



EXPLORING THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF INDIAN MUSLIMS



Sadiq. N. Bagwan

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad

Abstract

The Census of 2011 enumerated India's Muslim population at over 17.18 crore (approx.14.2%). Muslims constitute the second largest religious group in India and thus the largest minority. In India, contrary to common belief, Muslims do not constitute a socially homogenous community. Indian Muslims are characterized by regional and linguistic variations and highly unequal systems of social stratification with caste like formations (Ahmad, 1981). This significant minority community has been reduced to the lowest socio economic stratum in post independent India. They have lagged behind the schedule castes in many walks of life and are continuously lagging behind day by day. They are educationally most backward, economically poor and politically a powerless community of the country (Waheed, 2007). The deprivation at different levels of education is at the root of every problem, which Indian Muslims are facing. The higher dropout rates as

compared to rates of enrolment are an important reason for declining trends in education affecting their employment opportunities, a chance to earn salaried income and decent standard of living. In addition to rampant unemployment and underemployment, income inequalities are also a problem among Muslims. The deplorable condition of Muslims is traceable to the vicious circle of poverty. The low earnings or income of Muslims is reflected in less savings, low access to quality education, high dropout rate, unskilled or semi-skilled employment or self-employment, low consumption expenditure and ghettoized existence. The paper is an attempt to demystify the condition of Muslims by highlighting the pitiable conditions of Muslims in terms of employment, poverty and consumption vis-à-vis other socio-religious groups in the country.

Key Words: Muslims, Poverty, Unemployment, Education, Minorities