

HARIJANS TODAY



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CHAPTER I

BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

For centuries, large groups of people in India have suffered many disabilities. Collectively, these groups have been described variously as “outcastes,” “exterior castes” and “depressed classes”. Since the terms implied inferiority, Gandhiji called them Harijans which means God’s own people. In the Government of India Act of 1935, they are described as “Scheduled Castes,” and this term has also been used in the Constitution of India. A list of these groups is attached to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, issued by the Government of India under the Constitution.

According to the 1951 census, the Harijans number 51.7 million. They are distributed all over the country, in every State, district, tehsil and village; but nowhere are they as numerous as in Uttar Pradesh.

Until recently, the Harijans stood on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Their disabilities were many. They were, for example, debarred from public utilities, such as, roads, wells, tanks, conveyances and educational institutions. They were also not admitted to temples and burning *ghats*. The following words of Gandhiji give a moving picture of their conditions :

“Socially, they are lepers. Economically, they are worse than slaves. Religiously, they are denied entrance to places we miscall ‘houses of God’. They are denied the use on the same terms as the caste Hindus of public roads, public schools, public hospitals, public wells, public taps, public parks and

the like. In some cases, their approach within a measured distance is a social crime, and in some other rare enough cases their very sight is an offence. They are relegated for their residence to the worst quarters of cities and villages, where they practically get no social services. Caste Hindu lawyers and doctors, will not serve them. Brahmins will not officiate at their religious functions."

How strongly Gandhiji felt about the miserable plight of the Harijans is clear from another statement he once made :

"I do not want to be reborn. But if I have to be reborn, I should be born an untouchable so that I may share their sorrows, sufferings and the affronts levelled at them in order that I may endeavour to free myself and them from their miserable condition. I, therefore, pray that if I should be born again, I should do so not as a Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya or Shudra, but as an Atishudra....."

The movement for the removal of caste barriers was initiated by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Rishi Dayanand took up the cause of the Harijans. With Gandhiji's entry into the Indian National Congress in 1919, the uplift of the Harijans became a live issue. He regarded untouchability as the greatest blot on Hinduism. "Without the removal of the taint, Swaraj was a meaningless term." The country, he was convinced, must put its own house in order, if it were to claim justice from Britain.

Under Gandhiji's guidance, the Congress adopted a constructive programme of social improvement, in addition to a political programme. One of the important features of the former was to "organize the depressed classes for a better life; to improve their social, mental and moral condition; to induce them to send their children to national schools; and to provide for them ordinary facilities which the other citizens enjoyed."

In pursuance of this programme, social workers undertook intensive propaganda throughout the country. "Rural India, which had continued in its somnolescent medieval existence, awoke to the puzzling spectacle of youth belonging to the highest caste thundering to shocked

audience on the crime of treating fellow men and women as untouchables." They went to the hamlets of the untouchables defying their elders.

This drive, led by Gandhiji, gave the Harijans the self-respect and self-confidence to assert their rights. At Vykom, a small town in Travancore, they had been prevented from using a public street. On Gandhiji's advice, the Harijans resorted to *satyagraha* to vindicate their right to use the street. Processions were organized and held up by the police. For sixteen months, the *satyagrahis* and the police faced each other. Great interest was aroused throughout the country, and thousands of volunteers poured in to help the Vykom Harijans. Eventually, the authorities gave way and the cause of Harijan uplift triumphed.

"The opening of roads," wrote Gandhiji in this connection, "is not the final but the first step of the ladder of Harijan uplift. Temples, in general, public wells and schools must be thrown open to Harijans along with the caste Hindus." To secure these objectives, Gandhiji undertook a tour of the country. An Englishman, who was in India at that time, has described the campaign in the following words:

"Year after year, Gandhiji travelled up and down India holding immense meetings, not only for political objectives but also, for many years more frequently, to secure the abolition of untouchability.....Gandhiji did much more than hold meetings against untouchability. He took the amazingly courageous step (for a caste Hindu) of welcoming an untouchable child into his own family. This child's advent broke up the family for a time, but not for long. It also meant that the Mahatma brought down his own head the concentrated rage of orthodox Hinduism."

By removing their social disabilities, Gandhiji hoped eventually to eradicate completely all distinctions between Harijans and other Hindus. But there were others who wanted to exploit the social evil for their own ends. These people were out to convert untouchability into a vested interest and demanded separate electorates for the community. Gandhiji was convinced that such a step would

perpetuate the evil. "Separate electorates," he declared at the Second Round Table Conference, "will ensure their bondage for ever." He was resolved to fight it with his life.

In the Communal Award announced by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, on August 17, 1932, this warning was disregarded. Gandhiji, therefore, sought to undo the mischief by his resolve to fast unto death, if necessary. The fast spurred the people into action. By the fifth day of the fast, the country's leaders, including Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, had worked out a plan which came to be known as the Poona Pact. It was agreed to by Gandhiji and accepted by the British. As a result of the Pact, the Harijans remained an integral part of the general electorate; but seats were reserved for their representatives in all the provincial legislatures in proportion to their population.

These events gave an impetus to the movement for Harijan uplift. Meetings were held all over the country to remove the evil root and branch. Between September 13 and October 2, 1932, more than 150 temples and numerous wells were thrown open to the Harijans. Feasts, in which Harijans and others participated, were held at Bombay, Delhi, Patna and Nagpur and at Banaras University.

In September 1932, soon after his epic fast, Gandhiji founded the Harijan Sevak Sangh for systematic and sustained efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Harijans.

In November 1933, Gandhiji once again set out on a campaign of Harijan uplift. In ten months, he covered the greater part of the country. He studied every aspect of the problem, addressed crowded meetings and spread his message through his weekly organ *Harijan*. He collected money for Harijan uplift, enlisted workers and organized feasts at which Harijans and caste Hindus ate together.

While Gandhiji tried to bring about a change in the attitude of caste Hindus towards the Harijans, he also attempted to reform the latter. For instance, he told the Harijans not to eat carrion meat. He urged them to skin

the dead animal more efficiently, to convert refuse into valuable compost and to keep their houses clean. In fact, there was hardly an aspect of Harijan uplift which escaped his attention.

H. N. Brailsford, the well-known British writer, has described his work in the following words: "The campaign of this mystic to clean latrines one day and open temples on the other is one of the strangest chapters in history and one of the noblest. Has any saint in human memory done more to lighten the misery of the oppressed and restore their self-respect? He has broken a cruel institution that dated from the night of time.....India honours Gandhiji today chiefly because he led the fight for independence. Humanity owes him even heavier debt because he opened the road of the untouchables to freedom."

The Congress Ministries

In 1937, popular Ministries came into power in the provinces, and they took up the work of Harijan uplift with great enthusiasm and gave it precedence over other problems. The planning and implementation of the Harijan uplift programme was entrusted to special officers or departments. The main aim of these efforts was to raise the Harijans educationally and to give them adequate representation in the public services. Attention was given to other aspects of Harijan welfare also, such as, the abolition of forced labour, the removal of disabilities, the provision of amenities and prohibition.

As a result of these measures, there was a perceptible improvement in the condition of the Harijans. Increased facilities for education and vocational training opened to them new opportunities in the economic field. The educated among them were absorbed in the public services. A middle class had thus begun to rise among the Harijans and it became the vanguard of progress.

Unfortunately for the Harijans, the political situation compelled the Congress Ministries to resign office in 1939.

With their departure, the welfare work which they had been doing with such great zeal was interrupted. Even so, the death-knell of untouchability had been sounded and the foundations of future progress of the Harijans had been well laid.

CHAPTER II

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

With the advent of independence, the work of Harijan welfare, which had been interrupted in 1939 owing to the resignation of the Congress Ministries in the provinces, has been taken up again. To begin with, the Constitution of India makes ample provision to safeguard the rights and interests of the Harijans. Article 15 of the Constitution, for example, prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, class, place of birth or any of them. On these grounds, no citizen can be allowed to suffer any disability, liability, restriction or condition regarding access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment or the use of wells, tanks, bathing *ghats*, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public. Article 16 of the Constitution further states: "There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matter relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State. No citizen shall be ineligible or discriminated against in respect of any employment or office under the State."

This provision is supplemented by Article 19(g) and 29(2) which ensure that "all citizens shall have the right to practise any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business," and that "no citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of the State funds on grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them."

Thus, the inherent right of the Harijans to complete social equality has been fully recognized under the Constitution. However, to make the position still more explicit, Article 17 of the Constitution states that "untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

It was, however, not enough to remove the disabilities of the Harijans. It was realized that at least for some years to come they would need positive assistance from the State before they were in a position to compete with others on equal terms. This is envisaged in Article 46 which lays down that "the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

Apart from this, the Constitution has also secured the economic and political interests of the Harijans. Thus, Articles 330(1) and 332(1) provide that "seats should be reserved for them in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States." Besides, they are to receive their proper share in the public services at the Centre and in the States.

Furthermore, Article 338 of the Constitution authorizes the President to appoint a special officer for the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes whose duty would be to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for them under the Constitution and to report to him on the working of the safeguards at regular intervals.

It will thus be seen that the Constitution of India amply safeguards the future of the Harijans and prevents discrimination against them in any shape or form. The aim of these provisions is to eliminate distinctions between the Harijans and other members of the community and to bring about their eventual fusion, as desired by Gandhiji.

CHAPTER III

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Under the Government of India Act of 1935, special representation was given to the Harijans in the legislatures for the first time. As is well known, it was in accordance with the Communal Award of August 1932. Mahatma Gandhi rightly saw the seeds of disruption in this Award. He, therefore, decided to resist this move on the part of the British Government.

Gandhiji began his epic fast unto death. Ultimately, it resulted in the signing of the Poona Pact which allowed the reservation of seats for the Harijans. It was, however, ensured that election would be held through joint electorates as opposed to separate electorates.

This wise and far-sighted move of Gandhiji resulted not only in saving the Hindu society from vivisection, but in giving the Harijans more representation than they were entitled to under the Award. They received 148 seats against 78 given by the British.

Under the new Constitution of India, the Harijans have also obtained special representation in Parliament and the State legislatures. The reservation of seats will, however, cease after a period of 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution. Moreover, as laid down in Articles 330 and 332, such seats shall be reserved as nearly as may be possible in proportion to the population of the Harijans in the States.

The intention of the provision fixing a time limit for special representation is that within a period of 10 years

the country should raise the Harijans to the level of the other classes in India. Much is, of course, being done by the Central and the State Governments and the various bodies to achieve this end. Still vigorous efforts are needed on the part of the people, including the Harijans, to accomplish the task in time.

