

# Education and Healthy Aging of Elderly belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class categories of the Population in India

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**ABSTRACT:** The modernization of the Indian tradition has been passed through certain education and development processes. But, the Indian caste system remains the reality, despite several assenting provisions laid down in the Constitution of India. The present conditions of the elderly people, their health indices and quality of life are the by-products of their education acquired earlier in India. The article is an attempt to analysis the levels of education among the elderly people belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class categories of population in India. On account of healthy aging, this presentation explains the distribution of the elderly age group, sex and residence along with their educational levels. The methods adopted for this study are confined to the secondary data which have been collected from Census of India 2011, latest government reports and published articles. The findings of the study show the significant differences between educational levels of the elderly population and their healthy aging. The education endures the significant relationships with their sex and dwellings. Thus, it has been concluded that universal and uniform education policy with a distinct strategic plan of actions for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class categories of the population will definitely overcome the educational discrepancies and differences in healthy aging of the elderly in the future.

**Key words:** Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Class, Education, Healthy Aging

## I. INTRODUCTION:

The World Health Organization defines old age as “the period of life when impairment of physical and mental functions is increasingly recognized by comparison in the previous period of

life.” Old age means the reduced physical ability that involves the giving up of role playing in socio-economic activities and a change in economic status moving from economic independence to economic dependence upon other’s for support (WHO, 2014). The decline in birth rates than in the death rates in the developing countries like India is a recent phenomenon. The declines in the Total Fertility Rate, Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate and Fertility have been the primary determinant of population ageing (United Nations, 2015). The concept of “active aging” has also fostered an interest in the well-being and life satisfaction dimension. However, the definition of quality of elderly life and its determinants remained a concern (Smith AE, 2004). The individuals encounter change as they age, changes include not only physical or biological but also social changes such as change in role, status, etc.

Smith AE (2004) has focused on subnational variations by presenting an analyse of the available data for measuring key SDH in India over the past two decades and assessed inequities by geography, caste, and gender, and identify priorities for public policy. But the Governments have been trying to reduce inequalities in all determinant factors since the Independence in India. Through a numerable short and long term measures the Governments have been implementing the socio-economic development and sociocultural upliftment programs for all segments of population by focusing special attention to the SC, ST and OBC population in India. Despite all the initiatives undertaken for, the situation of the SC, ST and OBC population remains under marked.

The tribal people in general are hardly benefited with the educational environment created by the ruling power over the years. Despite the

numbers of developmental policies and programs, the tribal population in India continues to remain vulnerable with higher rates of illiteracy, ignorance, lack of health care facilities and accessibilities of health care services (Bir T, 2006). The elderly tribal with hardly any knowledge and skills of modern education and technologies are constrained to take care of their own way of life, their own livelihood and health with available health care service facilities at local level. The tribal people have barely any alternatives other than their own traditional means of diagnosis and cure for any of their diseases. While the Scheduled Caste people live in the country having lowest rank in the caste hierarchy (Bharti N K, 2019). This low grade perception is applied to elderly people in both rural and urban areas in India. The main problems faced by the scheduled castes in the past and present are socio-economic, education, religious and political deprivation which are directly associated with the health and quality of elderly life. But as per Indian Constitution, OBCs are described as "socially and educationally backward classes", and the Government of India is enjoined to ensure their social and educational development (Govt. of India, 2017). Despite the government measures, the OBC could hardly improve their educational levels except the creamy layer of its population. The census of India 2011 did not classify OBC separately and enumerated data like SC and ST population, but in this analysis OBC information is presented in All Other category of the general population. Whatsoever, the majority OBC population remains backward. So the level of education, health behaviour and aging process among SC, ST and OBC people continue to be precarious in India.

## II. EDUCATION OF THE SC, ST AND OBC ELDERLY POPULATION:

Since the socio-economic status of the people is the outcome of their given environments of education and occupational income, the good educated and socio-economic position of the people are associated with their better health status. But, in practice, education is one of the causes of health inequality that spread over the elderly population. Therefore, the education of older people is both an indicator and a contributory factor in health status differences in different segments such as SC, ST and OBC population in India. As comprehended, the incidence of multiple health problems, arthritis and minor health problems is found to be relatively lower among the elderly, educated up to senior secondary level and graduate and above (RenuTyagiand TattwamasiPaltasingh, 2017).

Thus, it is understandable that the level of education among the members of the family also plays a vital role to take care of the health of the elderly. As also mentioned that family as an institution has greatest sociological significance, it influences the whole life of an individual in a very significant manner and brings changes in the whole social structure (Rahit Kumar, 2013).

A lack of formal education has been shown to be related to a greater risk of elderly abuse. This is predominantly important in the Indian society because, the education levels of older Indians are very low, it has been estimated that 73% of persons above 60 in India are illiterate (Skirbekk V, 2014). The most consistent relationship between studies established in the US that educational attainment is inversely related to physical disability in older age (Berkman and Gurland 1998). Some other studies have also evidenced that the low education is associated with poorer self-rated health, greater difficulties in performing daily activities and poor quality of life (Hirve et al., 2010; Van Minh, Byass, Chuc, & Wall, 2010). Illiteracy and economic dependence adversely affect the health of the elderly (Srivastava, Sharma, Gupta, Kaushal, & Chaturvedi, 2012). Further, lower educational level could also influence self-help knowledge and the way that a person seeks and gets medical assistance while the life style diseases, that is, hypertension and diabetes are found to be more prevalent among more educated elderly than the elderly with basic literacy (RenuTyagiand TattwamasiPaltasingh, 2017).

However, in the educational and sociocultural environments the caste systems is the reality of Indian society. The "modernization of the Indian tradition" (Singh Y, 1973) has been passed through certain education and development processes, but, today's elderly people, their health indices and quality of life are the consequences of their level education acquired earlier in young and middle age of life. Therefore, the dynamics of education among elderly people belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories stand-in to reveal the road map and directions towards the policy formulation and execution for healthy aging and quality of life of elderly in India.

The social determinants of health (both physical and mental) and disability among older people are crucial factors that affect the way of life of older people. These phenomena of an 'ageing population' effect to policy concerns about the potential impact of changing dependency ratios and increasing disability trends in health and social services. However, in addition to changes in the

age structure of the population, the dynamics of ageing also appear to be changing. This seems to be more peculiar among elderly people belong to SC, ST and OBC categories as they have been struggling from lack of education and socio-economic backwardness in India.

### III. MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The main data collected and presented in this article are basically from the Census of India 2011. The secondary data and information collected from the publications such as articles, books, Government reports, etc. The central focus of the data analysis is given to the Census of India 2011. The sample size of the relevant data has been considered the all India total of SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories of the population. The determinants of education have been classified pertaining to the subject and congregated data to represent the country as a whole.

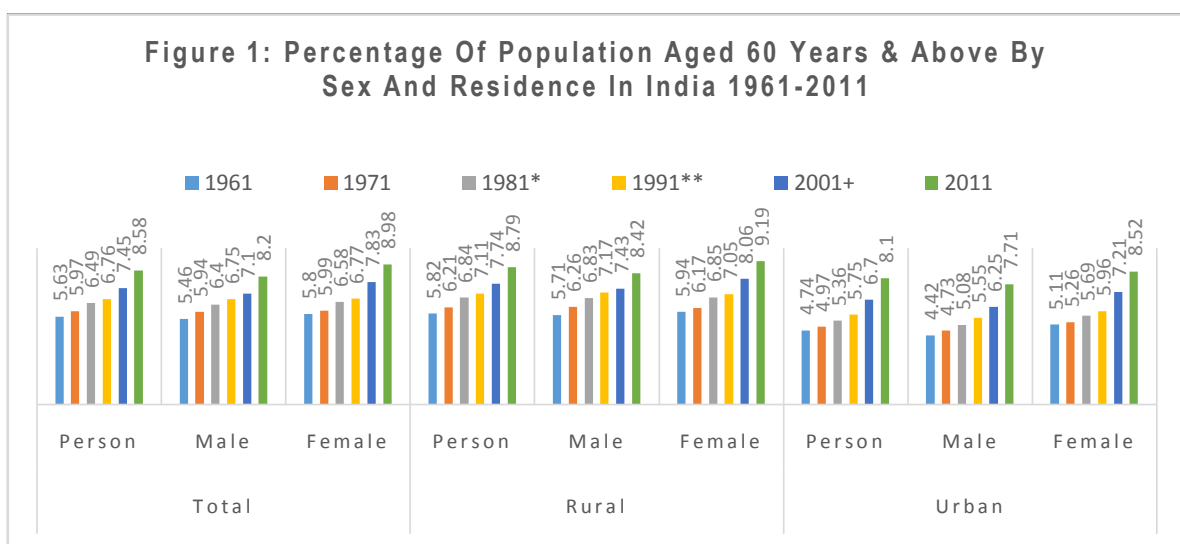
The collected data from a total sample of all India population have been dissected, organized, categorized and tabulated according to the content of the subject. Thus, the templates of the education data related to SC, ST and All Other/OBC have been analysed, discussed and deliberated in the presentation of the article. Sometimes, census data

are called as the primary data, but here it has been considered as secondary data published by the Government of India and made available in the public domain for analysis and discussion. Nonetheless, a systematic effort has been tried to put data into the context by stressing the relevant and significant information on the subject.

