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Topic of Research: Housing and Household Amenities Among the Dalit or Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh

Findings

Based on primary field survey data from rural and urban areas, the analysis highlights improvements in access to housing, household amenities, education, and occupational mobility. One of the most visible areas of change is in housing and household amenities. A gradual shift from kutchha and semi-pucca houses toward pucca structures is evident, particularly in urban wards. Access to electricity has expanded significantly across all communities due to government initiatives such as Saubhagya, although reliability remains weaker in rural villages. Sanitation facilities have improved considerably after the implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, leading to a decline in open defecation, especially in urban areas. However, Jatav households display higher access to private toilets, drainage, and piped water, while few households of Balmiki and Dhobi community particularly in rural settlements continue to depend on hand pumps and open drainage systems. Changes in cooking fuel usage further indicate partial modernization. Urban households increasingly rely on LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, whereas some rural households especially among Balmiki and Dhobi communities still depend on firewood and cow dung due to affordability constraints and irregular refilling of LPG cylinders.

Education has emerged as a key driver of social change. Inter-generational comparisons reveal a clear shift from widespread illiteracy among the grandparent generation to higher school completion among the youth, particularly in urban areas. Jatav households show relatively higher educational attainment, benefiting from scholarships, reservations, and proximity to educational institutions. Dhobi and Balmiki communities have also experienced improvement.

Occupational patterns demonstrate a gradual decline in traditional caste-based occupations such as leather work, sanitation, and washing services. Younger generations increasingly seek employment in private services, government jobs, small businesses, and informal urban sectors. Migration both seasonal and permanent has become an important strategy for economic advancement.

Overall, the study indicates that social change among Scheduled Castes in Moradabad is real but stratified. While urbanization, education, and welfare schemes have enabled upward or horizontal mobility for some households, especially among Jatavs, as compare to Balmiki and Dhobi communities in few households in rural areas. The findings also highlight that social change is multidimensional: improvements in education and housing have contributed to shifts in aspirations, occupational choices, and social awareness.

Hence, this study makes an important empirical and academic contribution by providing a micro-level analysis of social change and socio-economic mobility among Scheduled Castes in Moradabad district. Unlike macro-level studies based primarily on secondary data, it integrates primary household survey data with qualitative insights to capture lived experiences of Jatav, Dhobi, and Balmiki communities in both rural and urban contexts.