The following table gives the number of seats allotted to the Harijans in the House of the People on the basis of their population figures in the 1951 census:

States	Number of seats in the House of the People	Number of seats reserved for Harijans
Part A States		
1. Andhra	.. 28	4
2. Assam	.. 12	1
3. Bombay	.. 49	4
4. Bihar	.. 55	7
5. Madhya Pradesh	.. 29	4
6. Madras	.. 49	8
7. Orissa	.. 20	4
8. Punjab	.. 17	3
9. Uttar Pradesh	.. 86	16
10. West Bengal	.. 34	6
Part B States		
1. Hyderabad	.. 25	4
2. Jammu and Kashmir	6	—
3. Madhyabharat	.. 11	2
4. Mysore	.. 13	2
5. PEPSU	.. 5	1
6. Rajasthan	.. 21	2
7. Saurashtra	.. 6	—
8. Travancore-Cochin	13	1
Part C States		
1. Ajmer	.. 1	—
2. Bhopal	.. 1	—
3. Coorg	.. 1	—
4. Delhi	.. 3	—

5. Himachal Pradesh	..	3	—
6. Kutch	..	2	—
7. Manipur	..	2	—
8. Tripura	..	2	1
9. Vindhya Pradesh	..	5	1
Total		500	71

The following table shows the total number of seats allotted to the Harijans in the State legislatures according to the 1951 census :

States	Number of seats in the Legisla- tive Assembly	Number of seats reserved for Harijans
Part A States		
1. Andhra	.. 196	26
2. Assam	.. 108	5
3. Bihar	.. 330	41
4. Bombay	.. 294	25
5. Madhya Pradesh	.. 232	32
6. Madras	.. 245	39
7. Orissa	.. 140	25
8. Punjab	.. 119	22
9. Uttar Pradesh	.. 430	78
10. West Bengal	.. 238	45
Part B States		
1. Hyderabad	.. 175	29
2. Madhyabharat	.. 99	16
3. Mysore	.. 117	21
4. PEPSU	.. 60	12
5. Rajasthan	.. 168	18
6. Saurashtra	.. 60	4
7. Travancore-Cochin	.. 117	11
Part C States		
1. Ajmer	.. 30	6

2.	Bhopal	..	30	5
3.	Coorg	..	24	3
4.	Delhi	..	48	6
5.	Himachal Pradesh	..	36	8
6.	Vindhya Pradesh	..	60	6
Total		..	3,356	483

CHAPTER IV

WELFARE DEPARTMENTS

The Constitution of India, as seen earlier, makes special provision for the safeguarding of the interests of the Backward Classes like the Harijans and the Scheduled Tribes. Accordingly, under Article 338 of the Constitution, a Commissioner for the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes was appointed at the Centre by the President on November 18, 1950, for investigating all matters relating to the safeguards provided for them under the Constitution. He is assisted by an Assistant Commissioner, an Officer on Special Duty (Planning) and a Tribal Welfare Officer. Moreover, there are six Assistant Regional Commissioners, each in charge of a region. The territorial jurisdiction and headquarters of each region are as follows :

Region No. 1—Assam, Manipur and Tripura: Shillong

Region No. 2—Bihar and West Bengal: Ranchi

Region No. 3—Madhya Pradesh, Madhyabharat,
Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal: Nagpur

Region No. 4—Southern Region: Madras

Region No. 5—Andhra and Orissa: Visakhapatnam

Region No. 6—Bombay, Saurashtra, Ajmer and Rajasthan : Baroda

The Commissioner has so far submitted four reports to the President, the latest being for 1954, which was presented in February 1955.

As regards the States, under Articles 164(1) and 238(6) of the Constitution, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Madhyabharat are required to appoint Ministers in charge

of Tribal Welfare, who may, in addition, be in charge of the welfare of Harijans and Backward Classes or any other work connected with their welfare. No provision has been made in the Constitution for the setting up of separate departments for the welfare of these communities in other Part A and Part B States. These States have, however, welfare schemes for these people and the machinery to execute them.

The position in the States at present is as follows :

There is no independent department in Andhra to look after the interests of the Harijans. The Harijan Welfare Department, which is part of the Development Department, is in charge of this work and has a Director at the head. There are 11 District Welfare Officers working under the Collectors, besides 13 others who have been specially engaged for the acquisition of land for housing sites for the Harijans. A State Harijan Welfare Committee consisting of 34 members advises the Government on all matters about the welfare of the Harijans.

The Government of Assam has set up an independent department, known as the Tribal Areas Department, which controls the welfare activities in so far as the Harijans are concerned. In Bihar, too, there is a separate Welfare Department which looks after the work connected with Harijan welfare. The field work is managed by 4 Divisional and 17 District Harijan Welfare Officers assisted by 100 zonal Sevaks.

The work of Harijan welfare in Bombay is supervised by the Director of the Backward Class Welfare Department, who is assisted by 5 Assistant Directors, one for each zone, and 17 Welfare Officers in charge of one or more districts. The Department of Tribal Welfare in Madhya Pradesh deals with the welfare of the Harijans. The Director of Social Welfare in that State is in charge of the work for the removal of untouchability.

In Madras, the Department of Harijan Welfare looks

after the welfare of the Harijans. It is headed by a Director who co-ordinates the work of the Collectors in charge of the work in the districts; and they, in turn, are assisted by 13 District Welfare Officers. Besides, there is the State Harijan Welfare Committee to advise the Government on Harijan welfare. Similarly, there is a Harijan Welfare Committee for each district. The Tribal and Rural Welfare Department attends to the welfare of the Harijans in Orissa. The Punjab has a Welfare Officer who is assisted by 5 District Welfare Officers.

In Uttar Pradesh, Harijan welfare is the responsibility of the Harijan Sahayak Department. The executive head of the Department is the Director who is assisted by an Assistant Director, a Harijan Welfare Officer, 7 Regional Officers and 100 field workers. The State Sahayak Board determines the policy and reviews the progress made by the Harijan Sahayak Department. Similar committees have been set up in the districts. Although there is a Tribal Welfare Department in West Bengal, the welfare schemes relating to the Harijans are attended to by the administrative departments concerned.

In Hyderabad, the Social Service Department has been set up to deal with the welfare of the Harijans. There are 8 Special Social Service Officers and 11 Social Service Officers posted in the districts to look after the social service schemes in their jurisdiction. Madhyabharat has an independent Department of Harijan and Tribal Welfare under a Director who is assisted by an Assistant Director and 8 District Harijan Organizers.

There is no separate department for the welfare of the Harijans in Mysore. The work is entrusted to the Commissioner for Depressed Classes. A Central Depressed Class Policy Committee formulates the policy to be carried out for their welfare and reviews the work done. Also, District and Taluk Advisory Committees have been set up to advise the Government on Harijan welfare.

In Pepsu, the work connected with the welfare of the Harijans is the responsibility of the Backward Classes Department with the Commissioner in over-all charge of field activities. Four Welfare Officers in the districts and one Assistant Welfare Officer in each tehsil work for the Harijan uplift. There is the Backward Classes Welfare Department under a Director in Rajasthan. The Commissioner for the Advancement of Backward Communities in Travancore-Cochin is in charge of the welfare of the Harijans. An Advisory Committee consisting of Harijan representatives and other backward communities advises the Government on the problems of the Harijans.

The Harijan Welfare Department in Ajmer deals with welfare activities for the Harijans. In Bhopal, a special Harijan Uplift Office comprising an Assistant Director and 4 Welfare Assistants has been established under the Director, Panchayat Raj, to attend to the needs of the Harijans. The various welfare schemes for the Harijans in Coorg are executed by the departments concerned. There is, however, a committee consisting of the Minister for Backward Classes, representatives of the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes and Members of the State Legislative Assembly to advise the Government on the ameliorative measures undertaken for the uplift of the Harijans and for the proper upgrading of the grants made by the Central and State Governments.

Delhi State has an Advisory Harijan and Backward Classes Welfare Board under the chairmanship of the Rehabilitation Minister. The work of Harijan Welfare in Himachal Pradesh is attended to by the Director of Public Relations and Tourism. The District Public Relations Officers are entrusted with this work in their respective units. The Backward Classes Officer in Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh and a Special Officer and three Inspectors in Tripura are responsible for the welfare of the Harijans in these States.

Thus, adequate organizations for welfare work exist in the States. Besides, there are non-official agencies which are engaged in the removal of untouchability and Harijan welfare. Special mention may be made of the Harijan Sevak Sangh, the Bharatiya Depressed Classes League and the Harijan Ashram of Allahabad. These institutions are helped by the Government of India in their efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Harijans.

CHAPTER V

SOCIAL DISABILITIES

The Constitution of India, as laid down in the Preamble, aims at securing for the citizens "justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and equality of status and opportunity." Accordingly, Articles 15, 17, 25, 29, 38 and 46 of the Constitution seek to remove the social disabilities from which the Harijans suffer. Every effort is, therefore, being made by the Central and State Governments as well as by non-official organizations to eradicate them.

Already, a number of legislations* have been enacted in Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Madhyabharat, Mysore, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch, Tripura and Vindhya Pradesh. The only States which have not adopted any legislative measures so far are Assam, Pepsu, Rajasthan and Manipur. The Acts in force in the Part A States have been made applicable to the Part C States also.

The offences committed under the Acts are cognizable in Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, the Punjab, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Madhyabharat, Mysore, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Delhi, Kutch and Tripura. In Orissa, the offences committed under the Orissa Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947 are cognizable, while those committed under the Orissa (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act of 1946 are not cognizable. Similarly, in Coorg, the

* Please see statement for titles at the end of the chapter

offences committed under the Coorg Scheduled Castes (Removal of Civil and Social Disabilities) Act of 1949 are cognizable, while those committed under the Coorg Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1949 are not cognizable.

In April-May 1955, the Government of India enacted the Untouchability (Offences) Act prescribing punishments for the practice of untouchability or the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom.

The Act does not define untouchability, but makes provision for the common forms of untouchability practised in India. Its application has not been confined only to the Hindus, but extends to all sections of the people. The Act guarantees to the so-called "untouchables" the right of free entry into public temples and places of worship; the right to bathe in or use the water of any tank, well, spring, river, public tap or watercourse; the right of free access to any road, passage, burial ground, ship, public conveyance, public restaurant, hotel or any place of public entertainment; the right of practising any profession or carrying on any occupation, trade or business and the right of free access to any place used for a charitable or public purpose maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the generality of persons. It adds further that whoever takes part in the ex-communication of or imposition of any social disability on any person, ~~who~~ refuses to practise untouchability, shall be punishable under the Act. The courts have also been empowered to cancel or suspend the licence in respect of any profession, trade, calling or employment of such an offender. Offences under this law are cognizable and punishable with imprisonment or fine, which may extend to six months or Rs. 500 or both.

Besides legislative enactments, the State Governments have adopted several other measures to ameliorate the social condition of the Harijans. These include, amongst others, the observance of the Harijan day, the organization of *melas*, public meetings and exhibitions, the holding of inter-caste dinners and common messing, the preparation

of story films and pamphlets, posters and leaflets in the regional languages, the award of scholarships for the education of Harijan children, subsidies for poor families and prizes for the villages which have done outstanding work for the removal of untouchability, the grant of financial assistance to voluntary organizations engaged in the removal of social disabilities, etc.

The Harijan day is observed in almost all the States either once a month or once a quarter. Both officials and non-officials take part and explain to the people the evils of untouchability and the legal penalties for practising it.

As regards educational institutions, no untouchability is practised in Government or Government-aided institutions in any of the States. The Harijan students have free admissions to hostels, and common messing is generally in vogue. In several States, there are hostels specially run for them under the Welfare Departments. Similarly, there is no restriction worth the name in the use of common wells by the Harijans in the States or against entry into temples.

Under most of the Acts passed by the States, the offences committed are cognizable. In cases, where they are non-cognizable, free legal advice is offered to the Harijans in dealing with cases arising out of the denial of rights conferred on them by the Constitution.

Wide publicity is given to the evil practice of untouchability and to the provisions of the Acts by the beat of drums in the rural areas, by issuing pamphlets, posters and leaflets in the regional languages, by displaying them at prominent places and by holding public and group meetings, conferences and exhibitions. Most of the States have, in addition, mobile publicity units which tour the rural areas and exhibit films and magic lantern slides dealing with the vice of untouchability. Monthly or quarterly reports are sent to the Government on the progress of the work done. If there are complaints of harassment of the Harijans, the authorities have been instructed to intervene promptly, not

merely to enquire into the truth or otherwise of the allegations, but to take steps to prevent ill treatment.