### IV. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

#### 4.1. Demographic Profile of the Elderly in India:

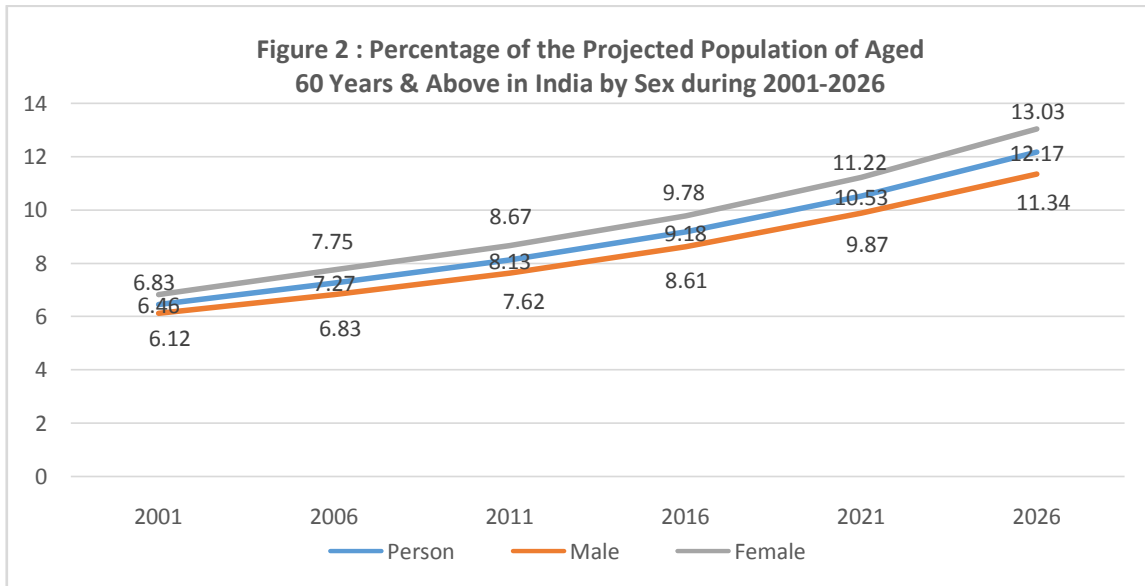
The Government of India has recently disclosed that the 60 plus population will increase to about 340 million in India by 2050. While the United Nation projected the same to grow to 316.8 million by 2050, whereas the Help Age India has also estimated at 324 million. India is graying faster than previously projected estimates (HelpAge India, 2014). There are a significant interstate disparities prevailing as distinguishing features in India. It has been observed that both the share and size of the elderly population is increasing over time. From 5.6% in 1961 the proportion has increased to 8.6% in 2011. The males are marginally lower at 8.2%, while the females are 9.0%. The trend of increasing in rural and urban areas is also shown in figure 1.



#### 4.2. Projection of Elderly Population in India:

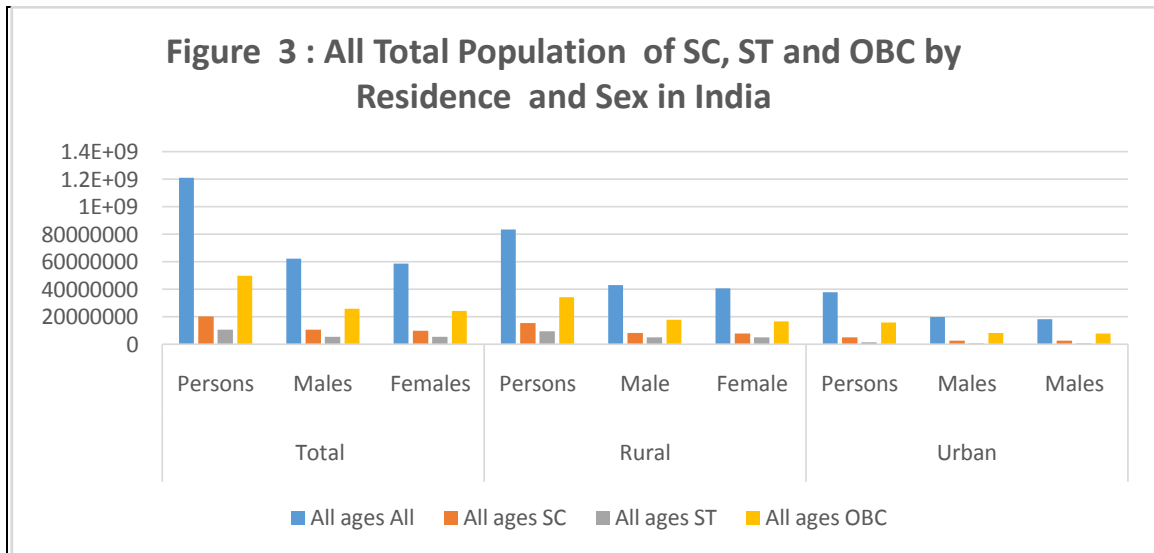
Further, it has been stated that the percentage of the projected population of age 60 years & above in India by sex during 2001-2026

would be from 6.46 to 12.17 persons that is 11.24 male and 13.03 female (Govt. of India, 2016) as shown in figure 2.



In the 2011 census, the total Indian population was 121 crore which could be by now, be somewhere around 130 crore. 20% of the entire population in India belong to the SC population, it comes nearly 26 crore SC people in India. As 9% of the entire population belongs to Scheduled Tribes, which constitutes nearly 11.7 crore ST population. As estimated 41% of the entire population belongs to OBC category, that comes to

nearly 53.3 crore OBC of the total population. The remaining 30% population belong to general category which is being nearly 39 crore general population in India (Govt. of India 2011) as shown in Figure 3. In such a situation of the population growth, the increase of elderly people - especially among SC, ST and OBC as mentioned above draws a focused attention in India.



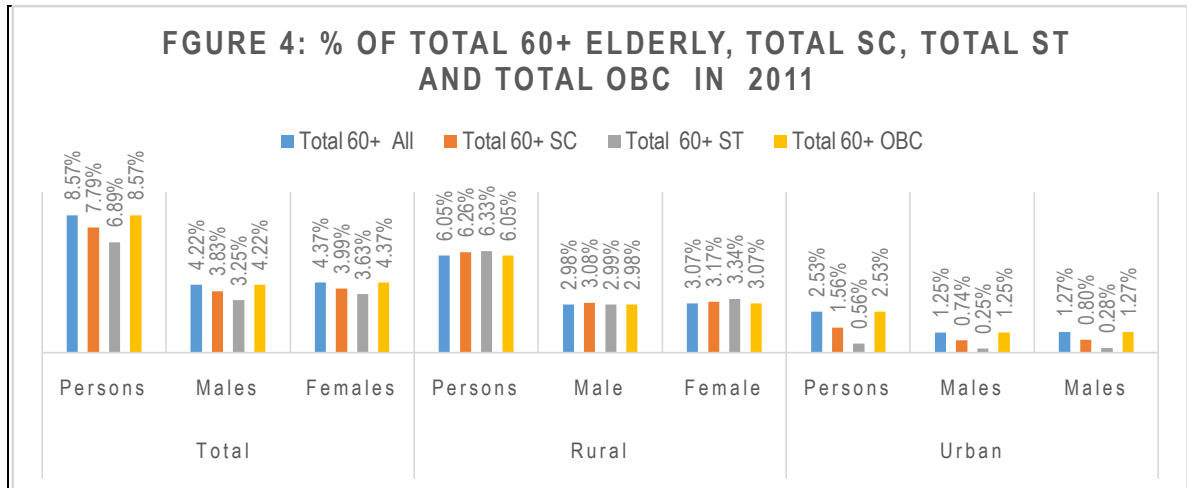
**4.3. Elderly SC, ST and OBC Population by Residence and Sex in India:**

As per Census 2011, there are about 104 million elderly persons (53 million females and 51 million males) in India. The percentage of SC, ST and OBC elderly is given in figure 4. It clearly shows that the female elderly is higher than the

male elderly in rural areas. Since the OBC population has been calculated on the basis of 41% of all total population, its percentage is showing the same as the percentage of the total general population. The trend of the percentage among SC, ST and OBC categories of the population shows that the ST elderly is more than SC & OBC in the

rural area. Within the ST population, female elderly people are more than male in the rural areas which

is a grave concern in India.

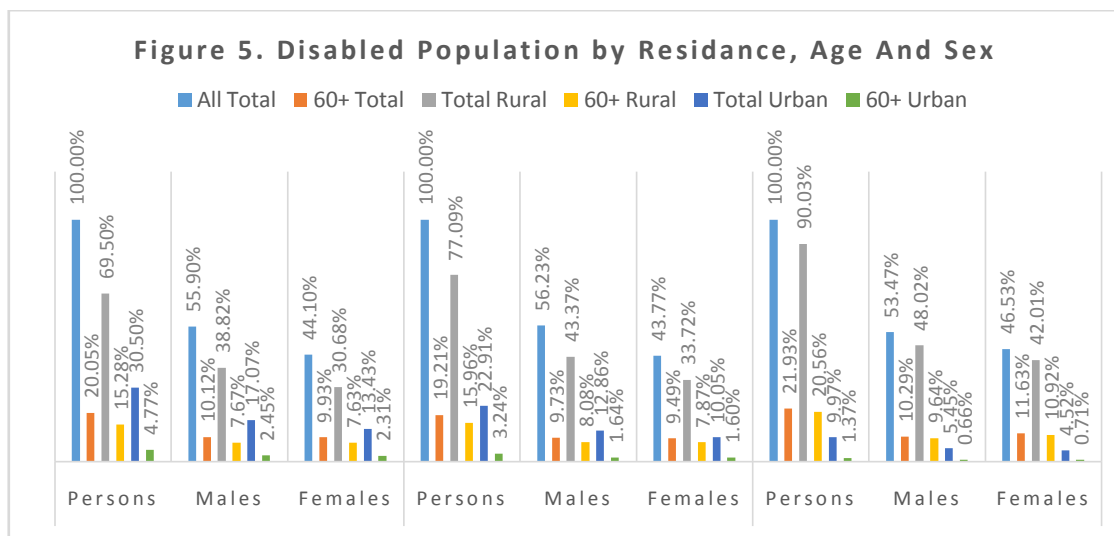


#### 4.4. Disabled SC, ST and All Other/OBC Elderly Population in India

The education is one of the important determinants that has been affecting the prevalence of disabilities in the population. This is a significant indicator of the healthy ageing which is the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security. Therefore, the magnitude of disability is necessary to comprehend the education and healthy ageing process.

