

CHAPTER - V

FINDINGS AND EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

5.0 INTRODUCTION

The present study undertaken by the investigator aimed at studying family background, academic problems and academic performance of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other Backward Caste vis-a-vis General category M.B.B.S. students from first, second and third year of academic year 1992-93 from Baroda Medical College, Baroda. It also aimed at studying the utilisation of various facilities by SC, ST and OBC students. The major findings are discussed here, with reference to, each major section in this study.

5.1 FAMILY BACKGROUND

This section contains information on various aspects of the family background of students and major findings are as follows :

1. It was found that in case of SC, ST and OBC students as well as general category students, the enrollment pattern of respondents was highly positively skewed in favour of male in comparison to female. But it was more acute in case of SC, ST and OBC students. It means that the situation of female enrollment in Medicine course continues to be poor with regard to SC, ST and OBC students.

2. The educational and occupational pattern of parents of general category students was found more elite in nature in comparison to those of SC, ST and OBC students and this was more true in case of their fathers' occupations, as fathers of some students were businessmen, top bureaucrats and professionals also.
3. As far as ownership of the houses was concerned, it was found that the majority of parents from both the categories had their own houses.
4. With regard to the number of siblings, majority of students from both the categories had one or two siblings. This showed that majority families were concerned about maintaining small families.

Thus, it was found that on the whole, the position of general category students was better than that of SC, ST and OBC students in terms of their occupational and educational background.

5.2 ACADEMIC PROBLEMS

5.2.1 Library :

1. With regard to sufficiency of the required books and availability of books as and when needed in the college library, it was found that on the whole, students from both the categories were satisfied with them-although there were some variations in terms of percentages. With regard to the non-availability of books as and

when needed in the library, students from both the categories have come out with some common reasons like shortage of books. With regard to measures adopted by them in order to meet the shortage of books, they did mention that they either purchased the books or borrowed them from others. This was found common in both the categories.

2. With regard to the utilisation of libraries other than Baroda Medical College Library, it was found that the students from both the categories utilised other libraries. But the percentage was found higher among SC, ST and OBC students. The reasons mentioned by them were (1) Availability of those books, which were not in the college library (2) Books could be issued for home and those could be kept with them for longer duration and (3) Availability of latest books.
3. Majority of SC, ST and OBC students mentioned that the books should be available in Gujarati so that they would be benefited by them but this was not found in case of majority of general category students.
4. With regard to the suggestions for improvement of library facilities, it was found that the students from both the categories did offer number of suggestions, having a very wide range.

Thus, on the whole, it was found that there were not much differences in the reactions of SC, ST and OBC students

on the one hand and general category students on the other hand. It also reflected that, on the whole, students did utilise the college library to a great extent and they did show awareness about various aspects of the library as a system. They also came out with a wide range of suggestions for improvement in the library facilities.

5.2.2 Home :

1. With regard to the mode of conveyance used by day-scholars from both the categories, it was found that majority of SC, ST and OBC as well as general category students did use vehicles like Moped/Scooter to cover the distance between home and college. Though the percentage of day-scholars using Moped/Scooter was larger among general category students, the difference was not very significant-especially in light of their economic background. This does show that they were helped by their family members with regard to their requirements.
2. Since most of the day-scholars from both the categories were having Moped/Scooters and majority of them were not feeling that their study was affected adversely by the distance between college and home. Even majority of the day-scholars from both the categories were not affected adversely by the amount and time they spent for the domestic work. Majority of them had separate rooms for their study in both the categories.

On the whole, it was found that with regard to the home environment, there was not much difference between the facilities enjoyed by students from both the categories although there were some differences in the family background.

5.2.3 Classroom Learning :

1. With regard to the medium of instruction at school level, majority of SC, ST and OBC students had Gujarati as medium of instruction at school level and due this majority of them had to face some difficulties in understanding the lectures but the percentage of these students was less than those who had Gujarati as medium of instruction at school level. On the other hand, majority of the general category students did not face this difficulty. In case of those students who faced this difficulty, it was found in both the categories, that students were taking help of their teachers and their friends. It does reflect healthy relations among them.
2. With regard to the encouragement given by the teachers, students from both the categories mentioned that the students were encouraged by their teachers which not only showed the willingness on the part of the teachers but it also showed the non-discriminatory behaviour on their part towards their students.

3. With regard to the reasons for non-participation in the classroom discussions, students from both the categories had almost similar reasons and these reasons were due to (1) English, not being a medium of instruction at school level, (2) inferiority complex (3) lack of confidence to speak in the classrooms and (4) Shyness.
4. With regard to suitability of different methods of instruction, majority of SC, ST and OBC students mentioned that they did not prefer lecture method due to various reasons while, projecting with slides and pictures was favoured by many SC, ST and OBC students.