Also, Social Service Advisory Boards, Social Service Advisory Committees and Harijan Welfare Committees have been constituted for the districts in several States to look after the interests of the Harijans. The committees consist not only of Harijans but others interested in social service. The Village Vigilance Committees have also been formed to watch and report about the troubles and difficulties of the Harijans.

Meanwhile, special workers have been appointed by voluntary organizations to educate people against the practice of untouchability and the resultant social disabilities. These workers are paid out of the grants-in-aid received from the Central Government. They have proved most helpful in bringing about better relations between the Harijans and the caste Hindus and in settling disputes between them amicably without going to a court of law.

A number of States, such as, Bihar, Madras, the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Madhyabharat, Mysore, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Kutch, Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh, have decided to maintain a list of villages where the Harijans still suffer from social disabilities.

In the Punjab, Bihar, Hyderabad and Rajasthan, the educational authorities are also taking steps to introduce special chapters on untouchability in the course of study for schools and colleges.

Non-official agencies, too, are doing very useful work for the removal of untouchability and Harijan uplift.

Harijan Sevak Sangh

A good deal of work has been done by the Harijan Sevak Sangh for the Harijans in Tamil Nad, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhyabharat. Its efforts have resulted in a large number of temples, wells, hotels, saloons and restaurants being thrown open to the Harijans in different places.

A large number of cases of discrimination against the Harijans at tea and coffee shops in the districts of South Kanara, Coimbatore, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Chingleput and Madurai in Tamil Nad have been brought to the notice of the police. The usual practice of serving tea and coffee to the Harijans in coconut shells in Tamil Nad has now ceased.

In Rajasthan and Madhyabharat, the Sangh has succeeded in removing such social disabilities as the prohibition of wearing particular types of ornaments or clothes by the Harijans and riding horses at weddings. The Sangh organizes conferences, meetings and fairs where people are told why untouchability should be removed, followed by community dining by Harijans and caste Hindus.

Flood and fire relief is also afforded wherever such calamities happen. Besides, medical aid in the form of opening small dispensaries is provided. Nurses and doctors are also appointed in certain places. On all these items, the annual expenditure has risen from Rs. 100,000 in the beginning to Rs. 2,000,000 in 1954-55.

Many branches of the Sangh maintain their own hostels to which large numbers of non-Harijan students are also admitted each year. There are 43 such hostels in Tamil Nad with 2,091 boys and girls, 19 in Gujarat, 10 in Maharashtra with 401 inmates, 5 each in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh and Malabar and 3 in Madhyabharat with 65 students.

Among industrial institutions, the Harijan Udyogshala and the Kasturba Balika Ashram in Delhi have 149 and 65 inmates of the Harijan and the non-Harijan communities respectively. The Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya in Madras has 157 students, including 20 caste Hindu boys. Many of the branches also conduct elementary schools where both Harijan and non-Harijan students are admitted. The Sangh also awards scholarships and provides money for fees and books to Harijan students.

Bharatiya Depressed Classes League

The Bharatiya Depressed Classes League has about 60 *paracharaks* working for the welfare of the Harijans in the States. The League has a cinema van which tours the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhyabharat, Pepsu, Rajasthan, Bhopal, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. The programme includes the screening of the films and documentaries on subjects of general interest like health, sanitation, the Five Year Plan, rights and duties of the citizens, etc., and films on Harijan welfare as well as the playing of recorded messages from prominent personalities on the removal of untouchability.

The League organizes camps and stalls at important fairs and publishes literature on the subject in different languages. It has already brought out about a lakh posters and an equal number is under print. Since 1954, it has been publishing a Hindi fortnightly journal entitled *Nirbhaya* devoted entirely to the cause of the Harijans. Nor is this all. The League provides legal aid, scholarships and grants for books to poor Harijan boys and girls.

Harijan Ashram, Allahabad

The Harijan Ashram is a busy centre of activities working for the amelioration of the Harijans. It runs, for instance, a higher secondary school for boys and girls, a basic school for children, a vocational school for training in woodcraft, leather work and tailoring, a hostel each for boys and girls, an industrial workshop, a hospital, an agricultural school, a tannery, a library and a hostel for University students where they are brought up on Gandhian ideology.

The Ashram also engages in publicity work among the caste Hindus and the Harijans by organizing exhibitions, camps, cinema shows and tours by mobile van.

Thus, every effort is being made to remove the social disabilities of the Harijans through legislative and other measures. In consequence, the Harijans are now equal,

and in no way inferior, to the other citizens of the country. Official and non-official agencies see to it that they are fully cognizant of their rights and enjoy the fullest benefits from these measures.

**STATEMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ADOPTED
IN THE STATES TO REMOVE SOCIAL DISABILITIES**

States	Legislation adopted	Whether the offences under the Act are cognizable
1. Assam	Nil	
2. Bihar	The Bihar Harijan (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1949, and the Amendment Act of 1951	Yes
3. Bombay	(i) The Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947	Yes
	(ii) The Bombay Harijan Temple Entry Act, 1947	Yes
4. Madhya Pradesh	(i) The C.P. and Berar Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947	Yes
	(ii) The C.P. and Berar Scheduled Castes (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1947	Yes
5. Madras	The Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1947, and the Amending Act of 1949	Yes
6. Orissa	(i) The Orissa Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1948	Yes
	(ii) The Orissa (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1946	No
7. Punjab	The East Punjab (Removal of Religious and Social Disabilities) Act, 1948	Yes

States	Legislation adopted	Whether the offences under the Act are cognizable
8. Uttar Pradesh	The U.P. (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947	No
9. West Bengal	The West Bengal Hindu (Social Disabilities Removal) Act, 1948	Yes
10. Hyderabad	(i) The Hyderabad Harijan Temple Entry Regulation No. LV of 1358F (1948-49)	Yes
	(ii) The Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Regulation No. LVI 1358F (1948-49)	Yes
11. Madhya-bharat	Harijan Ayogta Nivaran Vidhan, 2005 (Harijan Disabilities Removal Act) 1949, and the Amendment Act of 1950	Yes
12. Mysore	(i) The Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1943, and the Amendment Acts of 1948 and 1949	Yes
	(ii) The Mysore Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1948 and the Amendment Act of 1949	Yes
13. PEPSU	Nil	..
14. Rajasthan	Nil	..
15. Saurashtra	The Removal of Social Disabilities Ordinance, 1948	Yes
16. Travancore-Cochin	(i) The Travancore-Cochin Temple Entry (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1950	Yes

States	Legislation adopted	Whether the offences under the Act are cognizable
	(ii) The United State of Travancore and Cochin (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1950	Yes
17. Ajmer	The U.P. (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State	No
18. Bhopal	The U.P. (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State in June 1951	No
19. Bilaspur	The U.P. (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State in June 1951	No
20. Coorg	(i) The Coorg Scheduled Castes (Removal of Civil and Social Disabilities) Act, 1949	Yes
	(ii) The Coorg Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1949	No
21. Delhi	The Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State	Yes
22. Himachal Pradesh	The U.P. (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State in May 1951	No
23. Kutch	The Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State in May 1951	Yes
24. Manipur	Nil	

States	Legislation adopted	Whether the offences under the Act are cognizable
25. Tripura	The West Bengal Hindu (Social Disabilities Removal) Act, 1948, extended to the State in May 1951	Yes
26. Vindhya Pradesh	The U.P. (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act, 1947, extended to the State	No

CHAPTER VI

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

The Directive Principles of State Policy provide that the State will not only remove the disabilities suffered by the Harijans but also take positive steps to promote their welfare, in particular, their educational and economic interests. This directive is based on the recognition that a democracy cannot prosper if any section of the community remains educationally or otherwise backward. A democratic State must, therefore, adopt special measures for the promotion of educational interests of all such people.

The greatest stress has accordingly been laid on the provision of educational facilities to the Harijans. This emphasis is justified, for nothing will bring about an improvement in the condition of the Harijans more speedily than education. Moreover, all the safeguards provided for them in the Constitution regarding reservation in Government services and posts will not take them very far unless steps are taken to equip them with the necessary qualifications required to fill these posts.

Accordingly, concessions are granted to Harijan students in the form of free tuition, stipends and scholarships and the provision of books, stationery and other equipment. The Central Government's expenditure on educational facilities for Harijan students has consequently been growing steadily :

Year	Expenditure (in rupees)
1947-48	539,307
1948-49	452,317

1949-50	515,512
1950-51	726,651
1951-52	817,976
1952-53	1,400,650
1953-54	2,686,316
1954-55 (Estimated)	4,890,000

Scholarships

The number of scholarships awarded to Harijan students has also been rising as is clear from the following:

Year	Number of Scholarships
1947-48	655
1948-49	647
1949-50	879
1950-51	1,316
1951-52	1,410
1952-53	3,065
1953-54	5,954
1954-55	10,392

Thus, the total number of scholarships awarded during 1954-55 is approximately double and four times the number awarded during 1953-54 and 1952-53 respectively. This shows increased efforts on the part of the Government of India to educate Harijan boys and girls. It also shows the great interest which the Harijan students are now taking in higher education.

It is also interesting to note that a large number of them are now going in for the professional courses of study like medicine, engineering, agriculture, etc. The table below gives the number of scholarships awarded during the past three years:

Year	Number of Scholarships
1952-53	712
1953-54	905
1954-55	1,297

In addition to scholarships, travelling expenses up to a maximum of Rs. 100 per year are also paid to students pursuing professional courses, if such travelling forms an integral part of their studies. Moreover, research scholars selected under this scheme are paid up to a maximum of Rs. 100 to cover typing and printing charges of their thesis.

Overseas Scholarships

Meanwhile, the Government of India has decided to send Harijan students for advanced courses of study or for specialization in studies abroad. In 1953-54, for instance, two students were selected through the Union Public Service Commission and sent to the United Kingdom for post-graduate studies. The students were :

Name	Subjects of Study
1. Dr. Jananendra Nath Mandal	Medicine
2. Sri Alok Kumar Mandal	Ferrous Metallurgy

The scheme for the award of overseas scholarships will continue for a further period of five years with the number of scholarships increased from two to four per year. The Union Public Service Commission has already invited applications for these scholarships.

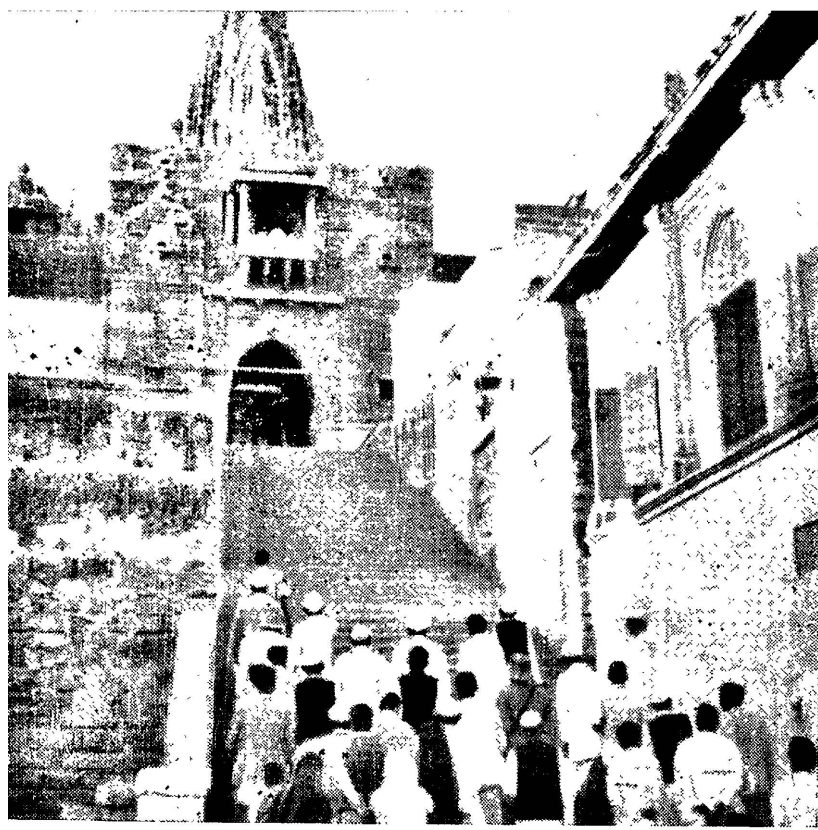
The Government of India has further agreed to bear the cost of tourist class/II class sea passage for Harijan students who obtain merit scholarships for studies abroad from foreign Governments or under any of their schemes for which they are to pay the cost of passage. Thus, in 1953-54, one candidate who had received the U.S. President's Scholarship for research in John Hopkins University, Baltimore, was granted the cost of tourist class sea passage from Bombay to New York.