According to census 2011 data, a total of 2, 68, 14,994 persons (55.90% male and 44.10% female) of All Other/OBC category of the population were disabled in India. Similarly 49, 27,433 persons (56.23% male and 43.77% female) of SC population were disabled. For the Scheduled Tribe population 21, 40, 763 persons (53.47% male

and 46.53% female) were disabled in in India (Govt. of India 2011). This clearly shows in overall that within each categories the female disability is more among the ST population as compared to SC and All Others/OBC. 60+ elderly, disability was stated as 20.05% persons (10.12% male and 9.93% female) of its total disabled population in All Other/OBC category. While 19.21% persons (9.73% male and 9.49% female) of the SC elderly population were found disabled. Similarly, 21.93% persons (10.29% male and 11.63% female) of ST elderly were reported as disabled out of its total disable population as shown in figure 5. However, the elderly, disability among ST population out of its total disabilities is more and female ST elderly is also higher as compared to SC and All Other/OBC population in India.



In rural India 69.50% persons (38.82 % male and 30.68% female) of All Other/OBC category were reported disabled out of its total disabilities. Whereas 77.09% persons (43.37% male and 33.72% female) were SC disabled. Likewise, 90.03% persons (48.02% male and 42.01% female) of ST people were stated out of its total disabilities in rural areas. It appears that the vulnerability of disabilities is highest in the rural areas, especially among the ST population followed by SC people. This directly draws the attention to the given rural health and education infrastructure development and its service provisions in India. In the case of elderly people, 15.28% persons (7.67% male and 7.63% female) were reported disabled from All Other/OBC category out of its total disabilities in the rural area. For the SC population, 15.96% persons (8.08% male and 7.87% female) of elderly disabled. Similarly, 20.56% persons (9.64% male and 10.92% female) of ST elderly were disabled in rural areas as shown in figure 5. This clearly shows that the percentage of ST elderly, disability is much higher than the SC and All Other/OBC categories of the rural elderly population. This is a serious matter as per as the tribal education, health and developments are concerned.

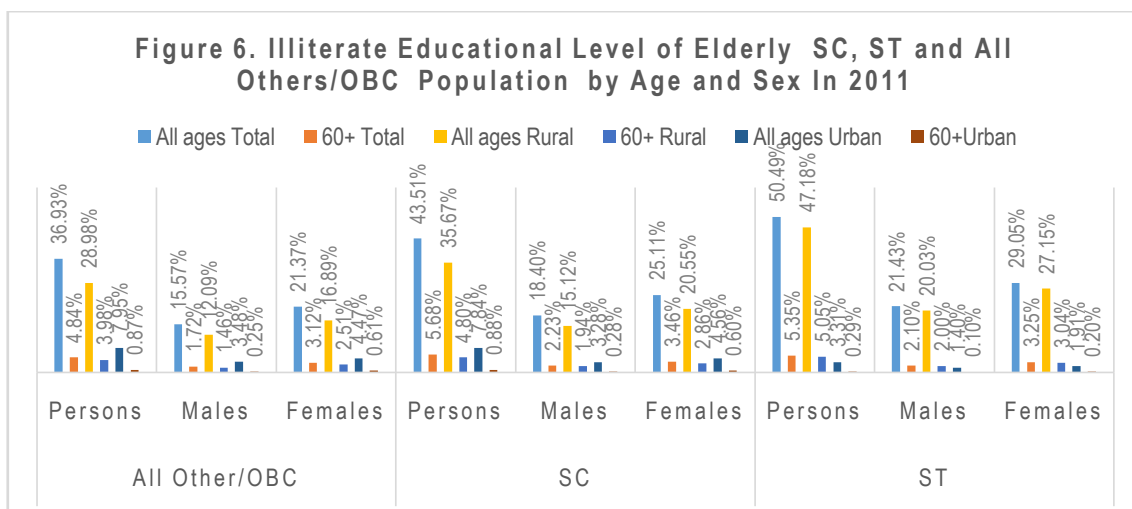
Out of total disabilities, 30.50% persons (17.07% male and 13.43% female) of All Other/OBC were found disabled in the urban area. While 22.91% persons (12.86% male and 10.05% female) disabled among SC and 9.97% persons (5.45% male and 4.52% female) among ST population were disabled in the urban area. It shows that the presence of ST and SC population is less in urban area, therefore, their disability ratio is also less as compared to All Other/OBC population. In the urban area, 60+ disabled out of

its total disabilities were 4.77% persons (2.45% male and 2.31% female) among the All Other/OBC population, 3.24% persons (1.64% male and 1.60% female) of SC and 1.37% persons (0.66% male and 0.71% female) among the ST population in urban areas as shown in figure 5. It means that the urban disabled elderly people, which is very less in number as compared to the rural counterparts are having access to the established educational and health care facilities in the urban areas.

#### 4.5. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF ELDERLY SC, ST AND ALL OTHER/OBC BY AGE AND SEX IN INDIA

##### 4.5.1. Illiteracy of Elderly SC, ST & All Other/OBC people in India:

Education is believed to have direct relation with health status and standard of living conditions of the people. This is equally relevant to the elderly population also. According to census 2011, in India 36.93% persons (15.57% male and 21.37% female) were illiterate among the All Other/ OBC category of the population. This clearly indicates that the females are behind the educational benefits as compared to the male counterpart. This situation is further awful amongst the Scheduled Castes. As 43.51% persons (18.40% male and 25.11% females) of SC population were illiterate out of its total population. For the ST population, the level of education is most terrible as observed 50.49% persons (21.43% male and 29.05% females) of ST people were illiterates as shown in figure 6. Among the 60+ elderly 4.84% of All Other/OBC population, 5.68% of the SC and 5.35% of ST population were illiterate in the country.



Out of the total 36.93% illiterate of All Other/OBC population, 28.98% were in the rural area. While out of the total 43.51% SC illiterates 35.67% and out of the total 50.49% ST illiterates 47.18% were found in the rural areas. But among the elderly out of the total 4.84% illiterate of All Other/OBC 3.98% persons were found in rural area. Similarly, out of the total 5.68% illiterate SC elderly 4.80% persons and out of the total 5.35% illiterate ST elderly 5.05% persons were found in the rural India. This clearly shows that more than a majority of illiterate elderly people have been carrying on their old age life within the given educational and health care service environments in rural and tribal areas.

In the urban area out of the total 36.93% illiterate 7.96% were among All Other/OBC category of the population. While 7.84% out of the total 43.51% SC illiterates and 3.31% out of the total 50.49% ST illiterates were reported in the urban areas. But for the 60+ elderly, there were 0.78% out of the total 4.84% elderly, illiterates among All Other/OBC, 0.88% out of total 5.68% illiterate SC elderly and only 0.29% out of total 5.35% illiterate ST elderly in the urban areas as shown in figure 6. It indicates that the numbers of illiterate elderly are having access to the urban education and health care service facilities, but it depends on their affordable capacity to avail such facilities and services in urban settings.

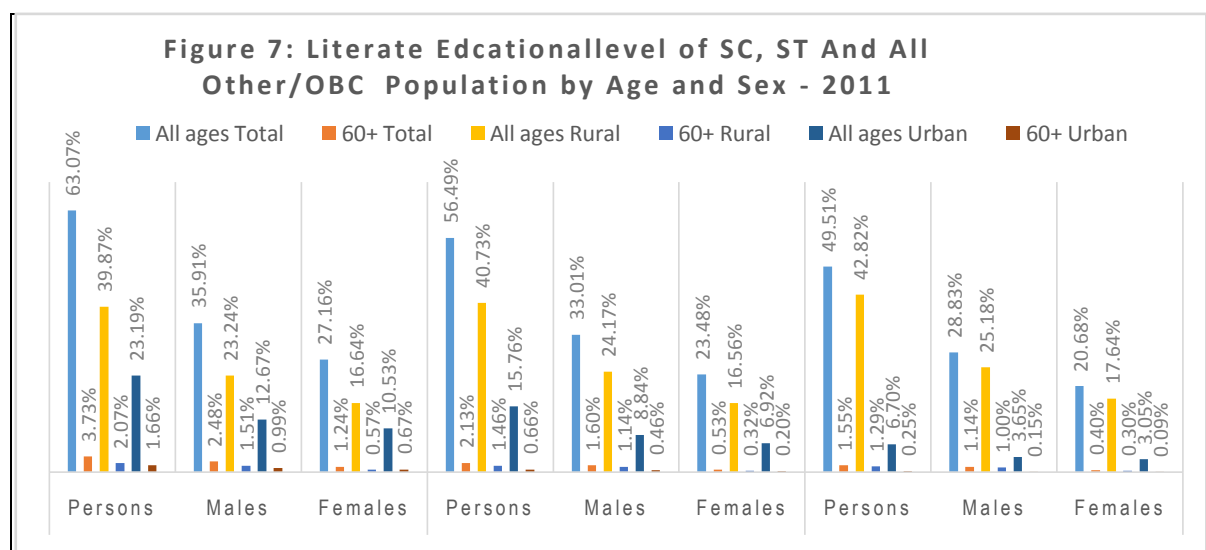
#### 4.5.2. Literacy Levels of Elderly SC, ST & All Other/OBC People in India:

The literate people have better positions as compared the illiterate people in any social settings. According to the 2011 census of India 63.07% people of All Other/OBC population were literates

that means who can read and write. Among these literates of All Other/OBC people 35.91% were male and 27.16% were females. For the SC population there were 56.49% literate (33.01% male and 23.48% females). But for the ST population, 49.51% persons (28.83% male and 20.68% females) were literates. It shows that the female literates are less than the male in all three categories, i.e. SC, ST & All Others/OBC of the Indian population. At the same time, it is also observed that only half of ST population is literate, which about 7 points is less than the SC and 14 points less than All Other/OBC category of the population. This implies a serious subject as per as the education policy for tribal population is concerned in India.