5.2.4 Practicals :

1. In case of students from both the categories, it was found that majority of the students did get enough co-operation from their teachers and class-mates in carrying out their practicals, which showed co-ordial relations between students and teachers and among students themselves.
2. In case of general category students, large number of students did not face any language problem to understand the instructions given in English before practicals started. This could be due to English as medium of instruction at school level. Further, when they were also asked about how did they overcome language problem, if at all they had any. Those

students who had this problem did mention that they took help of their friends and teachers and some students mentioned that they tried to solve it through self-reading. But on the whole the number of students facing this problem were very less. The reason on part of majority of students to contact their friends to solve this problem could be that they might have found it easier to contact their friends than their teachers.

With regard to solving problems, during practicals, very large number of students did mention that they did contact their teachers and very few students took the help of friends or class-mates. This could probably be due to the reason that during practicals, they might be finding it more easier and appropriate to contact their teachers to get their difficulties solved on the spot, so that they will not face problems later on.

3. With regard to evaluation of theory papers as well as practical work, majority of students from both the categories did mention that they were given proper justice in evaluation of both theory papers as well as practical work.

5.2.5 Hostel :

1. With regard to the admission problems, it was observed that majority had not faced any serious problem in this regard from both the categories. The problems were of similar nature viz. late admission, they had to come

more than once and seniors were not vacating rooms. Thus, SC, ST and OBC students did not face any such problem which was different from general category students nor there was any complaint about harassment to them by upper caste students. The problems they faced were mostly due to less vacancy and delay in procedural formalities which needs to be attended by concerned authorities.

2. With regard to various aspects of the hostel life viz. food, and sharing of common facilities, the findings were mostly similar in both the categories. With regard to food problems, the general reaction from both the categories was - dissatisfaction about the quality and nature of food. Although, in terms of percentage, it was little more in case of general category students. But on the whole, in both the categories, more than 50% students did not express dissatisfaction which could be due to the reason that over a period of time they might have adjusted themselves to hostel food.

With regard to sharing of common facilities, the number of students expressing dissatisfaction from both the categories, was not very large and it was less than 20% of the total. The problems mentioned by the students from both the categories were mostly related to uncleanliness and problem of water which is quite understandable and authorities need to look into such

problems seriously as these aspects affect students' academic life vitally.

3. With regard to solving their problems, more than 60% students from both the categories, took help of wardens and room-partners. The percentage is higher among SC, ST and OBC students. This shows that these students were not ill-treated by their room-mates or warden nor they had problems of discrimination or segregation from students and wardens.
4. With regard to the distance between college and hostel affecting their study, large number of SC, ST and OBC students (60%) mentioned that the distance was affecting their study adversely. But with regard to general category students, only 39% faced this problem. This deference could be due to the reason that majority of general category students might be having their own two-wheelers like moped/scooter.

5.3 EXTENT OF UTILISATION OF FACILITIES

1. With regard to the utilisation of scholarship facility, it was found that less than half of the SC, ST and OBC students were getting the scholarship. It was not enough to know the number of students getting scholarship but it was also very important to know the reasons for not getting the scholarship on part of some students. When the students were asked to mention the reasons, the major reason was income ceiling while some

other students did mention other reasons such as lack of awareness about scholarship facility and lack of knowledge about the time when they will start receiving it.

2. With regard to raising of income limit, majority of SC, ST and OBC students did opine that income limit should be raised. But another thing was found out that more than thirty percent students did not react to this issue. Further, it was found that only half of the total SC, ST and OBC students showed awareness regarding reasons/causes for not getting scholarship.
3. Regarding receipt of scholarship, it was found that out of the total students who received scholarship, only 35% of them did receive it every month, while others were not getting it every month. When they were asked whether scholarship should be given every month, majority of them opined that it should be given every month. When they were asked to mention reasons for payment of scholarship every month, they did mention that it would facilitate them to meet monthly expenses and to bear the expenses on books.

5.4 STAGNATION AMONG STUDENTS

The statistics with regard to stagnation shows that it is highest among Scheduled Tribes, followed by Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes. It is least in case of general category students. Thus, not only that, literacy is

least among Scheduled Tribes but when it comes to the academic performance, it is poorest among them.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS

Family background of the respondents :

As the findings indicate, in case SC, ST and OBC students, the enrollment pattern is highly positively skewed in favour of male students which is also there in case of general category students. But in case of SC, ST and OBC students, the disparity between male and female enrollment is wider than general category students.

This implies that although literacy rate is increasing among weaker sections of the society, the gap (disparity) between male and female enrollment which exists at school level is carried forward to higher education level also. This shows that there is a need to provide some special equity measures in terms of academic guidance like remedial coaching tutorial classes, academic motivation to see that not only the enrollment increases among SC, ST and OBC students but the gap between male and female enrollment too would not be as wide as it exists today.