Finally, it should be remembered that, other things being equal, preference is always given to Harijan candidates in the award of overseas scholarships under any of the general schemes of the Government of India.

Gandhiji addressing
a gathering at the
Bhangi Colony,
Delhi where he
usually stayed dur-
ing his visits to the
Capital



Gandhiji's room
in the Bhangi Co-
lony, Delhi



Harijans and caste
Hindus visiting Ran-
chhodji temple at
Dwarka, Bombay



Harijan woman
in a temple



A batch of Harijan students and workers from the Harijan Sevak Sangh coming out of the Badrinath temple thrown open to Harijans in May 1955

Harijans and caste Hindus at a common meal





Harijan women drawing water from a well in a village in the Punjab

A young learner

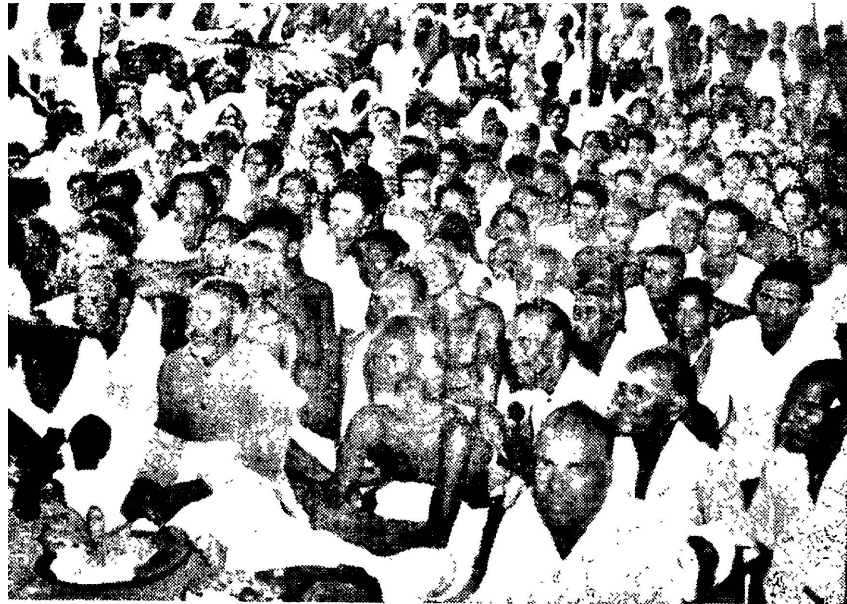




A group of happy Harijan children
leaving a basic school at Sevagram

A social worker with children at a
Harijan girls' hostel in Madras

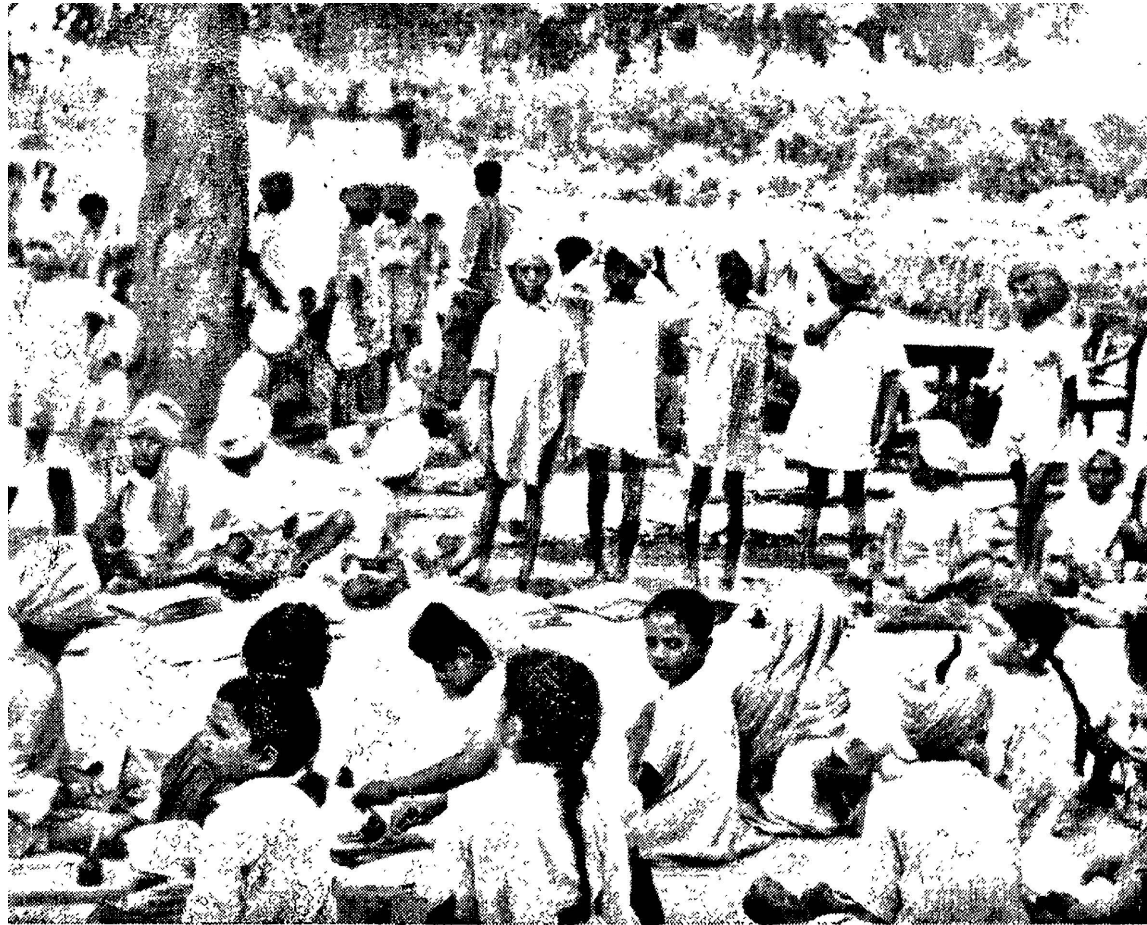




**A gathering of Harijans in Madras with
PATTAS for agricultural land**

**Boys learning the three R's at a
Harijan school in the Punjab**

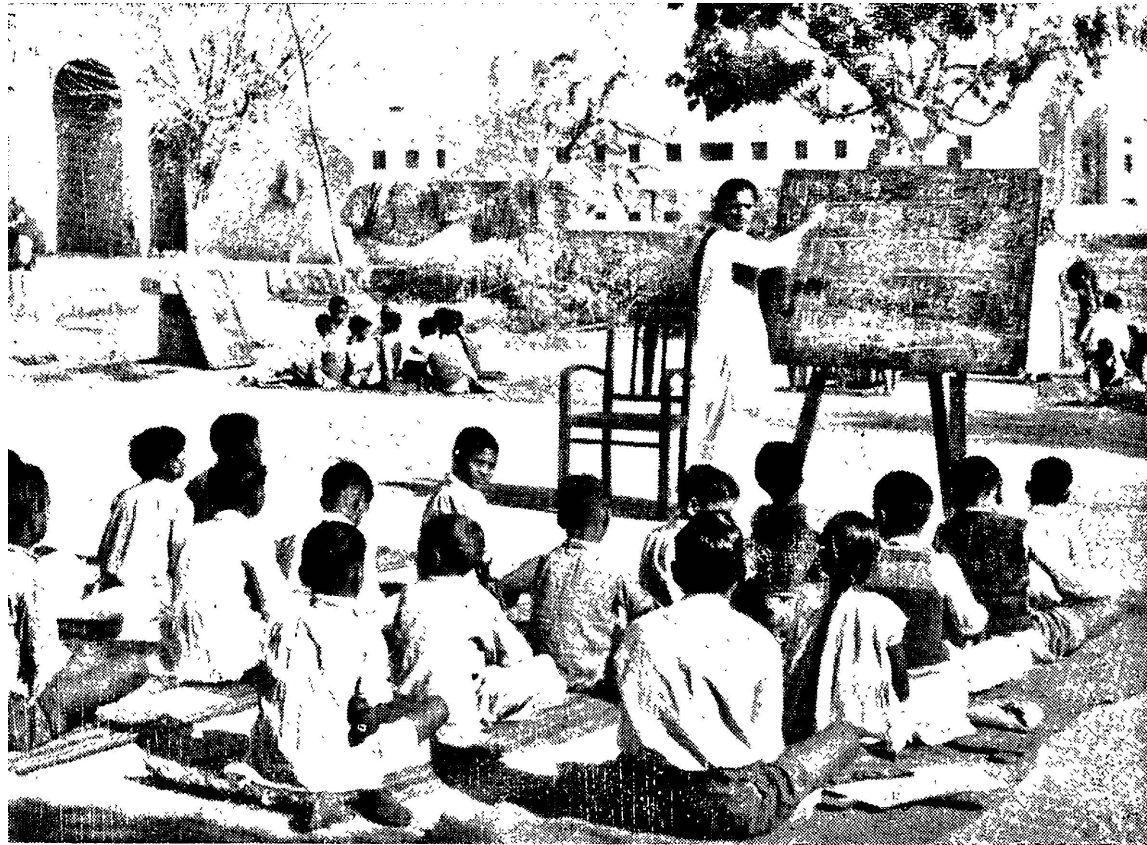




An open air school for Harijans in PEPSU

**Boys learning carpentry
at the Theosophical Hari-
jan Industrial School at
Patna, Bihar**





An open air school for Harijans

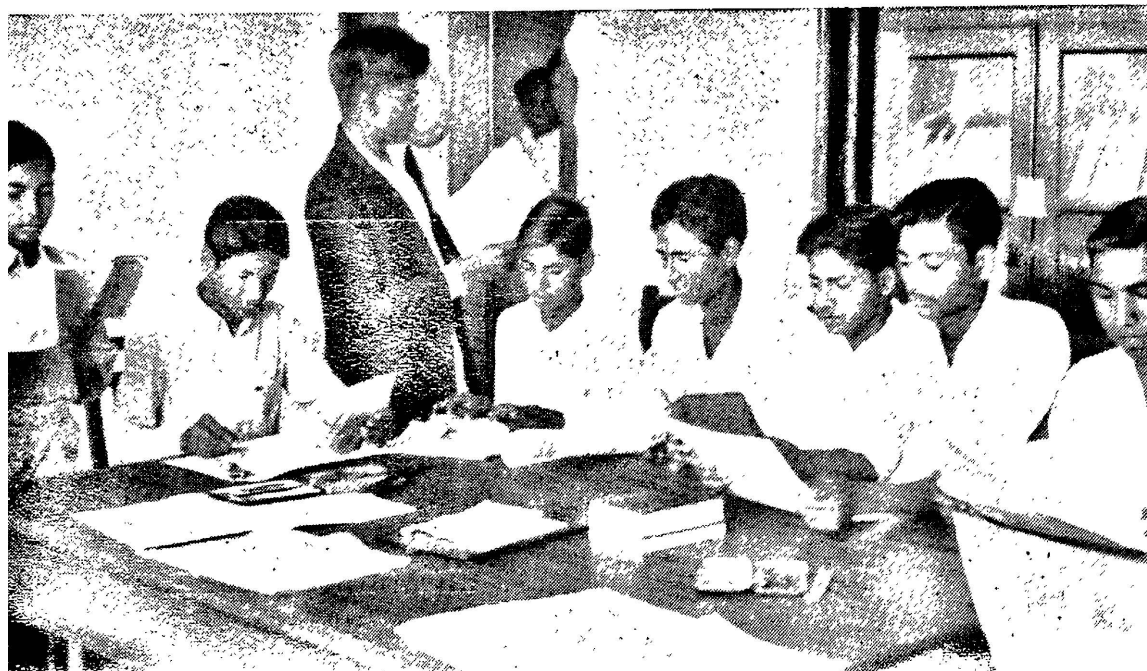
Social workers join in a game with Harijan children

