

Grey Literature on Caste-based Minority Community in India

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Background:

According to the ancient Hindu scriptures, there are four "varnas" (groups). Manusmriti has mentioned four varnas: the Brahmins (teachers, scholars and priests), the Kshatriyas (kings and warriors), the Vaishyas (traders), and Shudras (agriculturists, service providers, and some artisan groups). Offspring of different varnas belong to different *Jātis* (Castes). Another group excluded from the main society was called Parjanya or Antyaja. This group of former "untouchables" (now called Dalits) was considered either the lower section of Shudras or outside the caste system altogether. (Caste system in India, n.d.)

Despite its constitutional abolition in 1950, the practice of 'untouchability' – the imposition of social disabilities on persons by reason of birth into a particular caste – remains very much a part of rural India. (Narula, Smita, n.d.)

The communities that are socially deprived due to their caste are categorized as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC) , Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DT/NT). In this study all these communities together will be discussed as CBM.

Today the educated CBM are trying to use intellectual and organizational means to fight the caste system. Some visible efforts are: using conferences and media, publication of books and journals, forming discussion groups, action groups and building websites to create awareness. They educate themselves on the constitutional and legal rights of the CBM and fight for their implementation and extension using national and international

forums. They internationalize CBM issues to get world attention and support. (Melliyal Annamalai, 2002)

There were and are documentations on various issues, actions, and movements among CBM. Most of these are at local level. This paper highlights the life cycle of such documentations in the form of grey literature available in the libraries of Mumbai.

Grey Literature (GL):

Grey literature is defined as ‘semi-published material for example reports, internal documents, theses, etc. not formally published or available commercially and consequently difficult to trace bibliographically. (Harrold’s Librarian’s Glossary and Reference Book, 2000)

The Internet is now a major source for dissemination and retrieval of grey literature and often serves as the initial introduction to a topic area. Some of the examples of e-grey literature are institutional archives and repositories, search portals and databases, e-print archives and directory of institutional links. (Rajendiran, P, 2006)

Objectives of the study:

- To find the grey literature available on various issues of CBM in the seven libraries of the city of Mumbai.
- To understand the post-acquisition life cycle of grey documents on CBM in these libraries.
- To know the effort/ measures taken by the libraries to enhance the use of grey literature on CBM issues.

Sample:

Libraries that were chosen for survey were the ones that were catering to the student community. These libraries were SNTD Women’s University Library, New Marine Lines

(SNDT Library), Jawaharlal Nehru Library of University of Mumbai Library, Santacruz (MU Library), The Aditya Birla Memorial Library of Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, New Marine Lines (NNCSW Library), Central Library of Indian Institute of Technology, Powai (IIT Library), Library of International Institute of Population Studies, Deonar (IIPS Library), Sir Dorabji Memorial Library of Tata Institute of Social Science, Deonar (TISS Library), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development and Research Library Goregon (IGIDR Library).

Methodology:

A structured questionnaire was prepared to collect data on total GL collection of library on CBM, its format and its language. Some of the questions were related to technical processing of GL on CBM such as mode of acquisition, its classification, cataloguing, and maintenance. Some of the questions were asked to know the user and use of GL on CBM; further special efforts undertaken related to acquisition, analysis, storage, and dissemination of GL on CBM

Online questionnaires were sent to each library to gather basic information about their grey collection from acquisition till dissemination. In addition, the various issues related to the life cycle of GL on CBM were discussed directly with the librarian and library staff. The data collected during individual discussion was informative and supplemented to the questionnaire data.

Individual library catalogue was searched to find total number of the Grey documents available on CBM issues in the seven libraries. To retrieve precise data several generic as well as special descriptors were used. Generic descriptors used were SC/ ST, Castes, Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Dalit, etc. Few other specific names of caste and tribes (i.e Mang, Matang, Koli, Paradhi, Chambhar) were also used. .

SPSS software was used to analyse and generate findings.

GL Collection on CBM:

Total 341 grey documents on various CBM issues were retrieved. All documents were categorised into Report (includes monographs, research report, survey reports excluding government reports, etc), Thesis and Dissertations, Government Publications (includes reports and statistical data- census data), Working papers, Conference Proceedings, Bibliographies. There were 156 Reports (47.5%), 84 Thesis and dissertations (24.6%), 74 Government publications (21.7%), 20 Working papers (5.9%), two Conference proceedings (0.6%) and 5 Bibliographies (1.5%) available as GL on CBM.