As per figure 7, only 3.73% of All Other/OBC elderly people are literates out of its total of 63.07% literate. Similarly, it has been noted that only 2.13% SC elderly people are literate out of its total of 56.49% literate and 1.55% ST elderly people are literates out of its total of 49.51% literate. It specifies that ST and SC elderly people are more vulnerable due to less number of literates and less exposure with the benefits of education as compared to All Other/OBC elderly population.

As observed that out of the total 3.73% elderly literate, only 2.07% elderly of All Other/OBC are located in rural areas and 1.66% in urban areas. Similarly, out of the total 2.13% literate, SC elderly 1.46% elderly people are residing in rural and 0.66% in urban areas. Out of total 1.55% literate ST elderly only 1.29% are staying in rural and 0.25% in the urban areas. It shows that literate, SC, ST and All Other/OBCs elderly people are more in rural areas as compared to urban settings as shown in figure 7.



#### 4.5.3. Other Educational Levels of Elderly SC, ST & All Other/OBC by Residence, Age and Sex in India:

Among the literate population different levels of education had been enumerated in the 2011 census of India. These levels of education were the literate without educational level, then the Below Primary, Primary, Middle, and Matric/Secondary were classified as shown in table 1.

In table 1 it has been observed that **literate without educational level** among SC, ST & All Others/OBC is an interesting dimension of education in Indian population. In this category a total of 2.90% persons (59% male and 1.31% female) was recorded in the category of All Other/OBC population. Similarly, a total of 2.48% persons (1.39% male and 1.08% female) of SC population was observed literate without education level. For the ST population a total of 2.65% persons (1.50% male and 1.15% females) were literate without any educational level. This clearly shows that the Indian people in the given situation are inclined to be educated without any educational level. As it has been evident among 60+ elderly people that 0.32% persons (0.18% males and 0.15% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.24% persons (0.14% males and 0.11% females) of SC and 0.22% persons (0.12% males and 0.10% females) of ST elderly people were considered as literate without educational level.

In the rural area, a total of 1.89% persons (1.06% males and 0.83% females) of All Other/OBC population were literate without educational level. For the SC population, 1.82% persons (1.04% males and 0.77% females) were literate without educational level. But for the ST population, 2.38% persons (1.36% males and 1.02% females) were literate without educational level. It shows that this literate without educational level is proportionately more than double among the ST population as compared to SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in rural areas. In case of 60+ elderly people, 0.20% persons (0.11% males and 0.09% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.18% persons (0.11% males and 0.08% females) of SC and 0.21% persons (0.12% males and 0.08% females) of ST population were literate without educational level in rural areas. It appears that ST elderly people are less literate without educational level as compared to SC and All Other /OBC population in rural areas.

In the Urban area, a total of 1.01% persons (0.53% males and 0.48% females) of All

Other/OBC population were literate without educational level. For the SC population 0.66% persons (0.35% males and 0.31% females) were literate without educational level. For the ST population, 0.28% persons (0.14% males and 0.13% females) were literate without educational level. It shows that this literate without educational level is proportionately more among the All Other/OBC population as compared to SC and ST categories of the population in the urban areas. In case of the elderly people, 0.11% persons (0.06% males and 0.06% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.05% persons (0.03% males and 0.02% females) of SC and 0.02% persons of ST population were literate without educational level in the urban areas. It appears that ST elderly people are almost nil literate without educational level as compared to SC and All Other /OBC population in the urban areas.

As per table 1, **below primary level education** has been noted 12.13% persons (6.48% male and 5.65% female) of All Other/OBC population. Similarly, 12.92% persons (7.00% male and 5.92% female) of SC population and 14.36% persons (7.91% male and 6.45% female) of ST population were having an education below the primary level in India. It shows that the tribal population is more in the below primary education level followed by SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population. This is one significant indicator as per as the tribal education and health is concerned. In the case of elderly people 0.76% persons (0.46% males and 0.30% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.55% persons (0.41% males and 0.15% females) of SC and 0.52% persons (0.39% males and 0.12% females) of the ST elderly population were having below the primary level education. This clearly indicates that tribal elderly is having less in the number of below the primary education, though it's all age groups is having more below primary level education in India.

In the rural area, a total of 9.06% persons (4.88% males and 4.17% females) of All Other/OBC population, 10.26% persons (5.60% males and 4.66% females) of SC population and 13.13% persons (7.27% males and 5.86% females) of ST population were reported having below the primary level education in rural areas. It shows that this below primary level education is more among the ST population as compared to SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in rural areas. Regarding the elderly people, 0.53% persons (0.35% males and 0.19% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.42% persons (0.33% males and 0.11% females) of SC and 0.47% persons (0.36% males and 0.10% females) of ST population were



having below the primary level education in rural areas. It looks that there is little more below the primary education level among the All Other/OBC category of elderly population, compared to SC and ST elderly in rural areas.

While in the urban area, a total of 3.08% persons (1.60% males and 1.48% females) of All Other/OBC population, 2.66% persons (1.40% males and 1.26% females) of SC population and 1.23% persons (0.64% males and 0.59% females) of ST population were possessing below the primary education level. It shows that this below the primary education level is proportionately more among the All Other/OBC people as compared to SC and ST categories of the population in the urban areas. In case of elderly people, 0.23% persons (0.10% males and 0.12% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.12% persons (0.08% males and 0.04% females) of SC and 0.07% persons (0.03% males and 0.02% females) of ST population were having below the primary education level in the urban areas. It appears that below the primary education level is very less among the ST elderly people as compared to SC and All Other /OBC population in the urban areas.

As recorded in the 2011 census of India, the **primary level school education** had been received by 15.21% persons (8.20% male and 7.01% female) of All Other/OBC category of the population, 15.67% persons (8.82% male and 6.85% female) of C population and 13.92% persons (7.97% male and 5.95% female) among the ST population in India. It shows that SC and All Other/OBC population have got the almost same level of primary education, except the ST population who are less in numbers as per as the primary education is concerned. Among the elderly population, 0.98% persons (0.61% males and 0.37% females) of All Others/OBC, 0.60% persons (0.47% males and 0.14% females) of SC and 0.38% persons (0.30% males and 0.08% females) of ST elderly were having a primary level school education. Less primary level school education among ST elderly populations has an effect on their healthy aging as the health facilities and other developmental infrastructure are poor in the tribal areas in India.

In the rural area, a total of 10.76% persons (5.93% males and 4.83% females) of All Other/OBC population, 11.92% persons (6.81% males and 5.10% females) of SC population and 12.47% persons (7.21% males and 5.26% females) of ST population was reported to have a primary level school education in rural areas. It shows that this primary level school education is more among the

ST population as compared to SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in rural areas. Regarding 60+ elderly people, 0.63% persons (0.45% males and 0.19% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.45% persons (0.36% males and 0.08% females) of SC and 0.34% persons (0.27% males and 0.07% females) of ST population were having a primary level school education in rural areas. It appears that there is a less primary level school education among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in rural areas.

But in the urban area, a total of 4.45% persons (2.27% males and 2.18% females) of All Other/OBC population, 3.75% persons (2.01% males and 1.75% females) of the SC population and 1.45% persons (0.76% males and 0.69% females) of the ST population had the primary level school education. This shows that the primary level school education is almost three fourth less among the ST people as compared to All Other/OBC category of the population in the urban areas. For the elderly people, 0.35% persons (0.18% males and 0.19% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.16% persons (0.12% males and 0.06% females) of SC and 0.05% persons (0.03% males and 0.02% females) of ST population were having the primary level school education in the urban areas. It appears that the primary level school education is very less among the ST elderly people as compared to All Other /OBC population in the urban areas.

Having **amiddle level school education** had been reported by 11.06% persons (6.41% male & 4.65% female) among All Other/OBC category of the population, by 10.92% persons (6.60% male & 4.32% female) among SC population and by 8.79% persons (26% male & 3.52% female) among the ST population. It is clearly shown that middle level school education is less amongst the ST population as compared to the SC and All Other/OBC population. The same way, for the elderly only 0.47% persons (0.33% males and 0.14% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.30% persons (0.22% males and 0.05% females) of SC and 0.16% persons (0.13% males and 0.04% females) of ST people were having a middle level school education in India. This also shows that the ST elderly people have had very less middle level school education in India.