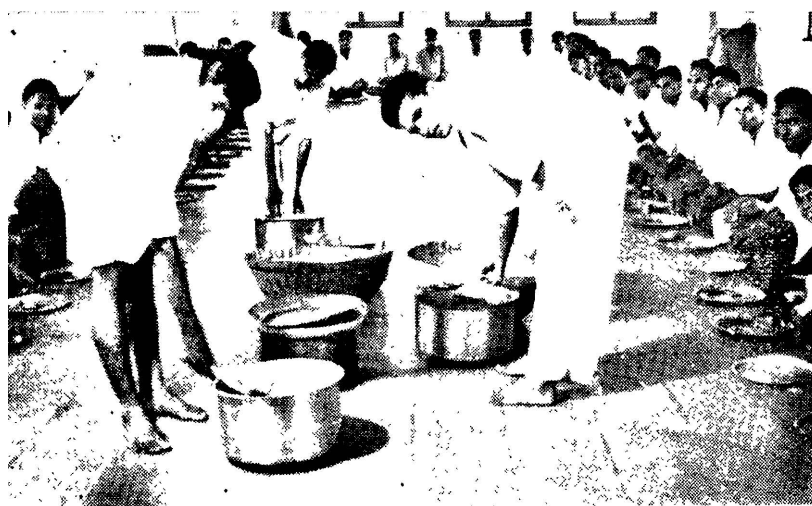




**Harijan students in the reading room,
Harijan Udyogshala, Delhi**

**Harijan boys at work in a Harijan
school in Hyderabad**





**Harijan boys at
their meal at a
hostel in Poona**

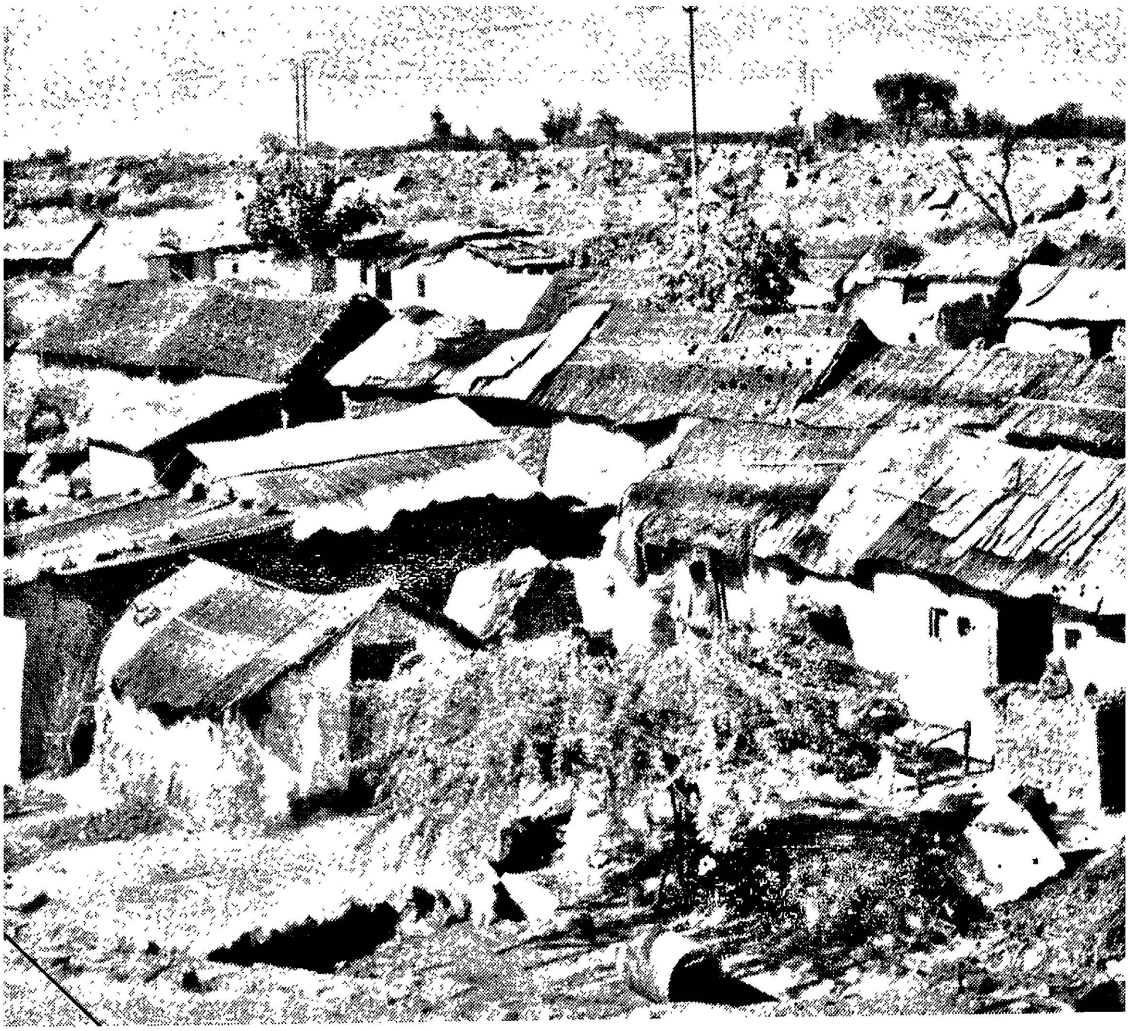
**A lesson in cleanliness from a
social worker**



**A sick Harijan
child being treated**

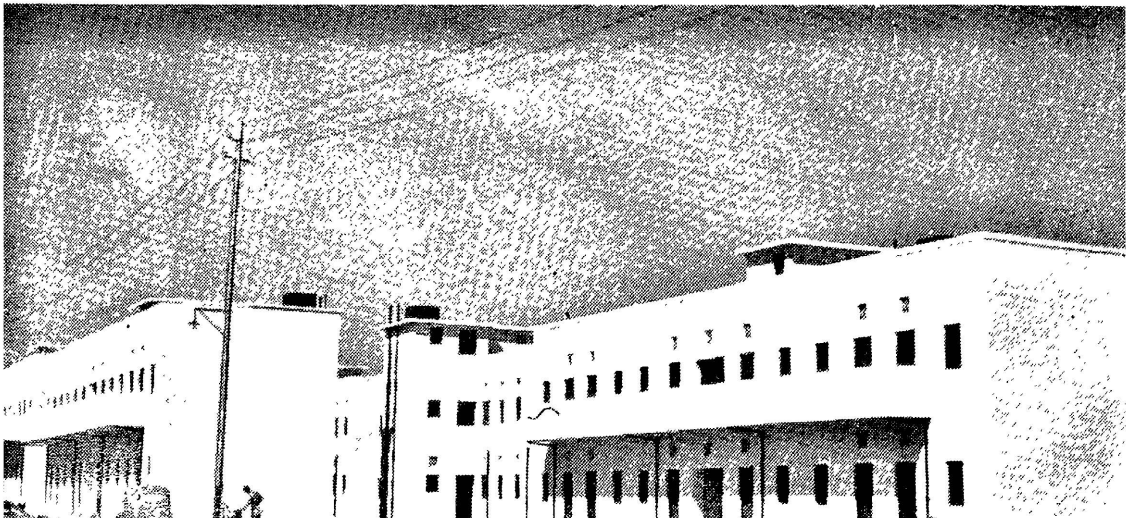


**Milk being distributed
among Harijan children**



Insanitary mud huts of the Harijans

**Modern airy flats being built by the
Government for Harijans in Delhi**





Harijan boys learn spinning and weaving

Harijan students manufacturing leather articles



Merit Scholarships

Of the total number of merit scholarships awarded in public schools during a year, 17½ per cent is reserved for the Harijan, Scheduled Tribe and other Backward Class children, subject to suitable candidates being available. Also, slightly lower standards are adopted in making the selection of these candidates. In 1953, eight and in 1954 twelve Harijan children were selected for these awards.

It is interesting to note that the Government of Madhya-bharat has decided to send suitable Harijan children to public schools, five children being selected for admission in 1954. The other State Governments, too, have been asked to draw similar schemes. Suggestions have also been made to the schools which are the members of the Indian Public Schools Conference to afford necessary facilities to Harijan pupils.

Concessions

With a view to affording more facilities for the admission of Harijan candidates to educational and technical institutions, the State Governments have been asked to offer them the following concessions :

- (a) 20 per cent of the seats should be reserved; and
- (b) where admissions are restricted to candidates who obtain a certain minimum percentage of marks and not merely pass a certain examination, they may be allowed 5 per cent reduction, provided that the lower percentage prescribed does not fall below the minimum required to pass the qualifying examination.

The concessions have been allowed for a period of five years in the first instance.

As regards those educational and technical institutions which are managed or aided by the Government of India, the position is as follows :

(a) Ministry of Defence: No reservation is made in the various I.N. technical institutes. Provision, however,

exists for reservation of seats to the extent of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent at the time of recruitment of general apprentices to the Dockyard Apprentice School, Bombay.

(b) Ministry of Labour : In all the training schemes, seats have been reserved to the extent of 12 per cent. Similar reservation has been made in the allotment of scholarships also. This arrangement has been in force since 1950.

(c) Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research : In the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad, four seats have been reserved for Harijan and Scheduled Tribes combined.

(d) Ministry of Railways : For technical and training schools run by the railways, the question of reservation of seats does not arise as they are intended to train railway staff who are already in service or who have been selected for appointment. In respect of recruitment of railway staff, the reservation orders laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs are being followed.

(e) Ministry of Education:

(i) National Archives, New Delhi—The Harijan candidates are eligible to apply for admission to the one year's diploma course. Every effort is made for admitting at least one such candidate, subject to the possession of minimum prescribed qualifications. The three months' training course is confined to the employees of the Central and State Governments only.

(ii) Department of Anthropology, Calcutta—There is no reservation, although Harijans are given preference.

(iii) The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur—
(1) The maximum age limit for admission has been raised to 21 years for I.Sc.'s and 23 years for B.Sc.'s and those possessing higher qualifications; (2) the minimum qualifying marks for admission have been reduced by 5 per cent less than those prescribed for others; and (3) 20 per cent of the seats have been reserved for candidates belonging to the Harijan, Scheduled Tribes and

other educationally backward communities. The question of further relaxing the age limit for admission to the Institute is under consideration.