Chart 1: Library wise holding of various types of GL covering CBM issues

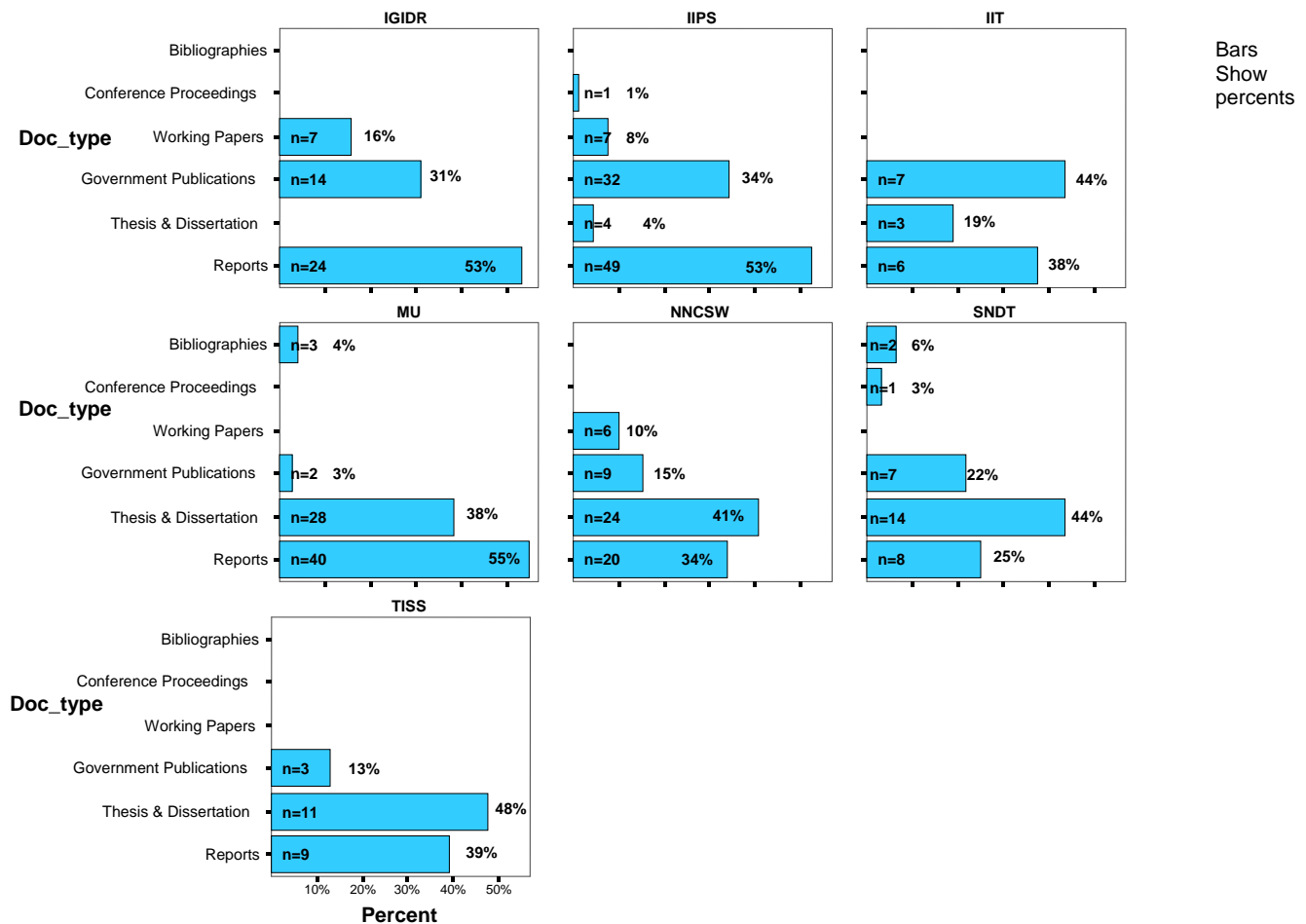


Chart 1 shows library-wise holdings of GL on CBM. It was found that IGIDR Library, IIT Library and IIPS Library had major collection of Government Publications and Reports; whereas MU Library, NNCSW Library, SNTD Library and TISS Library had

major collection of Thesis and Dissertations and Reports. Bibliographies, Conference Proceedings and Working Papers were the minor collection in all seven libraries. SNTD Library and IIPS Library each had only single conference proceeding on CBM.