In the rural area, a total of 7.46% persons (4.45% males and 3.01% females) of All Other/OBC population, 7.92% persons (4.89% males and 3.03% females) of the SC population and 7.57% persons (4.60% males and 2.97% females) of the ST population were reported to have a middle level school education in rural areas.

It appears that middle level school education is more or less same among all ST, SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in rural areas. Regarding 60+ elderly people, 0.27% persons (0.22% males and 0.06% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.19% persons (0.15% males and 0.03% females) of SC and 0.14% persons (0.11% males and 0.02% females) of ST population were having a middle level school education in rural areas. This indicates that there is a less number of middle level school education among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in rural areas.

In the Urban area, a total of 3.60% persons (1.96% males and 1.63% females) of All Other/OBC population, 3.00% persons (1.71% males and 1.29% females) of SC population and 1.22% persons (0.66% males and 0.56% females) of the ST population had the middle level school education in urban areas. It shows that middle level school education is very less among all ST as compared to SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in the urban areas. But for the elderly people, 0.20% persons (0.12% males and 0.09% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.09% persons (0.07% males and 0.02% females) of SC and 0.02% persons (0.02% males and 0.01% females) of ST population were having a middle level school education in the urban areas. It shows that there is a less middle level school education among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in the urban areas.

The **matric/secondary level education** was found 8.75% persons (5.27% male and 3.48% female) among All Other/OBC population, 6.62% persons (4.11% male and 2.50% female) among SC population and 4.50% persons (2.77% male and 1.73% female) among the ST population in India. But it has been observed that this matric/secondary level of education is defined as a minimum level of educational qualification for lower grade/level employments in both public and private sectors. Therefore, this level of education is very significant for the ST population as they are having matric/secondary level of education almost 50% less than the All Other/OBC population in India. However, among the elderly people only 0.46% persons (0.36% males and 0.11% females) of All Other/OBC elderly, 0.19% persons (0.17% males and 0.02% females) of SC elderly and 0.11% persons (0.09% males and 0.02% females) of the ST elderly population were holding their matric/secondary level of education. This level of education has been found lowest in number

amongst the ST elderly as compared to SC and All Other/OBC elderly population in India.

In the rural area, a total of 5.04% persons (3.17% males and 1.87% females) of All Other/OBC population, 4.34% persons (2.78% males and 1.56% females) of the SC population and 3.57% persons (2.25% males and 1.31% females) of the ST population were reported to have matric/secondary level of education in rural areas. It shows that matric/secondary level of education is less among ST population than SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in rural areas. In case of 60+ elderly people, 0.21% persons (0.18% males and 0.02% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.11% persons (0.10% males and 0.00% females) of SC and 0.08% persons (0.06% males and 0.00% females) of ST population were having a matric/secondary level of education rural areas. It appears that there is a less number of matric/secondary levels of education among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in rural areas.

While in the urban area, a total of 3.70% persons (2.09% males and 1.61% females) of All Other/OBC population, 2.28% persons (1.33% males and 0.95% females) of the SC population and 0.93% persons (0.52% males and 0.41% females) of the ST population were having a matric/secondary level of education in the urban areas. This shows that matric/secondary level of education is less among ST population than SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in the urban areas. For the elderly people, 0.24% persons (0.17% males and 0.09% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.08% persons (0.06% males and 0.01% females) of SC and 0.03% persons (0.02% males and 0.00% females) of ST population were having a matric/secondary level of education in the urban areas. It appears that there is a less matric/secondary level of education among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in the urban areas.

#### **4.5.4. From Higher secondary to Graduate level of Education among SC, ST, and All Other/OBC:**

As per census 2011 the levels of education for all age groups and elderly people in India have been classified from higher secondary to graduate levels of education. These are higher secondary/Intermediate pre-University/Senior secondary, non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree, technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree, graduate & above and unclassified shown in table 2.

According to table 2, for all age group the **higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary** educational levels were recorded 6.44% persons (3.84% male and 2.60% female ) among All Other/OBC, 4.45% persons (2.78% male and 1.67% female) among SC and 3.11% persons (1.96% male and 1.15% female) amongst ST categories of the population in India. It shows that level of higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary educational is less among the SC & ST population than All Other/OBC category of the population. In case of elderly people only 0.27% persons (0.22% males and 0.08% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.12% persons (0.09 males and 0.01% females) of SC and 0.05% persons (0.03% males and 0.00% female) of ST population were holding higher secondary/intermediate, pre-university/senior secondary educational level in India. Since this category and level of education have had direct relations with employment opportunities, the ST elderly people have got the lowest number of higher secondary/intermediate, pre-university/senior secondary educational level followed by SC elderly and then All Other/OBC population. Thus, the health status and quality of healthy aging process among the elderly have been getting determined accordingly.

In the rural area, a total of 3.36% persons (2.14% males and 1.22% females) of All Other/OBC population, 2.74% persons (1.80% males and 0.95% females) of the SC population and 2.31% persons (1.52% males and 0.79% females) of the ST population were having higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education in rural areas. This shows that higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education is less among ST population than SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in rural areas. In case of 60+ elderly people, 0.12% persons (0.09% males and 0.01% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.06% persons (0.04% males and 0.00% females) of SC and 0.02% persons (0.02% males and 0.00% females) of ST population were having higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education in the rural areas. It appears that there is a less number of higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in rural areas.

In the Urban area, a total of 3.08% persons (1.70% males and 1.38% females) of All Other/OBC population, 1.71% persons (0.98%

males and 0.73% females) of the SC population and 0.80% persons (0.44% males and 0.35% females) of the ST population were possessing the higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education in the urban areas. It means that higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education is less among ST population than SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in the urban areas. For the elderly people, 0.20% persons (0.12% males and 0.05% females) of All Other/OBC, 0.06% persons (0.05% males and 0.01% females) of SC and 0.01% persons (0.01% males and 0.00% females) of ST population were owning higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education in the urban areas. It appears that the higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary level of education is almost nil among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in the urban areas.

**Non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree** is relevant nowadays. As observed, only 0.09% persons of All Other/OBC population, 0.04% persons of SC and 0.02% persons of ST people were having non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree in India. Not a single elderly from any category was having such non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree reported in the 2011 census.

**Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree** was also classified in 2011, but only 0.60% persons of All Other/OBC, 0.40% persons of SC and 0.23% persons of ST population were possessing this technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree. But for 60+ elderly only 0.04% persons of All Other/OBC and 0.01% persons of SC elderly were having the technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree in India. Not a single ST elderly was possessing this technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree as per 2011 census in India.

**Graduate and above** level of education has got a significant role in the academics and administration of public and private institutions. As specified in the census 2011, 5.64% persons (3.48% male and 2.16% female) of All Other/OBC population, 2.75% persons (1.86% male and 0.89% female) of SC population and 1.69% persons (1.14% male and 0.55% female) of ST population were holding graduate and above level education in India. Among the degree holders of graduation and above education level, the ST people are almost 50% less than the total of SC population, similarly the SC people are about 50% less than the total All Other/OBC population. This

clearly shows the discrepancies in the given opportunities of this level of education in India.

In the case of elderly population, graduate and above level education were found only 0.36% persons (0.28% males and 0.08% females) among the All Other/OBC population, 0.09% persons (0.08% males and 0.00% female) among the SC population and 0.04% persons (0.03% males and 0.00% female) among the ST people. It is interesting to note that not a single female elderly from both SC and ST population is having the graduate and above level of education. Regarding the rural elderly the graduate and above level education were found only 0.08% persons (0.06% males and 0.00% females) among the All Other/OBC population, 0.03% persons (0.03% males and 0.00% female) among the SC population and 0.02% persons (0.01% males and 0.00% female) among the ST population. While for the urban elderly, the graduate and above level education were found only 0.28% persons (0.21% males and 0.07% females) among the All Other/OBC population, 0.05% persons (0.05% males and 0.00% female) among the SC population and 0.02% persons (0.01% males and 0.00% female) among the ST population.

The unclassified educational level was also recorded in the 2011 census. Total 0.25% persons (0.14% males and 0.11% females) of All Other/OBC category, 0.23% persons (0.13% males and 0.11% females) of SC and 0.26% persons (0.14% males and 0.12% females) of ST population were having the unclassified level of education in India. This shows the ST people are having more unclassified education than SC and All Other/OBC population. 60+ elderly people having this unclassified education were only 0.03% persons among All Other/OBC, 0.03% persons among SC and 0.02% persons among ST population in India.

#### 4.5.5. Graduate and above with all technical education levels of SC, ST and All Other/OBC

The Government of India had also classified educational levels in the census 2011 as a graduate and above with all technical education levels, graduate degree other than technical degree, post graduate degree other than technical degree, engineering and technology, and medicine shown in table 3.

Table 3 shows that 8.15% persons (5.02% male and 3.12% female) of All Other/OBC population, 4.09% persons (2.77% male and 1.32% female) of SC population and 2.61% persons (1.76% male and 0.85% female) of ST population were possessing **graduate and above with the technical level of education**. It means that

graduate and above with the technical level among the ST population is almost half of the total percentage of SC population. Similarly SC graduate and above with technical level education is also half of the total percentage of All Other/OBC category of the population. Female graduate and above with technical education level is less than half of its counterpart male among the SC. ST and All Other/OBC categories of the population. Empowerment of female education is important as per as the equity of education is concerned. This is more significant for the SC and ST population in India.