In so far as the reservation of seats for the Harijans in State-managed and State-aided technical institutions is concerned, the statement at the end of the chapter shows the comparative position as obtaining in 1951-52 and 1954-55. Furthermore, in pursuance of the Government of India's suggestion, the Governments of Andhra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Bombay*, Punjab*, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, Mysore, Madhyabharat, Pepsu, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi**, Vindhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have granted full fee concession to Harijan students in indigent circumstances at all stages of education.

The Governments of Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Kutch and Manipur have allowed full fee concession to Harijan students in the State-managed institutions only. Similar concession is granted to all Harijan students in Orissa except those studying in the State Medical College. As regards Ajmer, the concession is available up to intermediate stage and in Himachal Pradesh up to secondary stage. Special consideration is given by the Government of Tripura in allotting free-studentship to Harijan students in indigent circumstances.

The Governments of Assam and West Bengal are also considering the question of exemption from the payment of fees for Harijan students.

The following table gives figures of total expenditure proposed to be spent on education by the State Governments during 1954-55 :

* These States withdraw freeship from holders of Central scholarships which also carry exemption from the payment of fees.

** The exemption is granted up to the secondary stage only, but the Government has now agreed to grant exemption at the post-secondary stage.

States	Amount to be incurred*
<i>Part A States</i>	
1. Andhra	Rs. 1,471,000
2. Assam	Rs. 50,000
3. Bihar	Rs. 1,301,366
4. Bombay	Rs. 214,208
5. Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 150,000
6. Madras	Rs. 7,114,000
7. Orissa	Rs. 188,312
8. Punjab	Rs. 1,610,820
9. Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 5,056,000
10. West Bengal	Rs. 6,000**
<i>Part B States</i>	
1. Hyderabad	Rs. 77,000
2. Jammu & Kashmir	Not available
3. Madhyabharat	Rs. 360,000
4. Mysore	Not available
5. Pepsu	Rs. 432,300
6. Rajasthan	Rs. 346,280
7. Saurashtra	Rs. 40,000
8. Travancore-Cochin	Rs. 1,043,400
<i>Part C States</i>	
1. Ajmer	Rs. 27,520
2. Bhopal	Not available
3. Coorg	Rs. 70,000
4. Delhi	} Not available
5. Himachal Pradesh	
6. Kutch	
7. Manipur	Rs. 1,000
8. Tripura	Not available
9. Vindhya Pradesh	Rs. 204,050

* Inclusive of grants-in-aid sanctioned by the Government of India.

** In addition, a sum of Rs. 640,000 would also be spent on welfare schemes, but details for education are not available.

**Statement showing the number of seats reserved for Harijans in the Government
and Government-aided technical institutions**

Name of Institution	1951-1952		Number admitted	1954-55		Number admitted
	Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved		Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved	
Assam						
1. Assam Medical College	65	—	2	65	4.60%	2
2. Compounder's Class, Berry White Medical School, Dibrugarh	60	5.00%	4	60	5.00%	6
Madhya Pradesh						
3. Govt Engineering College, Jabalpur	120	3	2	116	11	2
4. Govt. Polytechnic, Nagpur	154	5	6	352	34	34
5. Medical College, Nagpur	61	—	2	91	14	12
6. Robertson Medical School	51	—	1	202	30	23
7. Laxminarayan Institution of Technology	36	—	—	72	—	11
8. College of Agriculture, Nagpur	—	—	20	—	12	23
Madras						
9. Govt. Coir School, Beypore	40	—	1	40	6	3

Name of Institution	1951-1952		Number admitted	1954-55		Number admitted
	Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved		Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved	
10. Govt. Glass & Bead Manufacturing Centre, Kasargod	15	15.00%	—	15	15.00%	2
11. Govt. Scientific Glass Blowing Centre, Madras	10	15.00%	—	10	15.00%	—
12. Madras Veterinary College	60	9%	1*	60	6*	—
13. Agriculture College & Research Institute, Coimbatore	80	15%	1	108	14*	2
14. Central Polytechnic, Madras	370	55*	5	370	55*	10
15. Kerala Polytechnic, Keshikode	220	33*	1	300	45*	—
16. Tamilnad Polytechnic, Madurai	100	15*	1	100	15*	1
17. Karnataka Polytechnic, Mangalore	80	12*	—	80	12*	—
18. Arthur Hope Polytechnic, Coimbatore	60	9*	1	60	9*	—
19. Andhra Polytechnic, Kakinada	100	15*	6	140	21*	6
20. Vuyyuru Polytechnic, Vuyyuru	60	9*	3	60	9*	3
21. School of Arts & Crafts, Madras	227	—	50	227	—	51
22. Dr Alagappa College of Engineering & Technology, Coimbatore	—	—	—	100	15%*	1*
23. P.S.G. College of Technology, Peelamedu	80	15%*	—	100	15%*	—

Name of Institution	1951-1952		Number admitted	1954-55		Number admitted
	Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved		Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved	
24. Govt. College at Guindy and Coimbatore, Anantapur, Kakinada	395	53*	51	200	28*	16*
Uttar Pradesh						
25. Roorkee University	440	44	2	440	44	3
26. Civil Engineering School, Lucknow	255	—	3	505	—	5
27. Govt. Technical Training Centre, Lucknow	100	†	85	240	†	157
28. Agra Medical College	60	2	—	75	2	—
29. Lucknow Medical College	125	2	—	125	2	2
West Bengal						
30. Medical College, Calcutta	136	—	2	136	—	2
31. Royal Engineering College, Howrah	175	—	4	210	—	5
Hyderabad						
32. College of Engineering, Osmania University	100	5	3	100	5	5
33. Osmania Medical College	80	5%	4	80	8%	6
34. Govt. Technical College, Hyderabad	62	—	1	190	12	8

Name of Institution	1951-1952		Number admitted	1954-55		Number admitted
	Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved		Number of seats available	Number of seats reserved	
Rajasthan						
35. M.B.M. Engineering College	111	—	1	155	6%	12
36. S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur	80	—	—	80	5%	3
Travancore-Cochin						
37. College of Engineering, Trivandrum	100	—	1	100	5*	1
38. Technological Institute, Trichur	116	—	5	116	6*	4
39. Medical College, Trivandrum	60	5*	1	80	5*	5
40. Polytechnic, Kalamassery	120	6*	—	60	3*	—
Pepsu						
41. Polytechnic Institute, Phagwara	158	10*	—	210	12½*	5

* Combined for Harijans and Scheduled Tribes

† Since the institution is for the Harijans, Backward Classes and ex-Criminal Tribes, no question of reservation of seats arises.

CHAPTER VII

ECONOMIC UPLIFT

Besides improving the social status of the Harijans, considerable attention is being given to their economic condition and standard of living. Among the measures adopted so far to improve them are the security of land tenure, debt redemption and the check on money-lenders, the provision of housing facilities, the promotion of cottage industries, the organization of co-operative societies, the training in different arts and crafts, the representation of the Harijans on the local bodies and prohibition.

Security of Land Tenure

The Governments of Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhyabharat and Bhopal have adopted legislative measures to ensure security of land tenure for the Harijans. The Tenancy Law of Chotanagpur and the Santal Parganas in Bihar also protect them against their lands being taken over by the money-lenders. The Governments of Coorg and Kutch, too, have undertaken measures to safeguard their interests in land. In the States of Bombay, Madras, the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Ajmer and Delhi, the Harijans receive benefits in this respect under the general laws of the States.

At the same time, the Governments of Andhra and Orissa have been reclaiming waste land for allotment to the Harijans. Waste land is also being reclaimed and allotted to them in Saurashtra. Agricultural land is being

given to the Harijans in the States of Andhra, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Saurashtra, Rajasthan, Pepsu, Travancore-Cochin, Coorg and Vindhya Pradesh.

Debt Redemption

To regulate the business of money-lending and provide relief to the indebted Harijans, the State Governments of Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Madhyabharat, Pepsu, Ajmer, Coorg, Kutch and Tripura have undertaken various relief measures. Thus, multi-purpose co-operative societies for the grant of credit in cash and kind have been established in Andhra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Mysore, Rajasthan, Travancore-Cochin, Ajmer, Coorg, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh. In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, these societies have been opened specially for the sweepers who are more prone to fall a prey to money-lenders than other Harijans. Besides providing credit facilities, they supply provisions and the other necessities of life at fair rates; they also buy their produce and handicrafts and find a market for them.

Furthermore, the Governments of Bihar, Madras, Orrissa, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Madhyabharat, Travancore-Cochin, Ajmer and Kutch offered facilities to the Harijans for the purchase of live-stock, agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizers, manure, bullocks, etc. Steps have also been taken by the Governments of Andhra, Bihar, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Ajmer to introduce small-scale industries among these people.

Housing

Housing is a pressing need of the Harijans. The State Governments have, therefore, been trying to improve the housing of these people.

Accordingly, co-operative housing societies for the Harijans have been opened in or are helped financially by the Governments of Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad and Bhopal. Wherever such societies are difficult to organize, these concessions are allowed to individual Harijans. Thus, house-sites are being granted to them free or at nominal cost in Andhra, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Mysore, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Coorg, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh. Subsidies or interest free loans are also being advanced by the Governments of Andhra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Rajasthan, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Delhi, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh.

The Harijans are allotted house sites close to the villages in order to bring their segregation to an end. At the same time, new sites are being acquired for Harijans residing in low-lying, marshy or out of the way places. As the Government's housing scheme aims at providing houses of improved design, they are built according to an approved plan.

Local bodies are also being encouraged to undertake slum clearance and build suitable houses for their employees. They are offered loans and liberal subsidies for this purpose. The Governments of Bihar, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have already started clearing slums and building houses for their employees.

Crafts and Industries

The Harijans share low income with the bulk of their countrymen. The efforts which are now being made to develop the country will benefit them equally with the others. Specific measures have, however, been adopted by the State Governments for the training of the Harijans in various arts and crafts and industries and hereditary occupations in order to raise their earning capacity.

Thus, centres have been opened in several States to train Harijan boys and girls in different arts and crafts

and industries, such as, tailoring, carpentry, spinning and weaving, tanning and leather work, cane, bamboo and fibre work, smithy, rope-making, dyeing, calico printing, soap making, bee-keeping and poultry. Already, demonstration parties and peripatetic schools have been opened to give this training in Andhra, Madras, the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Travancore-Cochin. Arrangements have also been made in some of the States to admit Harijan students to Government institutions to give them training in these industries.

Furthermore, the Governments of Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Pepsu, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Coorg, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh offer these people subsidies or loans for the development of such industries. Moreover, a large number of scholarships are awarded to those undergoing training in technical and industrial institutions. Scholarships are also awarded to women students receiving training in nursing, health visiting, midwifery and *dai's* work. Co-operative societies, too, have been established in Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg and Himachal Pradesh to run small-scale cottage industries for the benefit of the Harijans.

Finally, the Governments of Bombay, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Ajmer and Bhopal afford facilities to the Harijans by supplying raw materials like bamboos, leather, cotton, etc., at controlled and cheaper rates. They have also made arrangements for the marketing of their finished products.

Local Bodies

Under the Constitution, seats have been reserved for the Harijans in Parliament and the State legislatures. But the grant of representation in the local bodies and *pan-chayats* will enable them to take their proper share in the community life. Besides serving as a training ground for

citizenship, it will raise their status, remove many of their social disabilities, broaden their outlook and inspire confidence in them.

The Governments of Andhra, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Mysore, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch and Tripura have, therefore, adopted legislative and executive measures to reserve seats for the Harijans to give them adequate representation on the municipalities, corporations and local boards. As regards *gram panchayats*, the Governments of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Madhyabharat, Mysore, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh have taken steps to secure their due representation through elections or nominations on the *panchayats*.