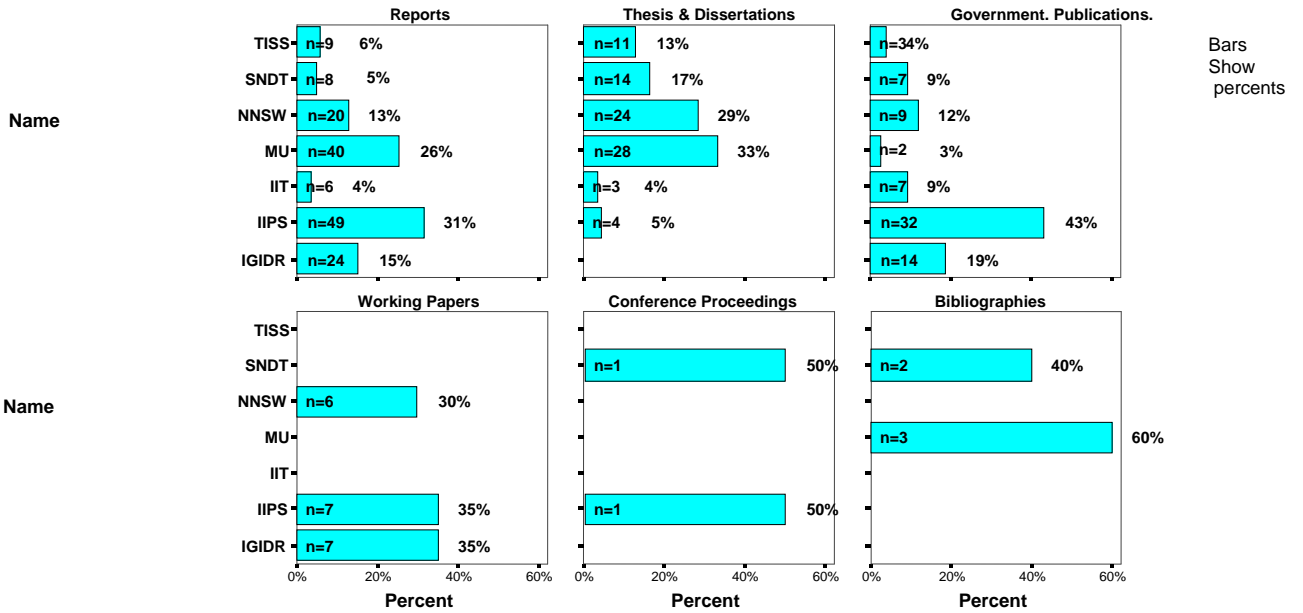
Recently a number of National and Local level conferences, seminars were conducted all over India on several issues of CBM. Some of these were:

- UGC SAP Seminar on Caste Organisations in South Indian States- Social and Economic Dimensions, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Madras, 8-9, January 2001,
- Global Conference against Racism and Caste based Discrimination: Occupation and Descent-based Discrimination against Dalits 1-4 March 2001.
- National Seminar on Dravidian Folk and Tribal Lore 29, 30th Nov. 2002,
- National Seminar on “Dalit Studies and Higher Education : Exploring Content Material for a New Discipline”, India International Centre, New Delhi, February 28-March 1, 2004,
- National seminar on The Situation of Dalits in Bangladesh: Possible Way Forward on 6-7 September 2007,
- DEV Seminar on “The Creation of Dalit Bourgeoisies: Caste, Credit and Markets in Urban India" on Wednesday 10 October 2007,
- The Challenge of Caste System in Christianity November 2007,
- National Seminar on Emerging Trends and Issues in Reservation Policy, February 2008,
- Seminar on Caste and Conflict in Uttar Pradesh, 1901-1931: Lessons for the policy of caste-based reservations 24-09-2008,

The author is herself belonging to CBM. From her personal experience she has found that information of such events is shared only within a close network consisting of people belonging to CBM. Information of such conferences is generally not disseminated amongst scholars not belonging to CBM. Such restrictive promotion of events makes it difficult for libraries to trace the proceedings. That might be the reason for poor representation of conference proceedings in the collection.

Chart 2 shows the holdings of different types of GL on CBM available across all seven libraries. It shows that majority of the report collection was available at IIPS Library (31%), MU Library (26%), IGIDR Library (15%), and NNCSW Library (13%) as compared to other libraries which had 6% or less of such documents.

Chart 2: Different types of GL on CBM across all seven libraries



Thesis and Dissertations collection of CBM in IIPS Library and IGIDR Library was mere 4% and 5% respectively as compared to MU Library (33%), NNCSW Library (29%), SNDT Library (17%) and TISS Library (13%).

