68x3	41.04	5.98x4	23.92	3.42x5	17.1	1.28x6	7.68	0.43x7	3.01	0.43x8	3.48	195.38	II
Balmiki	33.90x1	33.9	23.73x2	47.46	18.64x3	55.92	18.64x4	74.56	3.39x5	16.95	1.69x6	10.14	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	238.93	I
Dhanak	62.16x1	62.16	10.81x2	21.62	18.92x3	56.76	5.41x4	21.64	2.7x5	13.5	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	175.68	III
Bazigar	66.67x1	66.67	33.33x2	66.66	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	133.33	V
Banjara	50.00x1	50.00	50.00x2	100.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	150.00	IV
Od	100x1	100.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	100.00	VI
Bawaria	100x1	100.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	100.00	VI
Doom	0.00x1	0.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	0.00	VII

Source: Field Survey, 2021. Compiled by Research Scholar. W.S. Weighted Score.

**Table No.: 5: Rural Haryana: Rank Status of Educational Attainment Level of Non-Working Women among Scheduled Castes, 2021.**

Name of the Scheduled Caste	Primary (W.S)		Middle (W.S)		Matriculation (W.S)		10+ 2 (Plus Two) (W.S)		Graduation (W.S)		Post-Graduation (W.S)		M.Phil. (W.S)		Ph.D. (W.S)		Total (W.S)	Ranks
Chamar	18.67x1	18.67	29.33x2	58.66	32.00x3	96.00	17.33x4	69.32	2.67x5	13.35	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	256.00	III
Balmiki	15.38x1	15.38	15.38x2	30.76	61.54x3	184.62	7.69x4	30.76	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	261.52	II
Dhanak	25.00x1	25.00	50.00x2	100.00	0.00x3	0.00	25.00x4	100.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	225.00	IV
Bazigar	100x1	100.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	100.00	V
Banjara	0.00x1	0.00	0.00x2	0.00	100x3	300.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	300.00	I
Od	100x1	100.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	100.00	VI
Bawaria	100x1	100.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.00x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	100.00	VI
Doom	100x1	100.00	0.00x2	0.00	0.0x3	0.00	0.00x4	0.00	0.00x5	0.00	0.00x6	0.00	0.00x7	0.00	0.00x8	0.00	100.00	VI

Source: Field Survey, 2021. Compiled by Research Scholar. W.S. Weighted Score.

**Conclusion:** In summary, the observed differentials in educational attainment among Scheduled Caste working and non-working women in Haryana reflect considerable disparities across the Scheduled Castes. This paper indicates a significant gap in higher education attainment among the working and non-working women. This might indicate additional challenges and barriers faced by Scheduled Castes women in accessing and completing higher education. Some of the challenges include limited access to higher education institutions, financial constraints in pursuing higher education, lack of awareness about the importance of higher education, cultural and societal factors that discourage girls from pursuing higher education, and systemic issues that hinder educational opportunities at the higher education level.

## References

- Chamar, K.V and S.K Chamar (2015). Caste Differentials in Levels of Educational Attainment in Village Sirsa Kheri. *Transactions, Journal of the Institute of Indian Geographers*, Vol. 37, No. 1, pp.27-34.
- Chamar, K.V. and Rekha (2015). Levels of Educational Attainment of Chura Caste in Village Badli: A Clan Wise Analysis. *Journal of Social Science Research Perspective*, Vol.3, No.1, pp.7-14.
- Renu Arya and K.V. Chamar (2015). Differentials in Levels of Educational Attainment of Dhanak Caste in Rural Haryana. *Journal of People and Society of Haryana*, Vol. V, No. II, pp. 14-17.
- Dey, D. and T. Halder (2014). Present Status of Women in Higher Education in West Bengal: An Appraisal. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Studies*, Vol. 1, Issue-3, p.166.
- Roy, K. (2008). Socio-Economic Characteristics of Slum Population of Kolkata. *Geographical Review of India*, Vol. 70(1), pp. 96-104.
- Sharma et. al. (2007). Extend of Female School Dropouts in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. *Journal of Social Science*, Vol. X (3), pp. 201-204.
- Schultz T.W. (1961). Invest of Human Capital. *American Economic Review*, Vol.LI, pp. 1-17.
- Sen, A. (1998). Radical Needs and Moderate Reforms. in Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen (ed.) *Indian Development: Selected Regional Perspectives*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
- Vaid, D. (2004). Gendered Inequality in Educational Transitions. *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, pp. 3927-3938.
- World Bank (2004). World Development Report” Making Service Work for Poor People. [www.worldbank.orgsiteresources/worldbank.org/education/resources/education status](http://www.worldbank.orgsiteresources/worldbank.org/education/resources/education%20status).