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**FAIR ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION RE-VISITED:
SOME RESULTS FOR SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS
GROUPS FROM NSS 61ST ROUND EMPLOYMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT SURVEY, 2004-05**

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**FAIR ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION RE-VISITED:
SOME RESULTS FOR SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS
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Abstract

This paper presents some results from the NSS 61st Round Employment – Unemployment Survey, 2004-05 on the issue of fair access to social groups and religion-based population categories.

The issue is whether and the extent to which the population of say, the OBCs or the Muslims (in the relevant age-group and with the qualifying level of education) is under-represented in enrollments in higher education. The answer involves (for each population category and relevant age-group) a comparison of (i) their share among those with the qualifying level of education with (ii) their share among those with the qualifying level of education **and** currently attending institutions for under-graduate/post-graduate studies.

At the all-India level, despite a sharp rise in the share of **OBCs** in the total population, the extent of their **under-representation in under-graduate enrollments is just 2.5 percent** – down from 3.5 percent in 1999-2000 – in rural India. In urban India, the extent of OBC under-representation in under-graduate enrollments, though marginally higher than in 1999-2000, is still less than 2.0 per cent.

In respect of post-graduate enrollments, the OBCs, are significantly (by nearly 4 percentage points) **over-represented** in rural India, while in urban India, the OBC under-representation is just 0.3 percentage points.

In respect of Muslims, in rural India, they are, over-represented in under-graduate enrollments and in urban-India, the extent of under-representation of Muslims is less than one percentage.

Thus, for no social/religion-based population group is the extent of under-representation in enrollments in higher-education more than 2.5 percentage points. There is thus little or no case for a 27 percent reservation for OBCs in enrollments in higher education. As for the 'Creamy Layer' of the OBCs, there is, even less of a case for not excluding them from any regime of quotas for the OBCs in higher education.

Keywords: India, Social & Religion-based Groups, Caste-based Reservations, Fair Access to Higher Education, Creamy layer.

JEL Code: I28

In this paper we re-visit our earlier discussion (Sundaram, 2006) of the issue of fair access to higher education of social groups with some results from the NSS 61st Round Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS, for short) 2004-05.¹ To focus on a section of the population often viewed as a disadvantages-group, namely, the Muslims, we extend our analysis to religion-based population categories. In all cases, the rural and the urban populations are distinguished.

The issue, as before, is whether and the extent to which a given population group say, the OBCs or the Muslims, in the relevant age-group and with the qualifying level of education is under-represented in enrollments in higher education. The relevant age-groups is taken to be 17-25 for under-graduate and 20-30 for post-graduate studies, with a Higher Secondary Certificate and a Graduate degree, respectively, taken as the qualifying level of completed education.

For reasons spelt-out in our earlier paper, the answer to the above question involves a comparison (for each population category in the relevant age-group) of (i) their share among those with the qualifying level of education with (ii) their share among those with the qualifying level of education **and** currently attending institutions for under-graduate/post graduate studies as appropriate.

¹ This Survey, covering 79,036 rural and 43,374 urban households nation-wide, offers, for the OBCs, a sample size of over 114 thousand persons in rural India and a little under 75 thousand persons in urban India. For this study, the key attraction of the EUS as a data base is that it offers a detailed coding of the level of education/course of study of those reporting attending educational institution as their usual (principal) activity and of their level of completed education.

Before setting up the above stated comparisons for the different social and/or religion-based groups let us report briefly the results from EUS 2004-05 on the share of the different population groups in the total population but separately for the rural and the urban populations at the all-India level. (See Table 1).

The key result here is that, relative to the situation in 1999-2000 (See, Sundaram, 2006), the share of the OBCs in both the rural and the urban populations records a 5 to 6 percentage point rise: in rural India, from 37.0 to 42.9 percent, and, from 30.9 to 36.0 percent in urban India. In the total (rural plus urban) all-India population, the share of the OBCs has gone up from 36 per cent in 1999-2000 to close to 41 per cent in 2004-05. Almost entirely, this rise in the share of OBCs is matched by a decline in the share of the residual (non-SC/ST, non-OBC) category of **Others** – from 36.0 to 25.5 percent in rural India and from 51.1 to 45.9 per cent in Urban India. So that, possibly because of greater awareness of updated/expanded list of OBCs at the state level and/or of the potential benefits of being counted among the OBCs, some of those classified as part of the (residual) social group, **Others** in 1999-2000 are classified as OBCs in 2004-05.²

A classification of the population by (self-declared) religious affiliation shows a larger share for Hindus in rural India than in urban India where they accounted

² It needs to be stressed that, in the NSS Surveys the information on social-group affiliation is based entirely on the response of the informants and **not** on any state-level list of social groups. Hence NSS estimates of **proportion** of ST/SC households/population are not strictly comparable with the corresponding figures available from the Population Census.

for over 77 per cent of the population. By contrast, Muslims have a higher share in urban India as do the Christians and the residual category of others. In the country as a whole, the share of Hindus was 81.7 per cent, of the Muslims 12.9 per cent, the Christians 2.2 per cent and the Sikhs 1.9 per cent with the residual category of Others accounting for the balance 1.3 per cent.