IIPS Library had a large collection of Government publication consisting 43% of total Government publication on CBM compared to other libraries. IIPS Library had acquired almost all the Government Publications on CBM whereas most of other libraries had less than 10% of total Government Publication on CBM.

In case of Working Papers, only NNCSW Library, IIPS Library, and IGIDR Library had Working Papers, which were almost 30-35 percent. Other libraries did not have any Working Papers on CBM. Working Papers and Conference Proceedings were not very commonly available in most of the libraries surveyed.

Bibliographies on CBM were very few i.e. only 5 bibliographies. Bibliographies of GL on CBM covering individual library's collection would be ideal and useful for the researchers as well as for management. Also control of GL would be possible through bibliographies. Among the 5 bibliographies on CBM, four bibliographies were actually multiple copies of the same document. That was published in 1980s by 'The Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangralaya', which is a Public Library of Mumbai City. Further, that bibliography was not updated. The remaining one bibliography that was published in 1990s was by SNTD Library covering its own collection. That was also not updated. The efforts from individual libraries to prepare and update the bibliographies were lacking.

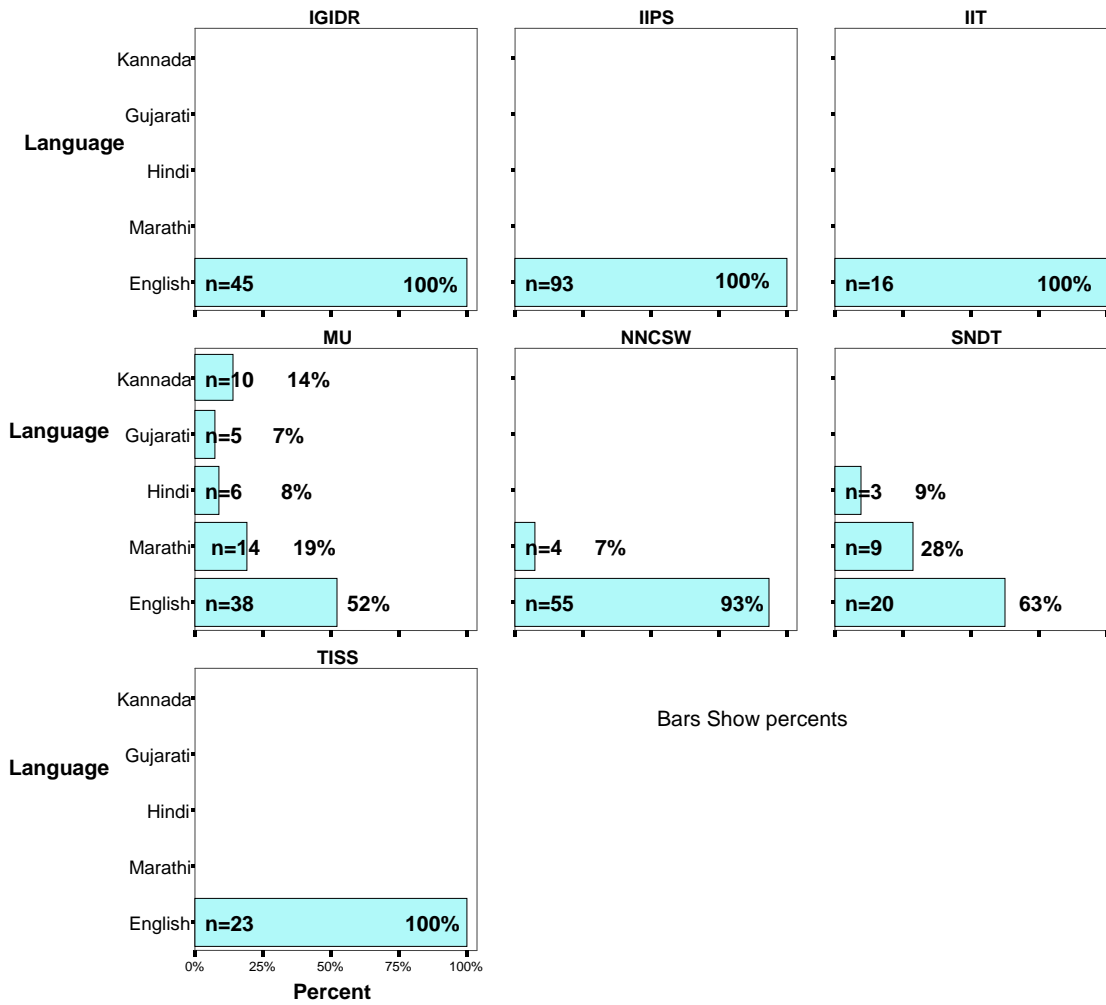
In total, there were 290 documents in English (85%), 27 documents in Marathi (7.9%), nine documents in Hindi (2.6%). There were five documents in Gujarati (1.5%) and ten documents in Kannada (2.9%) available in libraries of Mumbai.