In the case of elderly people, graduate and above with technical education were found only 0.52% persons (0.41% males and 0.11% females) among All Other/OBC population, 0.13% persons (0.12% males and 0.02% females) among SC and 0.07% persons (0.06% males and 0.01% female) among the ST elderly people in India. In rural area, graduate and above with technical education were found only 0.12% persons (0.11% males and 0.01% females) among All Other/OBC population, 0.05% persons (0.05% male and 0.00% female) among SC and 0.03% persons (0.03% males and 0.00% female) among the ST elderly people in India. While in the urban area, the graduate and above with technical education were found only 0.41% persons (0.30% males and 0.10% females) among All Other/OBC population, 0.08% persons (0.07% male and 0.01% female) among SC and 0.04% persons (0.03% males and 0.01% female) among the ST elderly people in India. This shows that among the ST elderly people, graduate and above with technical education level is far behind from the All Other /OBC category of the population. The females having graduate and above with technical education level is also far behind from the male population in the all categories of the population in India.

**Graduate degree other than technical degree** was classified in 2011 census. 4.96% persons (3.09% male and 1.87% female) of All Other/OBC population, 2.53% persons (1.75% male and 0.79% female) of SC, and 1.67% persons (1.14% male and 0.54% female) of ST population were possessing the graduate degree other than technical degree. This level of graduate degree other than technical degree is very less in number among ST and SC population than the All Other/OBC category of the population in India.

Among the 60+ elderly people, 0.32% persons (0.25% male and 0.07% female) of All Other/OBC, 0.09% persons (0.08% male and 0.01% female) of SC and 0.05% persons (0.04% male and 0.01% female) of ST were owning the

graduate degree other than technical degree in India. In this level of graduate degree other than technical degree the elderly women are very far behind the male. In rural area, the elderly, people owning a graduate degree other than technical degree were found only 0.07% persons (0.07% males and 0.01% females) among All Other/OBC population, 0.03% persons (0.03% male and 0.00% female) among SC and 0.02% persons (0.02% males and 0.00% female) among the ST elderly people in India. While in the urban area, the elderly, people possessing a graduate degree other than technical degree were found only 0.24% persons (0.18% males and 0.06% females) among All Other/OBC population, 0.05% persons (0.05% male and 0.01% female) among SC and 0.03% persons (0.02% males and 0.01% female) among the ST elderly people. This also shows in both rural and urban areas that the ST elderly having graduate degree other than technical degree is lowest in percentage from the SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population in India.

**Postgraduate degree other than technical degree** is considered as the essential educational qualification in most of the teaching and training educational institutions especially for higher education. As per 2011 census, only 1.74% persons (0.98% male and 0.75% female) of All Other/OBC population, 0.86% persons (56% male and 30% female) of SC population and 0.48% persons (0.31% male and 0.17% female) of ST population were possessing post graduate degree other than technical degree. Here also females as compared to the male are having less post graduate degree other than technical degree. The ST and SC population are also less in number with post graduate degree other than technical degree as compared to the All Other/OBC category of the population. The same has been found in case of elderly population also. Only 0.11% persons (0.08% male and 0.03% female) elderly of All Other/OBC, 0.03% persons (0.02% male and 0.00% female) of SC elderly and 0.01% persons (0.01% male and 0.00% female) of ST elderly had the post graduate degree other than technical degree in India. Holding post graduate degree other than technical degree by the elderly people in rural areas was 0.02% persons (0.02% male and 0.00% female) among the All Other/OBC population and 0.01% person (0.01% male and 0.00% female) among SC. But not a single ST elderly was holding a post graduate degree other than technical degree in the rural areas. While in the urban areas, the elderly, people possessing a post graduate degree other than technical degree were found 0.09% persons (0.06% male and 0.02% female) among the

All Other/OBC population, 0.02% person (0.01% male and 0.00% female) among SC population and only 0.01% male among the ST population. This is very interesting to note that the post graduate degree other than technical degree is prerequisite for essential educational qualification of the faculty positions to any academic institution like colleges, universities, etc. Lack of this post graduate degree other than technical degree among SC and ST population clearly shows the non-functional reservation policies and guidelines set by the Government for the upliftment of the backward communities in India. This is also affecting the quality of life and healthy aging of the elderly in India.

**Engineering and technology** is one most important educational level, which plays a dominant role in innovation, research and development, especially infrastructure and health service development of the nation. As per 2011 census, only 0.87% persons (0.63% male and 0.25% female) of All Other/OBC population, 0.34% persons (0.25% male and 0.09% female) of SC population and 0.15% persons (0.12% male and 0.04% female) of ST population were owning the engineering and technology education. Like other educational levels, the ST people are at the lowermost level in the engineering and technology education. It shows that ST and SC female are very less in number with engineering and technology degree as compared to the counterpart male. While of the All Other/OBC population the females with engineering and technology education are almost half in the number of their counterpart male.

But for elderly only 0.04% persons (0.04% male and 0.00% female) of All Other/OBC population and 0.01% person (0.01% male and 0.00% female) of SC population had engineering and technology education. This engineering and technology education has been confined to the elderly male population only. Not a single ST elderly was reported this engineering and technology education in 2011 census, which is a much unexpected fact as per as engineering and technology education is concerned. In the rural area the elderly having engineering and technology education was only 0.01% among the All Other/OBC category of the population. According to census 2011, there was not a single elderly holding engineering and technology education among the SC and ST population in rural India. While in the urban area the elderly possessing engineering and technology education was only 0.04% persons (0.04% male and 0.00% female) among All Other/OBC category of the population.

Again, there was not a single SC and ST elder possessing this engineering and technology education in the urban areas.

**Education in Medicine** is a vital determinant for mankind. Therefore, the importance of doctors has been recognized in the society. As per 2011 census, only 0.18% persons (0.11% male and 0.07% female), of All Other/OBC population, 0.07% persons (0.04% male and 0.03% female) of SC population and 0.05% persons (0.03% male and 0.02% female) of ST population were owning education in Medicine. In this education of medicine females are less in number as compared to their counterpart male among all SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories of the population in India. In the case of elderly, only 0.01% elderly was having an education in Medicine among the All Other/OBC category of the population that was also confined in the urban area. There was not a single elderly having education in medicine among the SC and ST categories of the population in both rural and urban areas. This clearly gives us the feeling of SC and an ST state of affairs in India.

## V. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

From the findings it has emerged that the education has direct relations with the health status and standard of living of the people. The level of education of the elderly provides an understanding of elderly health status in the society. As evident, the data from low-income countries (83% of the participants being from India) from the Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological (PURE) Study exposed the facts that low educational status is associated with lower rates of awareness, disease treatment, and control of hypertension (Chow CK, et al, 2013). Conversely the present analysis shows that a total of 36.93% persons among All Other/OBC category of the population, 43.51% persons among SC population and 50.49% persons of ST people are illiterates in India. But, among the elderly 4.84% persons of All Other/OBC, 5.68% of SC and 5.35% of ST are found illiterates. These data denote the magnitude of healthy aging and quality of elderly life in India

As observed in the UNFP (2011) survey, the profile of the individual elderly indicates a low level of educational attainment, particularly among women. Overall, half of the elderly reported not having any formal education with higher proportions (66%) among elderly women. The illiteracy levels among women are twice that among elderly men. More illiterates among the elderly are reported in rural areas than in urban areas. Around 70 per cent of the elderly belonging

to SC or ST communities reported being illiterate. In general, those belonging to OBC and Other castes are comparatively more educated. Further, the income insecurity, illiteracy, age related morbidity, and physical and economic dependency are factors that render the Indian elderly, and particularly elderly women, very vulnerable (UNFP, 2011). Similarly the present analysis shows that more than a majority of illiterate elderly people have been carrying on their old age life within the given educational and health care service environments in rural and tribal areas. The ST and SC elderly people are more vulnerable due to less number of literates and less exposure to the benefits of education as compared to All Other/OBC elderly population.

Although, the education is considered as the most powerful instrument of social change and development and means of reducing inequality in the society, it helps the individual to raise its social status in various ways. But in a caste ridden and hierarchical society like India, the SC and ST people's access to educational opportunities is unequal and unjust. The poor understanding of elderly life under changing economic and social norms in India has led to a weak health care and social support for the elderly people (Dey AB, 2006).

The education has been affecting the prevalence of disabilities in the population as a significant indicator of the healthy ageing in the process of optimizing opportunities for health, work participation and security (Bir T, 2020). Thus, the elderly, disability prevalence is found 20.05% persons among All Other/OBC category of the population, 19.21% persons of SC and 21.93% persons among the ST people in India. Similarly, in a study of the Honolulu Heart Program, both education and previous occupation are found associated with successful ageing (defined as absence of life-threatening illness and maintenance of physical and mental functioning) among those aged 45– 68 at baseline after 15 and 25 years of follow-up respectively (Reed et al, 1998).

The literate people have better positions as compared the illiterate people in any social settings. As found, 63.07% persons of All Other/OBC, 56.49% persons of SC and 49.51% persons of ST people are literates in India. While among the elderly people only 3.73% of All Other/OBC, 2.13% persons of SC and 1.55% persons of ST people are literate population in India. The ST and SC elderly people are more vulnerable due to less number of literates and less exposure to the benefits of education as compared to All Other/OBC elderly population. This analysis is complemented by the

facts that the health status of elderly women is worse than men because of their low literacy rate, not being customary owners of property and their poor representation in the labour force during their prime age, particularly in the organized sector (Rupali A. et al 2015). In another study, the education and income have been documented as important determinants of health-seeking behaviour (Tones K (2002). In this regards,

AmartyaSen (2002) argues that the individual's perception of health might strongly be shaped by the respective socio-economic context, particularly overall lack of (health) literacy, because individuals simply fail to acknowledge certain morbidities (Sudha et al. 2007).