Prohibition

It is obvious that the economic uplift of the Harijans cannot really be effective until they are rescued from the evil of drink which has led to their progressive impoverishment. Alcoholic liquor and other intoxicating drugs and drinks are, indeed, the Public Enemy Number One of the backward classes. Indulgence in these eats into their meagre resources and deprives them and their families of their essential requirements. It saps their vitality and undermines their physique and minds.

Prohibition, therefore, occupied an important place in Harijan uplift. It was, in fact, one of the main features of the constructive programmes drawn up by Gandhiji for national regeneration. Complete prohibition has now been introduced in Bombay and Madras and partial prohibition in other States and has proved a great boon to the Harijans. There is evidence to show that it has contributed appreciably to their economic improvement and family well-being.

Concurrently, much is being done to educate the Harijans to reform their extravagant habits and social customs. This is being done by means of film shows and posters and through the agency of social workers and non-official organizations which are given financial help. In Saurashtra, a Research Officer has been specially appointed to examine their social customs and manners and suggest ways of improving them.

CHAPTER VIII

PUBLIC SERVICES

Even before independence, the necessity of securing fair representation for the Harijans in the public services had been felt. Accordingly, in August 1943, the Government of India reserved for them $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the vacancies in the Central (Class I and Class II) and subordinate services in the case of direct recruitment. In June 1946, the percentage of reservation was raised to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to correspond to their proportion in the population, namely, 12.75 per cent.

After the attainment of independence, vacancies have also been reserved for them both at the Centre and in the States. Article 335 of the Constitution lays down that "the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or a State." Article 16(4) further states that "nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of a backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State". These provisions thus impose an obligation on the Union and State Governments to take steps to ensure that their claims are duly considered in appointments to services and posts under the Central and State Governments.

The Central Government has, therefore, laid down that

in regard to recruitment to all India Services by open competition, the share of the Harijans would remain as before, namely, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; but for direct recruitment, their share would be raised to $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.

Among the Part A and Part B States, Andhra has reserved 15 per cent* of the total vacancies, Assam 5 per cent, Bihar 12.5 per cent¹ and 25 per cent², Bombay 12.5 per cent³, 6 per cent⁴ and 7 per cent⁵, Madhya Pradesh 15 per cent, Madras 16 per cent*, Orissa 18 per cent, Punjab 19 per cent*, Uttar Pradesh 18 per cent, West Bengal 15 per cent, Hyderabad 18 per cent*, Madhyabharat 10 per cent*, Mysore 16.7 per cent*, Pepsu 12.5 per cent, Rajasthan 15 per cent² and 12.5 per cent⁵, Saurashtra 100 per cent* and Travancore-Cochin 10 per cent⁶.

Practical Measures

In order to give proper effect to reservations for the vacancies to be filled through open competition, the 1st, 9th, 17th, 25th and the 33rd vacancies have been reserved for them in a roster of 40 vacancies; while for the other posts, the order of vacancies is the 2nd, 7th, 13th, 19th, 25th, 31st and the 37th. No gap is left in the rosters in filling the vacancies. If, however, a reserved vacancy has to be treated as unreserved owing to want of a suitable candidate, the candidate appointed is shown against that post. But if a Harijan candidate cannot be recruited against an unreserved vacancy later in the year, the reservation is carried forward to the following year and after their quota for the latter year has been filled, the first unreserved vacancy in that year is treated as reserved for the Harijans. If the vacancy remains unfilled, it will be treated as un-

* Combined for the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes

¹ Class I, II and III ² Class IV

³ Class I and II but this would apply to all Backward Classes

⁴ Class III

⁵ Other than Class IV

⁶ Posts other than those carrying a pay of Rs. 175 or above

reserved, but a corresponding number will be reserved in the following year for Harijan candidates, in addition to such numbers as would be reserved for them in the ordinary course.

Furthermore, with a view to finding out that the reservation rules are duly observed, the authorities are required to submit two annual returns showing the communal composition on January 1 of the year and the distribution of vacancies filled by direct recruitment during the year. A section has been set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs to scrutinize these returns and to deal with measures calculated to increase the number of Harijans in Government services.

In order to increase the intake of the Harijans in the Central Secretariat Service Schemes, the proposal is (i) to recruit 10 out of 20 Assistant Superintendents in the next four years on the basis of a competitive examination to be held by the Union Public Service Commission; (ii) to reserve five vacancies every year for the next four years for appointment to the Regular Temporary Establishment on the results of departmental examinations; and (iii) to recruit 100 Assistants from among the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes through the U.P.S.C., and they will be confirmed during the next four years in batches of 25 per year. These measures will help in giving better representation to the Harijans in the Cadre of Assistant Superintendents and Assistants.

The Government of India has also decided to reserve vacancies for them when recruitment is made on the basis of departmental examinations. This principle has already been applied to the selection of Assistant Superintendents. The Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, has issued similar instructions to all their subordinate offices.

Again, whenever the Harijan candidates are not available for vacancies reserved for them, they are filled by Scheduled Tribe candidates and vice versa up to the quota

reserved for them. Moreover, whenever any reserved vacancy is filled by non-Scheduled Caste candidates owing to the non-availability of suitable candidates, it is treated as a purely temporary arrangement and the vacancy is filled by a candidate from the community in due course. This is a welcome move and helps in the absorption of more Harijans in Government service.

Apart from the above measures, temporary Harijan assistants and clerks recruited up to December 31, 1947, and who are educationally qualified for the posts they hold and possess at least three years of service to their credit have been made eligible for confirmation up to the maximum of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of vacancies available for direct recruitment. In offices where their number is less than $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the posts in the grade, they are allowed preferential treatment in the event of retrenchment. Also, third division clerks in the Secretariat offices, who are appointed to permanent posts after August 16, 1947, through the examination held by the U.P.S.C., will be granted additional increments. This concession has also been extended to temporary assistants and clerks recruited up to December 31, 1947, and subsequently confirmed. Finally, third division clerks, who are selected for permanent appointments, have normally to pass a typewriting test in two attempts before being confirmed. Additional opportunities are given to the Harijan employees to enable them to qualify for permanent appointment.

In connection with the constitution of the Regular Temporary Establishment of Assistants of the Central Secretariat, those Harijan employees who have had a year's service by July 1, 1952, are considered eligible. For others (excepting displaced persons), the limit is fixed at three years for graduates and five for non-graduates. The Government is also considering the cases of those employees who have not completed a year's service on that date. In addition, it has been decided to confirm in the Upper and

Lower Divisions all those employees who have put in a year's service by January 1, 1953.

The Government has also requested semi-Government and statutory bodies to observe reservation rules while recruiting persons for posts in their offices. The following have so far been observing these rules: The Protector of Emigrants at Madras, Nagpattinam, Mandapapam Camp, Tuticorin, Bombay and Calcutta (Ministry of External Affairs); the Income Tax Investigation Commission (Ministry of Finance); the Union Public Service Commission and the Office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Ministry of Home Affairs); the Central Board of Film Censors (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting); the Controller of Emigrant Labour (Ministry of Labour); the Election Commission and the Delimitation Commission (Ministry of Law); the National Research Development Corporation and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research); and the Port Trusts at Madras and Bombay, the Offices of the Port Commissioner at Calcutta and the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Ministry of Transport). The Reserve Bank of India (Ministry of Finance) do not entirely subscribe to these orders, but allow certain concessions in matters of employment in the Bank service.

Among the States, the Government of Bihar has laid down that until their authorized quota in Class IV services is reached, only Harijans should be recruited to that grade. The Government of Orissa has decided to reserve 50 per cent of the vacancies in Class III and Class IV services for the Harijans till the authorized quota of 18 per cent is reached. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, too, has instructed certain departments to recruit only Harijans for future vacancies until their quota of 18 per cent has been filled. The Harijan employees in the Punjab are not to be retrenched from service until the total number exceeds 19 per cent of the total posts. In Madhyabharat also, 50 per cent

of the new posts or those which fall vacant is to be reserved for them as long as the prescribed percentage is not obtained. Finally, the Government of Saurashtra has earmarked 100 per cent vacancies for them until the reserved quota is reached. These are, indeed, very welcome moves on the part of the State Governments.

Meanwhile, the Central Ministry of Health has asked the Part C States to reserve a certain number of posts in the local bodies. Already, some of the Part A State Governments have taken steps in this direction. The Government of Bombay have reserved 6 and 7 per cent of the posts for the Harijans in Class III and Class IV services under their local bodies. They have even warned them that discretionary grants would be withheld in case of their failure to comply with these orders. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also reserved 18 per cent of the posts for them in the local bodies.

Other Concessions

Furthermore, concessions have been allowed to the Harijans in regard to age, fees and qualifications. The maximum age limit prescribed for appointment to a service or a post in the Central Government has been raised by three years; for non-gazetted posts, it is five years. They have also to pay only a quarter of the fees prescribed for any examination or selection.

Age and educational qualifications have been relaxed in their favour in the States also. The Governments of Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have relaxed the maximum age limit for entry into Government service by three years for gazetted and by five years for non-gazetted posts; in the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhyabharat, Pepsu, Rajasthan and Travancore-Cochin by three years; while in Bombay by five years for Class III and Class IV posts. Persons above the maximum age limit are also considered for recruitment in Travancore-Cochin, if otherwise suitable. The age limit of 25 years for entry into public services in

Andhra State is not applicable to a Harijan candidate holding a University degree. A higher age limit is allowed in certain other services also. In Madras, the age limit is not applicable for a post for which the prescribed minimum qualification is lower than B.A. or B.Sc. The age rule is relaxed in other deserving cases, too. The Hyderabad Government has increased the age limit by five years for non-gazetted posts; in Mysore it has been fixed at 30. The Saurashtra Government has extended the age limit by five years.

Furthermore, in Bihar, Orissa, the Punjab, Rajasthan and Travancore-Cochin, the fees have been reduced for admission to any Government examination or selection to a quarter in the case of Harijan candidates. In Assam, only 50 per cent fee is charged for any Government post; and in Pepsu 25 per cent for posts advertised by the Public Service Commission. There is total exemption from payment of application fee for any Government post in Madhya Pradesh, Mysore and Madras if the candidate has passed the intermediate examination in Arts or holds a University degree. In case of special tests, the candidates in Travancore-Cochin are required to pay only Rs. 2 as against Rs. 5 charged from others.

The qualification rules have also been relaxed for the Harijan candidates. For example, the minimum marks required to pass an oral or written competitive examination have been lowered in Andhra, Madras, Hyderabad and Madhyabharat. A slight relaxation in the matter of educational qualifications is allowed in Travancore-Cochin, too.

In addition to these concessions, the Madhyabharat Government has laid down that so long as the prescribed percentage fixed for the Harijans is not completed, 50 per cent of the posts should be filled by them. Similarly, in Rajasthan the services of the employees in Class III and Class IV posts should be retained to the extent of 12½ per cent and 15 per cent respectively in the event of retrenchment. Again, the Saurashtra Government has decided to

fill all vacancies by direct recruitment by Harijans till their over-all ratio in all the services is not attained to the prescribed limit. Promotions at every stage are also confined to them only.

Results

These concessions have enabled more and more Harijans to find employment in the public services. In September 1954, the total number of Harijans employed under the Ministry of Railways was 120,527, Communications 10,624, Works, Housing and Supply 1,062, Production 832, Food and Agriculture 578, Natural Resources and Scientific Research 457, Health 385, Labour 381, Information and Broadcasting 332, Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) 245, Commerce and Industry 242, Transport 210, Education 196, Home Affairs 191, External Affairs 139, States 81, Rehabilitation 41 and Law 38. The Union Public Service Commission employs 16 Harijans and the Controller and Auditor-General 1,072.