In Thesis and Dissertations, there were documents in Hindi and Marathi in SNTD Library and MU Library. Additionally, MU Library had Thesis and Dissertations in Kannada. Chart 3 shows that all the libraries had GL on CBM mainly in English.

In GL 15% of publication was in regional languages. These GL in regional languages get unnoticed at national or international level. Majority of the publications were in English. This becomes a barrier to CBM students and researchers as many of them get educated through regional languages.

In some of the libraries visited, the software currently being used cannot handle regional languages. Therefore, separate catalogue was maintained for regional language material.

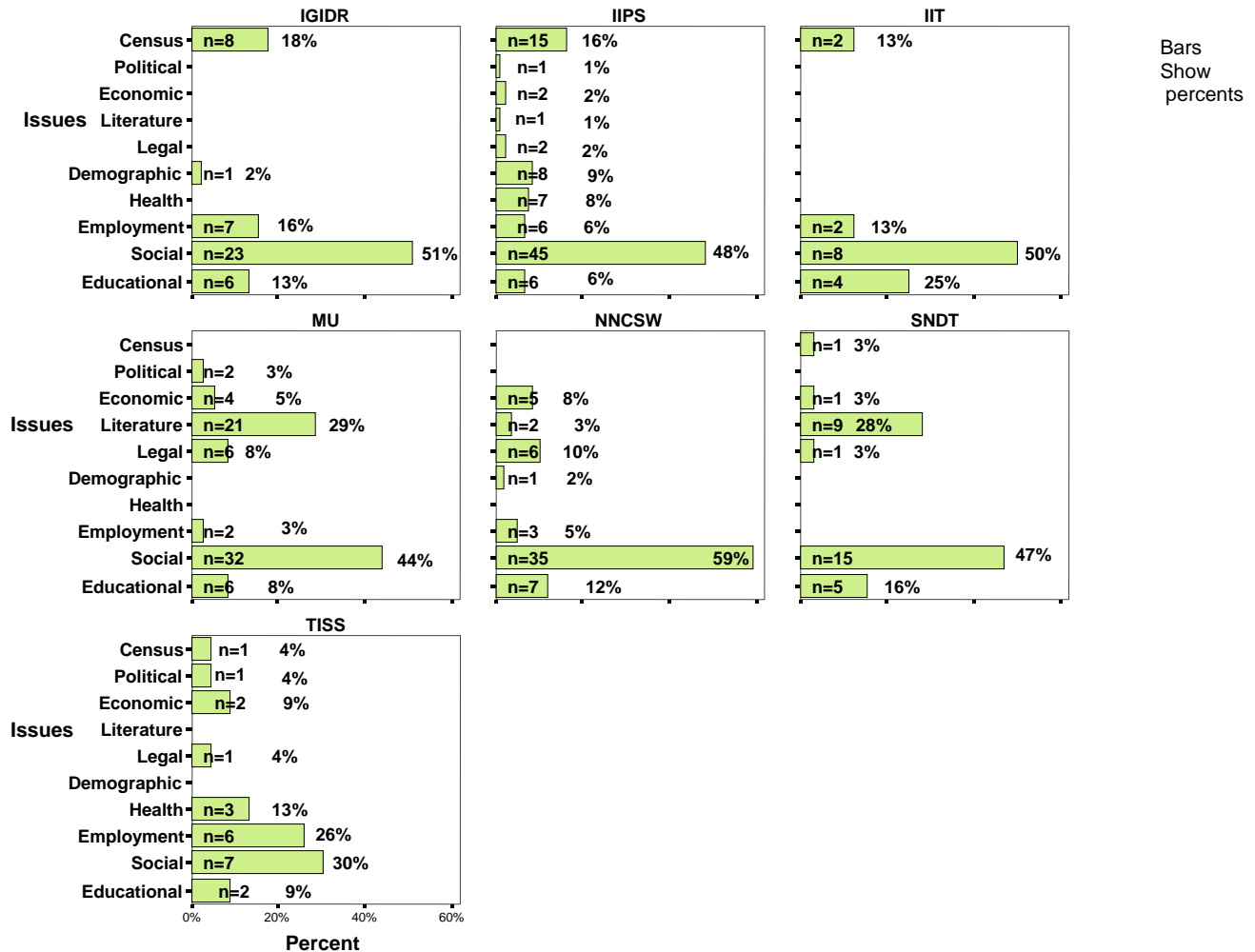
Chart 3: Library wise holdings of GL on CBM published in different languages