The analysis of educational levels other than illiterate and literate elderly people belonging to SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories of the population reported in the 2011 census shows the magnitude of educational status which are direct and indirect responsible determinants factors to the healthy aging and quality of life of the elderly population in India. The below primary level education of elderly people has been found 0.76% persons among All Other/OBC population, 0.55% persons among SC and 0.52% persons among the ST elderly population. In general the ST elderly people are having less in number of having below the primary education, but more in rural areas as compared to SC and All Other/OBC categories of the population. The elderly people having a primary level school education are 0.98% persons of All Others/OBC, 0.60% persons of SC and 0.38% persons of the ST population. The less percentage of primary level school education among ST elderly populations has an effect on their healthy aging while the health facilities and other developmental infrastructure are poor in the tribal areas in India. In rural areas, the primary level school education is also less among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of the elderly population. The middle level school education is found 11.06% persons among All Other/OBC category of the population, 10.92% among SC population and 8.79% persons among the ST population. It is less in number amongst the ST population as compared to the SC and All Other/OBC population. However, the ST elderly people have had very less middle level school education in India. The matric/secondary level of education has been defined as a minimum level of educational qualification for lower grade/level employments in both public and private sectors. This level of education is found lowest in number amongst the ST elderly as compared to SC

and All Other/OBC elderly population in both rural and urban areas in India.

The higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary educational levels are found 6.44% persons among All Other/OBC people, 4.45% persons among SC and 3.11% persons amongst ST category of the population in India. Since this level of education has had direct relations with employment opportunities, the ST elderly have got the lowest number of people followed by SC elderly and then All Other/OBC elderly population. Thus, the educational background of the elderly influences their health status and quality of the healthy aging process. Further, this higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary educational levels is found lowest among the ST elderly both in rural and urban areas. Graduate and above level of education that has got a significant role in the academics and administration of public and private institutions. As specified in the census 2011, 5.64% persons of All Other/OBC population. 2.75% persons of SC and 1.69% persons of ST population are having graduate and above level education in India. In the case of the elderly, the graduate and above level education is found only 0.36% persons among All Other/OBC, 0.09% persons among SC and 0.04% persons among the ST people population in India. As observed not a single female elderly from both SC and ST population is having graduate and above level of education.

The graduate and above with the technical level of education among the ST population is almost half of the total percentage of SC population. Similarly, in the case of SC it is also half of the total percentage of All Other/OBC category of the population. Amongst the ST elderly people, having graduated and above with technical education level is far behind from the All Other/OBC population. However, the female for this education is less than half of its counterpart male among SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories of the population. Therefore, empowerment of female education is important as per as the equity of education is concerned. This is more significant for the SC and ST population in India. The postgraduate degree other than technical degree has been considered as the essential educational qualification in most of the teaching, training research institutions especially for the higher education. Only 1.74% persons of All Other/OBC category of the population, 0.86% persons of SC and 0.48% persons of ST population are having a postgraduate degree other than technical degree. But, only 0.11% persons of elderly among All Other/OBC, 0.03% persons of SC elderly and

0.01% persons of ST elderly have got the post graduate degree other than technical degree in India. This disparity is an example of the education systems in India.

Engineering and technology is one most important educational level, which plays a dominant role in the innovation, research and development, especially for the infrastructure and health development of the nation. But among the elderly only 0.04 % persons of All Other/OBC and 0.01% person of SC population are found to have the engineering and technology education. This engineering and technology education has been confined to the elderly male population only. Not a single ST elderly has possessed the engineering and technology education in India, which is a much unexpected fact, as per as engineering and technology education is concerned. Regarding education in medicine, there are only 0.18% persons among All Other/OBC, 0.07% persons among SC and 0.05% persons among ST population having educational degrees in medicine. With this education of medicine females are less compared to males among SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories of the population in India. But for the elderly it has been found that only 0.01% elderly has got the education in Medicine among the All Other/OBC category of the population that is also confined in the urban area. There is not a single elderly having an education in medicine among the SC and ST categories of the population in both rural and urban areas. This clearly gives us the sense of SC and an ST state of affairs and draws the attention of medical education and health service development especially for the tribal health in India.

## VI. CONCLUSION:

Today's elderly people, their health indices and quality of life are the consequences of their level education acquired earlier in young and middle age of life. The dynamics of education among elderly people belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories stand-in to disclose the road map and directions towards the policy formulation and execution for healthy aging and quality of life of elderly in India. The analysis of the data has highlighted the striking inequities by rural and urban, caste groups of SC, ST and All Other/OBC, and gender. Indian SC and ST categories of people living in rural areas continue to have worse indicators of education levels assessed. The caste-based inequities are also significant, with members of SC and ST consistently most awful. Reducing these large disparities in particular is critical for improving population health in India

The vulnerability of health disabilities is highest in the rural areas, especially among the ST population followed by SC people. This directly draws the attention to the given rural health and education infrastructure development and its service provisions in India. It is because of more than a majority of illiterate elderly people who have been carrying on their old age life within the given educational and health care service environments in rural and tribal areas. The ST and SC elderly people are more defenceless due to less number of literates and less exposure to the benefits of education as compared to All Other/OBC elderly population.

Education is the determining factor to better socio-economic and good health status of the people. Therefore, the less primary level school education among ST elderly populations has an effect on their healthy aging. This is corroborated by the health facilities and other developmental infrastructure which are very poor in the tribal areas. Thus, the middle level school education and matric/secondary level of education are the lowest among the ST elderly population, compared to SC and All Other/OBC category of elderly in both rural and urban areas. The higher secondary/intermediate/pre-university/senior secondary education is also less among the SC & ST population than All Other/OBC category of the population,

The discrepancies in the given opportunities of the education systems are evident amongst the degree holders of graduation and above level, post graduate degree other than technical degree, engineering and technology and education in Medicine among the elderly population. Consequently, it has been evident that not a single ST elderly is possessing the engineering and technology education and not a single elderly among the SC and ST categories of the population is having an education in medicine in both rural and urban areas in India.

Therefore, it could finally be stated that the analysis of census of 2011 data pertaining to the educational levels reveals the differences not only among SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories of the elderly population, but also exposes discrepancies of educational face value between male and female and between rural and urban areas in general. Thus, it has been portrayed for policy makers and planners, so that appropriate decisions could be taken to reduce the differences in the educational levels among SC, ST and All Other/OBC categories now keeping in view the dividend of quality of life and healthy aging among the elderly population in the future.



## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Since better education level provides better health status in the population, the Government should device suitable measures with the appropriate strategic plan of actions for universal education systems, especially for the ST and SC categories of the population as they are far behind as compared to All Other/OBC population in the country.

The curriculum of the formal education should include a section of healthy aging and quality of life of the older population along with social and family support principles. So that the young can get prepared/equipped with all possible eventualities when they become old.

To overcome the existing situation of the elderly people, which has emerged due to lack of educational environment during their young age, the Government should device integrated educational program for health care of elderly with short- and long-term measures. So that the elderly people can be empowered for their healthy aging and self-care with family supports and social security in the community.

Since an ageing population is a prime factor in anticipated increased calls on the health services, the Government should place high priority on dealing with health inequalities.

The elderly people are vulnerable due to the natural characteristic of the aging process along with comorbidities and even new viruses like COVID 19. The Government should prioritize the needs of benefits including Vaccines COVID 19 to be given the elderly people in the country.

Last not the least, ageing process must be understood from the cultural perspectives. As sociocultural factors are also playing a significant role in satisfaction of life and the ageing process. Therefore, the study of ageing is a vastly varied field, it needs a multidisciplinary approach and many disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, psychology and biology.