As regards the all India Services, the position on January 1, 1954, was that there were 18 officers in the Indian Civil Service/Indian Administrative Service and 7 in Indian Police/Indian Police Service.

In September 1954, the number of Harijans holding gazetted posts in the Government of India was : Labour 37; External Affairs 10; Communications 8; Railways 4; Food and Agriculture 3; Education, Health, Production and Transport two each; and Communications, Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Information and Broadcasting, Natural Resources and Scientific Research, States and Works, Housing and Supply one each.

Among the States, Assam employed 982 Harijans in September 1954, Bihar 1,280, Bombay 11,188, Orissa 798, the Punjab 1,989, Uttar Pradesh 4,383, Travancore-Cochin 1,898, Ajmer 163, Coorg 86, Bhopal 490, Kutch 90 and Vindhya Pradesh 30.

Harijans are also well represented in the political life of the country. Like other adult citizens of the Republic, they have the right to vote. They have also their representatives in the Central and State legislatures and Ministries. There is a Harijan Minister and a Deputy Minister in the Central Cabinet and a Parliamentary Secretary. Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Mysore, Rajasthan and Bhopal have one Minister each and West Bengal two. There are two Deputy Ministers in Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad and one each in West Bengal and Madhyabharat and Pepsu. Bihar and West Bengal each has a Parliamentary Secretary, while Uttar Pradesh has two.

CHAPTER IX

FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Constitution of India, as already seen, has made special provisions for the needs of the backward classes. This is but natural. The social and economic life of the backward classes generally and of the Harijans, in particular, is closely bound up with the progress and activities of the community. Thus, ultimately, the progress of the country will depend on their betterment.

It is true that the programmes designed to raise the general standard of living and develop local resources undoubtedly exercise a beneficial influence on the backward classes. Nevertheless, it was recognized that to enable them to take full advantage of the new opportunities in free India and also to resolve the difficulties peculiar to their social environments, special programmes of assistance were needed.

Accordingly, the first Five Year Plan made a provision of Rs. 41 crore for this purpose, of which Rs. 19 crore were in the form of grants-in-aid by the Government of India to the State Governments. Of the grants, Rs. 4 crore were allotted to welfare schemes for the Harijans and other Backward Classes. This provision was made for the first time in the year 1953-54 and the amount was to be utilized during the remaining three years of the Plan, namely, 1953-54 to 1955-56.

The State Governments have, however, not been able to spend fully the amounts placed at their disposal. This is accounted for by the fact that the States did not have

the proper machinery to implement the schemes for Harijan welfare. The procedure for the examination of the schemes and the sanctioning of the grants-in-aid was also somewhat cumbersome. Moreover, during 1953-54, the schemes were invited rather late in the year and the sanctions were, therefore, issued in the later half of the year. This left only a few months during which the schemes could be executed by the State Governments.

Nonetheless, the amount of work done has been quite encouraging. The schemes for the education of the Harijans include the provision of free education at various levels, the reservation of seats in educational institutions, the award of stipends and scholarships, grants to institutions for admitting Harijan students, the opening of new schools and the provision of hostel accommodation. In some States, clothing and mid-day meals are also provided. Education of the basic type is of special value to the Harijans. Social education programmes, including lessons in personal hygiene and civics, are also provided.

Furthermore, arrangements have been made in some States to provide training in crafts, followed by financial assistance to the trainees to start life. The following facilities were made available to the Harijan students in schools in the 13 States* for which information was available :

1. Basic schools opened	249
2. Primary schools opened	168
3. Residential schools opened	101
4. Night schools opened	84
5. Social education classes opened	100
6. Stipends and scholarships given	214,250
7. Grants for books, etc.	13,891
8. Libraries opened	118

* Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhyabharat, Rajasthan, Travancore-Cochin, Ajmer, Bhopal, Coorg, Kutch, Tripura and Vindhya Pradesh.

Social services for the Harijans comprise medical and public health facilities as well as cultural and other welfare amenities. Among welfare activities, the provision of drinking water and housing may be specially mentioned. In the past, the Harijans suffered greatly for want of proper drinking water and housing. Most States have schemes for providing better living quarters and wells for them. Up to the end of March 1954, 346 houses* have been built and 632 housing colonies formed. During the same period, 755 wells were sunk and 702 repaired.

Turning to medical and public health, the anti-malaria programme and the provision of mobile health vans for the rural areas have received greater attention.

Increasing efforts are also being made to find land for the Harijans, the allottees being organized in multi-purpose co-operative societies. Co-operative societies are formed for other purposes, too.

Meanwhile, the question of removing untouchability is receiving special attention. In fact, the grants made by the Central Government are being utilized mainly for this purpose, particularly in the rural areas. The ratio of expenditure incurred is quite encouraging as is evident from the following :

Year	Percentage of expenditure to grant-in-aid	
1953-54	..	61.81
1954-55	..	97.45

The following statement shows the total grants-in-aid sanctioned to and the expenditure incurred by the State Governments during the years 1953-56 on welfare schemes, including those for the removal of untouchability :

* The figures relate to Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Mysore, Pepsu, Rajasthan, Ajmer, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh.

Year	Grants sanctioned	Total expenditure incurred*
1953-54	Rs. 1,938,500	Rs. 19,882,673
1954-55	Rs. 5,616,000	Rs. 24,713,555
1955-56	Rs. 6,654,500	Rs. 33,652,380 (estimated)

It will be seen from the above that the total expenditure on welfare schemes has risen from Rs. 19,882,673 in 1953-54 to Rs. 33,652,380 (estimated) in 1955-56. In other words, the total amount spent on Harijan welfare has nearly doubled in the past two years.

The role which voluntary welfare organizations can play in the implementation of the programmes for Harijan welfare is fully recognized. Accordingly, the Central Government has sanctioned the following grants to three non-official organizations of an all India character for the removal of untouchability :

Name of organization	1953-54 Rs.	1954-55 Rs.	1955-56 Rs.
1. All India Harijan Sevak Sangh	100,000	215,000	337,000
2. Bharatiya Depressed Classes League	63,000	184,000	231,000
3. Harijan Ashram, Allahabad	25,000	97,000	108,000

* Please see statement for details at the end of the chapter

**Statement showing grant-in-aid sanctioned to and expenditure incurred by the
State Governments during the years 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56**

Name of States	1953-54		1954-55		1955-56	
	Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total expenditure incurred	Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total expenditure incurred	Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total estimated expenditure to be incurred
Part A States						
1. Andhra	—	—	1,97,000	15,80,650	2,05,000	16,28,550
2. Assam	43,000	—	2,00,000	4,00,000	2,00,000	4,00,000
3. Bihar	1,30,000	19,99,534	2,70,000	24,65,863	5,41,000	32,44,693
4. Bombay	1,30,900	1,27,134	4,97,000	4,35,354	5,42,000	8,69,809
5. Madhya Pradesh	75,000	1,10,266	2,10,000	5,05,567	2,50,000	5,00,000
6. Madras	15,000	1,04,84,975	38,000	72,81,000	5,00,000*	72,81,000
7. Orissa	2,40,000	2,97,000	3,00,000	5,69,019	50,000	7,85,426
8. Punjab	—	—	1,39,000	49,578	2,00,000	4,00,000
9. Uttar Pradesh	2,20,000	41,08,000	4,90,000	61,22,000	6,00,000*	67,05,000
10. West Bengal	25,000	3,32,179	2,42,000	5,57,522	2,00,000	9,20,140
Total :	8,78,900	1,73,79,088	25,83,000	1,99,66,553	32,88,000	2,27,34,618
Part B States						
1. Hyderabad	1,11,000	7,03,648	3,00,000	10,40,890	1,48,000	9,99,507
2. Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	2,00,000	—	3,00,000*	—
3. Madhyabharat	25,000	4,81,880	3,00,000	4,60,213	3,32,500	10,34,710
4. Mysore	1,62,500	2,64,996	3,18,000	5,71,913	3,00,000*	15,00,000
5. Pepsu	10,000	—	37,000	—	1,50,000	4,01,060
6. Rajasthan	1,11,000	2,52,641	3,39,000	5,43,083	3,00,000	8,60,258
7. Saurashtra	1,35,000	35,034	3,68,000	3,69,400	2,00,000	3,00,000
8. Travancore-Cochin	—	—	—	—	2,00,000	4,00,000
Total :	4,54,500	17,38,199	18,62,000	29,85,499	19,30,500	54,95,535

Name of States	1953-54		1954-55		1955-56	
	Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total expenditure incurred	Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total expenditure incurred	Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total estimated expenditure to be incurred
Part C States						
1. Ajmer	45,000	19,350	1,35,000	82,418	1,75,000*	1,70,000
2. Bhopal	61,500	25,000	1,22,500	1,91,000	1,65,000	2,50,000
3. Coorg	1,00,000	1,87,100	1,20,000	3,64,000	1,00,000*	3,84,300
4. Delhi	77,500	1,14,800	3,00,000	1,90,725	2,00,000*	24,17,407
5. Himachal Pradesh	70,000	35,000	1,00,000	92,640	1,50,000	2,00,000
6. Kutch	70,700	64,390	1,00,000	70,720	1,96,000	2,00,000
7. Manipur	—	—	72,500	Not available	1,00,000*	Not available
8. Tripura	20,000	2,64,996	21,000	5,71,000	50,000*	15,00,000
9. Vindhya Pradesh	60,400	54,750	2,00,000	2,00,000	3,00,000	3,00,820
Total:	5,05,100	7,65,386	11,71,000	17,61,503	14,36,000	54,22,227
TOTAL PART A, B & C STATES	19,38,500	1,98,82,673	56,16,000	2,47,13,555	66,54,500	3,36,52,380

*Represents the ceiling fixed for the year 1955-56

CHAPTER X

CONCLUSION

As the foregoing pages show, for ages, the Harijans have occupied the lowest rung of the ladder in our social structure. Their sufferings have been varied and manifold, especially in social and economic life and in matters of health, housing and education.

With Gandhiji's entry into the Indian National Congress, the question of the Harijans' emancipation became a live issue. Under his inspiration, great revolutionary forces were unleashed in the country. The death-knell of untouchability was sounded and the future progress of the Harijans was laid on sure and sound foundations.

The movement started by Gandhiji still continues. In free India, the Constitution has amply secured the social, educational, economic and political rights of the Harijans. Untouchability has been abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. Legislation has been enacted to protect the Harijans from social injustice and exploitation. Educational facilities have also been enlarged to equip them to take their rightful place in different walks of life.

Nor is this all. Welfare departments have been set up in the States to look after the interests of the Harijans. An increasing number is being absorbed in the public services. They have the right to vote and send their representatives in the Central and State legislatures and Ministries.

The reorganization of agriculture, the expansion of facilities for vocational training, the development of cottage

industries. the organization of co-operative societies and the provision of housing facilities under the first Five Year Plan are also helping them to improve their economic position.

Finally, non-official agencies, too, are doing pioneer work for the welfare of the Harijans.

All this does not, however, mean that the difficulties have all been solved. Indeed, such a thing would have been nothing short of a miracle. The Harijans have suffered from disabilities for generations; and the people of India, especially in far-flung villages, are slow to change their mode of life and thought.

The facts narrated in the foregoing chapters may not thus appear to be spectacular or startling. Nonetheless, they are dynamic; and the work of Harijan welfare has witnessed remarkable progress since India became free. New opportunities have opened for self-development and expression, for the betterment of health, education, economic life and living conditions and for extensive mutual interdependence, communication and contact. It is hoped that these will eliminate, in the course of time, all differences and distinctions and ensure eventual integration of the Harijans with the rest of the community as envisaged by Gandhiji.