When the GL Collection was analysed as shown in Chart 4, as per subject content, it was found that social status of CBM in the society was the key issue of GL on CBM. Education, Employment and Literature issues were found to be at the second level. Publication on Political, Economic, Legal, Health issues were least represented i.e. less than 10% of the GL on CBM. Most probably studies on this issue are not being done and

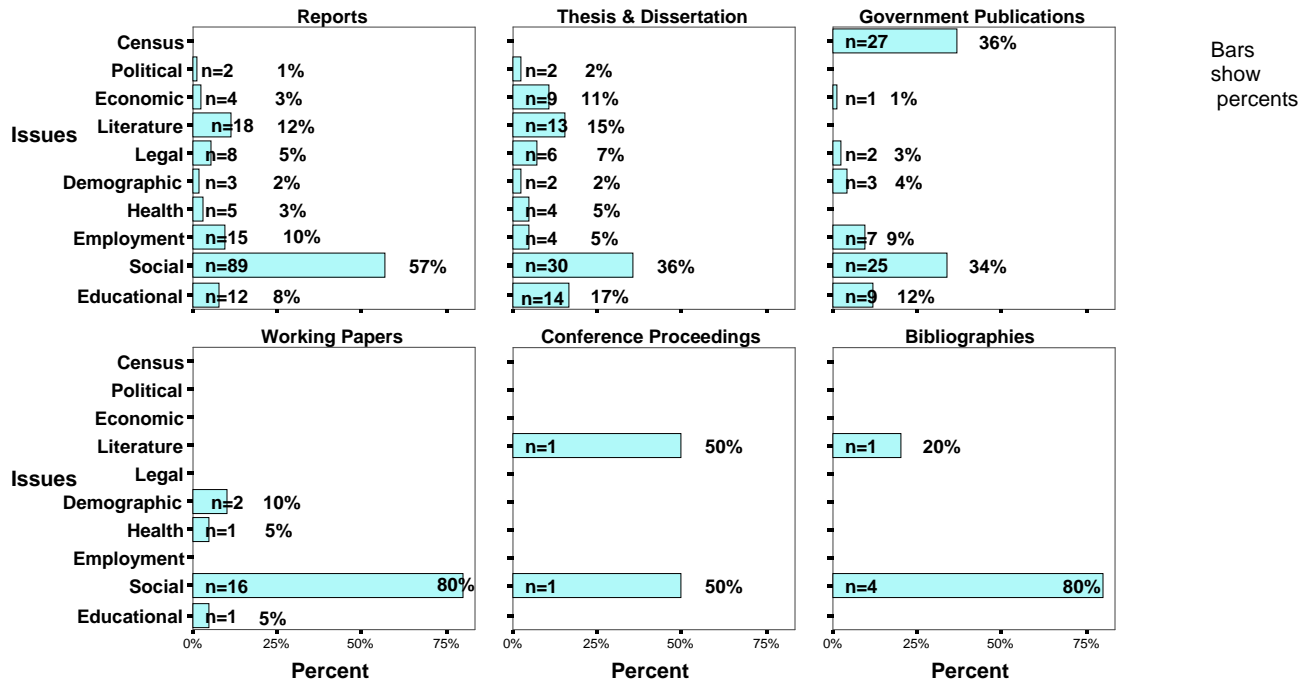
therefore not available to the libraries. Most of the studies revolve around status as in rural India; this is still a major concern leading to social unrest.

Chart 4: Library wise holdings of GL covering different CBM issues



The subject content was analysed in every document format. As represented in Chart 5, the status as an issue covering social discrimination, standard of living, and progress of the CBM, their interaction with the society, social policy, and government and NGOs efforts, schemes for upliftment of the CBM formed the most important area of discussion. Literature, Educational issues, and Employment issues came after social status.