Further, with regard to the educational and occupational background of the parents of SC, ST and OBC students as well as general category students, it shows that majority of SC, ST and OBC students belong to middle income or lower middle income group unlike that in case of general

category students. With regard to educational background also, general category students are in better positions and some of these students are second generation learners in Medicine. The percentage of first generation learners in higher education among SC, ST and OBC female students is higher than those in general category.

This shows that despite of several constraints, the parents of SC, ST and OBC students from middle income class and lower middle income class and those with lower educational qualifications have shown readiness to send their children to professional course like Medicine which involves higher cost than general education courses. The duration of this course being longer, it involves higher "opportunity cost" (as economists word it). Further, if one takes into account, job opportunities in terms of becoming teacher in Medical college, one has to study further for three years for masters course which delays the job placement. Despite of all these different impediments, it can be observed that the SC, ST and OBC students are joining the M.B.B.S. course but many of them may not be privileged in matter of getting proper academic guidance due to the level of educational background of their parents.

Among SC, ST and OBC students majority of them do not have more number of siblings which shows increasing awareness among the SC, ST and OBC parents towards small families.

On the whole, it can be inferred that the awareness for, higher education and especially professional course like Medicine, is increasing among weaker sections but still it is necessary to see that it percolates to weaker among weak as the downward filtration theory proposes. The various equity measures in terms of reservation of seats, lower admission criteria and some other measures which seem to promote higher education among weaker sections, should further help to bring equality of educational opportunity between SC, ST and OBC students and general category students. In this regard, the measures need to be taken to organize career and vocational guidance right from the school level.

Academic Problems :

With regard to library facilities, the findings show that the percentage of SC, ST and OBC students utilising libraries other than their college library is more than the general category students which shows that they are aware about the use of different libraries and it shows the sincerity on their part for their study. The reasons for utilising these libraries could be that they may not be in a position to purchase books or to borrow. This may not be there in case of general category students who had better family background. Both the categories have shown awareness for improvement of library facilities. Majority of SC, ST and OBC students prefer books in Gujarati medium to facilitate their study, while it was not found among general category students. With regard to home environment, majority of SC, ST

and OBC and general category students are using moped/scooter to cover the distance between college and homes which is perhaps responsible to opine them that the distance between homes and college does not affect their study adversely. Although, the percentage of students using moped/scooter are more in case of general category, the difference between two categories is not very significant. The time spared for the domestic work does not affect their study adversely in case of students from both the categories. Further, with regard to the availability of separate rooms for their study, it was found that the majority of SC, ST and OBC students as well as general category students had separate rooms for their study.

These findings show that despite of their family background, majority of SC, ST and OBC students are getting lot of encouragement from their parents. This also shows the interest of their family members towards their study.

Same type of encouragement is also provided in case of general category students but it is more noteworthy in case of SC, ST and OBC students looking at their family background.

In case of hostellers, the same types of problems were faced by students from both the categories. e.g. with regard to admission, lack of enough number of seats and delay in getting admissions. For these, concerned authorities need to take due actions. The adjustment problems with regard to food and sharing of common facilities in the hostels are almost

similar in case of students from both the categories but in case of food problems, it seems that there are some differences between SC, ST and OBC students and general category students. In case of classroom learning, it seems that majority of SC, ST and OBC students do face initial problems to understand the lectures given in the classrooms mainly due to English as medium of instruction as well as some psychological complexes. For this, it is necessary to arrange some remedial classes for them so that the academic performance on part of these students would improve. The problem of English also affects them to follow the instructions given before practicals but it is not so severe as these instructions are simple and of short duration. As far as the cooperation of teachers and peer-group is concerned, the SC, ST and OBC students are getting sufficient co-operation from them and they have not expressed any complaints like segregation, discrimination or ill-treatment. This shows healthy climate in the institution and also progressive and democratic attitude on the part of teachers.

Utilisation of Scholarship Facility :

With regard to scholarship, it was found that the majority of those students who were not getting scholarship, was due to high income of their families and most of them suggested to raise it. Further, most of the students felt that the amount of scholarship was not adequate and therefore it should also be raised. The disbursement of scholarship was not regular and therefore necessary actions need to be taken

in this regard which will facilitate them to cover their regular expenses.

Stagnation among Students :

As the statistics with regard to stagnation shows that it is highest among Scheduled Tribes, followed by Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes. It is least in case of general category students. Thus, stagnation statistics also shows that among weaker section also there is variation. Thus, not only that, literacy is least among Scheduled Tribe but when it comes to the academic performance, it is poorest among them. Therefore, it is necessary to pay maximum attention to this particular category among weaker sections of the society. It also raises a question mark against the rationale of providing more than 10% of reservation of seats to Scheduled Tribe students if it is going to result into high rate of stagnation.