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**TABLES:**

Table 1 Other Educational Levels by Residence, Age And Sex in India										
Literate Without Educational Level										
Total/R/U	Age-group	All Other/OBC			SC			ST		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	All ages	35153231	19278416	15874815	4990817	2809137	2181680	2773640	1566832	1206808
Total	All ages	2.90%	1.59%	1.31%	2.48%	1.39%	1.08%	2.65%	1.50%	1.15%
Total	60+	0.32%	0.18%	0.15%	0.24%	0.14%	0.11%	0.22%	0.12%	0.10%
Rural	All ages	1.89%	1.06%	0.83%	1.82%	1.04%	0.77%	2.38%	1.36%	1.02%
Rural Total	60+	0.20%	0.11%	0.09%	0.18%	0.11%	0.08%	0.21%	0.12%	0.08%
Urban	All ages	1.01%	0.53%	0.48%	0.66%	0.35%	0.31%	0.28%	0.14%	0.13%
Urban Total	60+	0.11%	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%
Below Primary										
Total	All ages	1.47E+08	78445099	68452498	26019996	14093454	11926542	15005245	8264552	6740693
Total	All ages	12.13%	6.48%	5.65%	12.92%	7.00%	5.92%	14.35%	7.91%	6.45%
Total	60+	0.76%	0.46%	0.30%	0.55%	0.41%	0.15%	0.52%	0.39%	0.12%
Rural	All ages	9.06%	4.88%	4.17%	10.26%	5.60%	4.66%	13.13%	7.27%	5.86%
R/Total	60+	0.53%	0.35%	0.19%	0.42%	0.33%	0.11%	0.47%	0.36%	0.10%
Urban	All ages	3.08%	1.60%	1.48%	2.66%	1.40%	1.26%	1.23%	0.64%	0.59%
U/Total	60+	0.23%	0.10%	0.12%	0.12%	0.08%	0.04%	0.07%	0.03%	0.02%
Primary										
Total	All ages	1.84E+08	99311072	84859761	31562082	17761260	13800822	14553875	8332802	6221073
Total	All ages	15.21%	8.20%	7.01%	15.67%	8.82%	6.85%	13.92%	7.97%	5.95%
Total	60+	0.98%	0.61%	0.37%	0.60%	0.47%	0.14%	0.38%	0.30%	0.08%
Rural	All ages	10.76%	5.93%	4.83%	11.92%	6.81%	5.10%	12.47%	7.21%	5.26%
R/ Total	60+	0.63%	0.45%	0.19%	0.45%	0.36%	0.08%	0.34%	0.27%	0.07%
Urban	All ages	4.45%	2.27%	2.18%	3.75%	2.01%	1.75%	1.45%	0.76%	0.69%
U/ Total	60+	0.35%	0.18%	0.19%	0.16%	0.12%	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%
Middle										
Total	All ages	1.34E+08	77629578	56273688	21996757	13291427	8705330	9185930	5501660	3684270
Total	All ages	11.06%	6.41%	4.65%	10.92%	6.60%	4.32%	8.79%	5.26%	3.52%
Total	60+	0.47%	0.33%	0.14%	0.30%	0.22%	0.05%	0.16%	0.13%	0.04%
Rural	All ages	7.46%	4.45%	3.01%	7.92%	4.89%	3.03%	7.57%	4.60%	2.97%
R/ Total	60+	0.27%	0.22%	0.06%	0.19%	0.15%	0.03%	0.14%	0.11%	0.02%
Urban	All ages	3.60%	1.96%	1.63%	3.00%	1.71%	1.29%	1.22%	0.66%	0.56%
U/Total	60+	0.20%	0.12%	0.09%	0.09%	0.07%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%

Matric/Secondary										
Total	All ages	1.06E+08	63769834	42169909	13327536	8283421	5044115	4702719	2897860	1804859
Total	All ages	8.75%	5.27%	3.48%	6.62%	4.11%	2.50%	4.50%	2.77%	1.73%
Total	60+	0.46%	0.36%	0.11%	0.19%	0.17%	0.02%	0.11%	0.09%	0.02%
Rural	All ages	5.04%	3.17%	1.87%	4.34%	2.78%	1.56%	3.57%	2.25%	1.31%
R/ Total	60+	0.21%	0.18%	0.02%	0.11%	0.10%	0.00%	0.08%	0.06%	0.00%
Urban	All ages	3.70%	2.09%	1.61%	2.28%	1.33%	0.95%	0.93%	0.52%	0.41%
R/ Total	60+	0.24%	0.17%	0.09%	0.08%	0.06%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%

Table 2 Higher Secondary/Intermediate Pre-University/Senior Secondary Educational Level by Age, Sex and Residence for SC, ST & All Other Population – 2011										
Higher secondary/Intermediate Pre-University/Senior secondary										
Total/R/U	Age-group	All Other/OBC			SC			ST		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	All ages	77942593	46481321	31461272	8963573	5593844	3369729	3253623	2052434	1201189
Total	All ages	6.44%	3.84%	2.60%	4.45%	2.78%	1.67%	3.11%	1.96%	1.15%
Total	60+	0.27%	0.22%	0.08%	0.12%	0.09%	0.01%	0.05%	0.03%	0.00%
Rural	All ages	3.36%	2.14%	1.22%	2.74%	1.80%	0.95%	2.31%	1.52%	0.79%
R/ Total	60+	0.12%	0.09%	0.01%	0.06%	0.04%	0.00%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%
Urban	All ages	3.08%	1.70%	1.38%	1.71%	0.98%	0.73%	0.80%	0.44%	0.35%
U/ Total	60+	0.20%	0.12%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%

<b>Non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree</b>										
Total	All ages	1072289	726565	345724	71117	51704	19413	19522	14914	4608
Total	All ages	0.09%	0.06%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%
Total	60+	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rural	All ages	0.04%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
R/ Total	60+	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Urban	All ages	0.05%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
U/ Total	60+	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree</b>										
Total	All ages	7238719	5354161	1884558	815129	583859	231270	236235	169548	66687
Total	All ages	0.60%	0.44%	0.16%	0.40%	0.29%	0.11%	0.23%	0.16%	0.06%
Total	60+	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rural	All ages	0.25%	0.19%	0.06%	0.22%	0.16%	0.06%	0.15%	0.11%	0.04%
R/ Total	60+	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Urban	All ages	0.34%	0.25%	0.09%	0.19%	0.13%	0.05%	0.08%	0.06%	0.02%
U/ Total	60+	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Graduate &amp; above</b>										
Total	All ages	68288971	42120460	26168511	5542477	3751759	1790718	1763879	1190299	573580
Total	All ages	5.64%	3.48%	2.16%	2.75%	1.86%	0.89%	1.69%	1.14%	0.55%
Total	60+	0.36%	0.28%	0.08%	0.09%	0.08%	0.00%	0.04%	0.03%	0.00%
Rural	All ages	1.84%	1.29%	0.55%	1.32%	0.98%	0.34%	1.00%	0.73%	0.27%
R/ Total	60+	0.08%	0.06%	0.00%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%
Urban	All ages	3.79%	2.19%	1.61%	1.43%	0.89%	0.55%	0.68%	0.41%	0.27%
U/ Total	60+	0.28%	0.21%	0.07%	0.05%	0.05%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%
<b>Unclassified</b>										
Total	All ages	3031570	1647116	1384454	470513	257099	213414	270805	149748	121057
Total	All ages	0.25%	0.14%	0.11%	0.23%	0.13%	0.11%	0.26%	0.14%	0.12%
Total	60+	0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%
Rural	All ages	0.17%	0.09%	0.08%	0.18%	0.10%	0.08%	0.24%	0.13%	0.10%
R/ Total	60+	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%
Urban	All ages	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%
U/ Total	60+	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Table 3 Graduate and above with all technical education levels										
Graduate and above with all technical education										
Total/R/U	Age-group	All Other/OBC			SC			ST		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	Total	68288971	42120460	26168511	5542477	3751759	1790718	1763879	1190299	573580
Total	Total	8.15%	5.02%	3.12%	4.09%	2.77%	1.32%	2.61%	1.76%	0.85%
Total	60+	0.52%	0.41%	0.11%	0.13%	0.12%	0.02%	0.07%	0.06%	0.01%
Rural	Total	2.66%	1.87%	0.80%	1.96%	1.45%	0.51%	1.55%	1.13%	0.42%
Rural	60+	0.12%	0.11%	0.01%	0.05%	0.05%	0.00%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%
Urban	Total	5.48%	3.16%	2.32%	2.13%	1.32%	0.81%	1.06%	0.63%	0.43%
Urban	60+	0.41%	0.30%	0.10%	0.08%	0.07%	0.01%	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%
Graduate degree other than technical degree										
Total	Total	41563939	25917541	15646398	3429961	2366955	1063006	1130306	766852	363454
Total	Total	4.96%	3.09%	1.87%	2.53%	1.75%	0.79%	1.67%	1.14%	0.54%
Total	60+	0.32%	0.25%	0.07%	0.09%	0.08%	0.01%	0.05%	0.04%	0.01%
Rural	Total	1.74%	1.23%	0.51%	1.28%	0.96%	0.32%	1.03%	0.75%	0.28%
Rural	60+	0.07%	0.07%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%
Urban	Total	3.22%	1.86%	1.36%	1.25%	0.79%	0.46%	0.65%	0.39%	0.26%
Urban	60+	0.24%	0.18%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%
Post graduate degree other than technical degree										
Total	Total	14585424	8257691	6327733	1165788	755101	410687	322390	208573	113817
Total	Total	1.74%	0.98%	0.75%	0.86%	0.56%	0.30%	0.48%	0.31%	0.17%
Total	60+	0.11%	0.08%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
Rural	Total	0.51%	0.34%	0.17%	0.39%	0.28%	0.11%	0.26%	0.19%	0.07%
Rural	60+	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Urban	Total	1.23%	0.64%	0.59%	0.47%	0.27%	0.20%	0.22%	0.12%	0.10%
Urban	60+	0.09%	0.06%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
Engineering and technology										
Total	Total	7312459	5254226	2058233	459267	337341	121926	104359	79392	24967
Total	Total	0.87%	0.63%	0.25%	0.34%	0.25%	0.09%	0.15%	0.12%	0.04%
Total	60+	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rural	Total	0.18%	0.14%	0.04%	0.11%	0.08%	0.02%	0.06%	0.05%	0.01%
Rural	60+	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Urban	Total	0.69%	0.49%	0.20%	0.23%	0.17%	0.07%	0.09%	0.07%	0.02%
Urban	60+	0.04%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

		<b>Medicine</b>								
Total	Total	1529942	929619	600323	99152	57041	42111	34238	20509	13729
Total	Total	0.18%	0.11%	0.07%	0.07%	0.04%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%
Total	60+	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			0.00%
Rural	Total	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%
Rural	60+	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Urban	Total	0.14%	0.09%	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%
Urban	60+	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%