Chart 5: Various CBM issues covered in different types of GL



In all types of GL on CBM, Educational issues like reservation in admissions, scholarship and freeship schemes, educational attainment of backward class students, etc. were found commonly. In Government Publication Census data was a major area of publication. Employment issues were found in Reports and Thesis and Dissertations as well as in Government Publications. In Thesis and Dissertations and Reports, Literature was the other issue discussed. Economics, Politics, Law, Demography, and Health were rarely discussed in the publication. So the findings on holdings of the library as represented in Chart 4 as well as the subject content of the different document formats as presented in Chart 5 support and reinforce each other.

All 341 documents were analysed longitudinally across 60 years publications covering the years of independence, it was found that in the first 25 years of post independence, the CBM were going through the phase in which they were searching for their identity in

society, grooming themselves to acquire the basic education and employment. The retrieved literature reflected the studies done during 1947-1972 covered social status, Education and general issues of CBM.

The studies published after 1972 till 1997 continued with Social and Educational issues along with Demographic, Literature, and Employment issues. Very few studies were found on Legal, Economic, Political and Health aspects of CBM. Government of India also started publishing Reports, Statistical data, etc. to review the status of CBM after independence.

It is only in the last decade, that publications covering topics like Health, Culture, Economical status, Demography, Religious orientation, Political status, and Housing started becoming available. In this study, 54 documents i.e. 16% of GL covered these topics. This shows some shift from the basic concern of Social status, Education and Employment to more mainstream concerns.

Selection and Acquisition:

Publication about CBM by CBM has become a potent tool to reflect the conditions of CBM. Most of these have been published by NGOs, Societies, trusts, etc. who publish literature by CBM about CBM. Therefore these do not get included in the national or trade bibliographies, which make it difficult for libraries to locate and acquire.

The libraries procured Government Reports directly from Government offices. Other GL were acquired from funding agencies, publishers, authors, etc.

It was commented by the librarians that copies of GL directly from author or funding agency were hardly received by the libraries. The most difficult to get were the conference proceedings. Libraries rarely received the brochures or circulars of various conferences on CBM issues. Thus libraries were facing major difficulty in finding the information about such conferences to follow up further to acquire the proceedings.

IGIDR Library, IIPS Library and NNCSW Library have gathered the grey documents on CBM with the help of their students. Every year students from villages and remote area enroll for the courses. These students of the current year courses are told to enquire and collect the grey document on CBM available from their local areas, especially, when they visit to their villages during vacations.

Technical Processing:

In all the libraries, the GL on CBM issues were classified and catalogued. Commonly all libraries have used Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme to classify the documents except IIT Library, which uses the Universal Decimal Classification Scheme to classify the GL on CBM. All GL on CBM were catalogued as per AACR II (Anglo- American Cataloguing Rules-II) standards. Bibliographic entries of GL in regional languages were added in transliterated form. The documents were assigned descriptors in English. Both generic and specific terms were used. For e.g. Scheduled Tribes- a generic term and “Koli” (Fisherman) - a specific term for a sub section of Scheduled Tribes.

The access to the bibliographic data of GL on CBM differed from library to library. SNDT Library, MU Library, NNSW Library had offline computerized catalogue. Whereas IIT Library, IIPS Library, IGIDR Library, TISS Library had Web OPAC. IIT Library and IIPS Library claimed that they have few Hindi documents on CBM, but these were not retrieved through their Web-OPAC

In some libraries separate databases of Thesis and Dissertations and Working Papers Government Publication, etc. were maintained. Thus the access to the bibliographic data was non-federated. Separate search was required under each type of documents (i.e. thesis and dissertations, working papers, seminar papers, census publications). In some libraries various research reports and other publications (i.e. books published by NGOs, institutes, and Government, bibliographies, etc.) were part of general book collection. Therefore each retrieved entry from book collection had to be checked by its bibliographic details to identify the GL on CBM.

Print copies of GL on CBM issues were arranged in classified order in all libraries except IGIDR library. This library had arranged the grey documents according to its accession number. Commonly in all the libraries, the collection of Thesis and Dissertations were kept separately which was then arranged accession number wise. MU Library did not bind the grey documents for greater longevity.

In IGIDR Library majority of the GL on CBM were stored as full text in electronic format either offline or online. The library has developed Kautilya Digital Repository, which includes Thesis & Dissertations, Working Papers and IGIDR's publications. IIPS library has developed a separate bibliographic level database (in devnagari script) for grey document in Hindi. It can be accessed through English language query from OPAC.

Users and Use:

GL on CBM were generally referred by the PG students, Researchers, faculty members, management authorities, policy makers etc. The usage of the GL on CBM issues differed from libraries to libraries. Regular usage of GL on CBM was found at IIPS Library, IGIDR Library, and NNCSW Library. In SNDT Library, MU Library, and TISS Library, GL on CBM were circulated sometimes; whereas at IIT Library, these were rarely used. Except Thesis and Dissertations, other grey documents were available for home reading as well as on ILL. However in IIT Library, all grey documents were restricted to current reading only.

Libraries have taken efforts to maximise circulation of GL on CBM. When users have queries on issues pertaining to general population, the libraries do make special efforts to include pertinent GL on CBM to mainstream the GL collection. These documents were referred regularly in literature search, preparation of bibliographies, reference and information services. To further research, NNCSW's Librarian had suggested to the student to select their project/ thesis topics which would follow up the earlier work done by other researchers. This helped to judge the success of implementation of the policies

and programmes of government, NGOs, etc. Few of these studies became useful as evidence in some legal and governmental matters.

In conclusion, the GL collection on CBM available in libraries of Mumbai was unique. There was less than one percent duplication of the documents on CBM available in these seven libraries.

As GL on CBM was generally produced by CBM and used by CBM, special efforts should be made to mainstream their issues by being more open and inclusive for their conferences and seminar, etc.

Publications of trusts, etc. have to be better publicized and made available for library to be able to develop their collection.

There must be effort to develop bibliographic control such as union catalogue, subject specific repository, etc.

GL published in regional languages need to be given more attention as it contains discussions at grass root level.

Internet services and facilities need to be utilized by author as well as by libraries to share the e-GL on CBM to wider community. This would help to focus the attention of the world to CBM issues which in turn may help to empowerment of CBM in the coming decades

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The paper examines literary evidence on the spread of Buddhism in Western India (Maharashtra-Gujarat area) and discusses the routes by which Buddhism travelled from its center in Magadha to the Ajanta region in Marathwada, the Karle-Junnar-Nasik area and the Kanheri-Broach territory. It is argued that this literary evidence must be taken seriously especially in view of the fact that recent [Show full abstract] excavations at Pauni in the Vidarbha region, are claimed to have revealed a pre-Asokan phase of Buddhism in Maharashtra. The fight against institutional communalism in India alerts us to a challenge bigger than merely inflicting electoral defeats on Hindu communal parties and organisations. Caste-based differences have also been practised in other regions and religions in the Indian subcontinent like Nepalese Buddhism,[13] Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.[14][15][16] It has been challenged by many reformist Hindu movements,[17] Islam, Sikhism, Christianity,[14] and also by present-day Indian Buddhism.[18] Each religion in India also continues to have a hierarchy based on castes, thus Dalits exist among Hindus, Christians as well as Sikhs, wherein all manual scavengers and pig herders in most villages in Punjab are Dalit Sikhs.[19]. In the context of politically active modern India, where job and school quotas are reserved for affirmative action based on castes, the term has become a sensitive and controversial subject.[59]. The early literature on development, race, ethnicity and minorities tended to assume that majority groups are bound to become dominant once the residues of colonialism are liquidated by independence. Either assimilation into a new nation would take place As pointed out by Halls and Midgley, 2004 in their work that development is most important part of any economic growth but it is of no use if it does not increase the income and wellbeing of overall population. In recent years Global agencies like United Nations have taken issues of inequality and poverty seriously and many developing nations have made strategies to deal with these problems effectively. The socio-economic conditions of the Muslim community of India present a dismal picture. No minority community can have a grievance against any government particularly in this matter. Some of the Problems of Minorities in India: In spite of the provisions of the constitutional equality, religious minorities in India, often experience some problems among which the following may be noted. 1. Problem of Providing Protection: Need for security and protection is very often felt by the minorities. Especially in times of communal violence, caste conflicts, observance of festivals and religious functions on a mass scale, minority groups often seek police protection. Government in power also finds it difficult to provide such a protection to all the members of the minorities. It is highly expensive also. Caste discrimination doesnt exist outside india - BULLSHIT Been living in the US for 5 years, i have seen brahmins come to Indian college students meet-ups and proudly ask "I am a brahmin, are you?". If yes, Iyer or Iyengar this is a guy who is gonna get a PHD. I have seen few other So-called Upper castes proudly call out castes and ask others. More than 60 per cent of domestic help and cooks in Andhra Pradesh are Brahmans. A study of the Brahmin community in a district in Andhra Pradesh (Brahmins of India by J Radhakrishna, published by Chugh Publications) reveals that today all Purohits live below the poverty line. Are they not discriminated? Their poverty and traditional style of dress and hair had made them the butt of ridicule.