Also as a backdrop to our discussion of the issue of fair access to higher education we present, for each social/religious group, the proportion of the population with “Higher Secondary and above” and “Graduate and above” levels of completed education. These are presented separately for the total (all-age) population and, the population in the 17-30 age-group (Table 2).

Focusing on the 17-30 age-group to get the current picture, we find that even at the end of the first quinquennium of the 21st Century, less than one-eighth’s of the rural population and barely a third of the urban population have a “Higher Secondary” and above level of education. As for those among them who have at least a Graduate degree, they formed less than 4 per cent (less than 15 per cent) of the 17-30 population in rural (urban) India. With close to 90 per cent of the rural youth (nearly 67 per cent in urban India) not even having a Higher Secondary Certificate, the level of educational backwardness among our youth is indeed staggering.

In terms of having at least a Graduate degree, among social groups, the Scheduled Tribes are the worst-off group in rural India while in urban India it is the Scheduled Castes who are the worst-off with less than 7 per cent of their 17-30 population having at least a Graduate degree. Even for the best-off social group – the non-SC/ST, non-OBC, residual group of **Others** – only 6 per cent of their 17-30 population have at least a Graduate degree in rural India. In urban India too, this proportion is only a shade above one-fifth. For the OBCs, in both rural and urban India, the proportion of their 17-30, population having a ‘Graduate and above’ level of education is about half of that for “**Others**”. Seen from a different perspective, relative to their share in the total population in this age-group – 42.3 per cent in rural India and 35.8 per cent in urban India – the share of OBCs in the population of those in this age-group with a ‘Graduate and above’ level of completed education (37.9 per cent in rural India and 24.9 per cent in urban India) is lower by a little over 4 percentage points in rural India and by close to 11 percentage points in urban India. As we argue below, this does not imply an equivalent level of under-representation in **enrollments** for higher education.

By religion, in both rural and urban India, the worst-off group are the Muslims. In rural India, the Christians, with less than 5 per cent of their 17-30 population having a ‘Graduate and above’ level of completed education, is the best-off religious group. In urban India, it is the religion-based residual category of “others” that has the highest proportion of their 17-30 population with a ‘Graduate

and above' level of completed education. With a share of over 80 per cent in the total population, the performance of the Hindus, as a group, is barely above the average for the total population.

Against the backdrop of widespread educational backwardness cutting across religion and social-groups, let us turn now to the issue of fair access to **enrollments** to higher education.

As discussed in our earlier paper (Sundaram, 2007), **assessments of fairness of access to higher education need to bear in mind that entry at each step in the educational pyramid is conditional on the successful completion of the preceding stage of education.** Thus, holding a graduate degree is a must for entry into a post-graduate programme and a higher secondary or equivalent qualification is necessary for entry into an undergraduate programme, and, so on, down the line.³

As noted in our earlier paper, the codes used in the survey to describe the level of education for which persons are attending educational institutions cover broad categories such as secondary **and** higher secondary, and, 'graduate and above'. In terms of completed level of education, however, secondary or higher secondary carry separate codes. Now, those attending institutions for 'graduate and above' level of education will include both the under-graduate and post-

³ It is only at the elementary or primary school stage that we are free of this consideration. At this level, and, only at this level, fair access will require that the share of each social/religious group in enrollments be equal to their share in the population in the relevant age-group.

graduate students. However, the undergraduate students will have 'higher secondary' as their highest level of completed education while the post-graduate students will have a 'graduate and above level' of completed education.

In view of the foregoing, to assess whether the OBCs or the Muslims have had a fair share in enrollments to under-graduate programmes, we will focus on the 17-25 age-group. For this age-group, we will compare the share of a given social group in the population with a Higher Secondary Certificate with their share among those currently attending institutions for 'graduate and above' level of education and having higher secondary as their highest level of completed education.

Tables 3.R and 3.U present, respectively, for the all-India rural and the urban populations, the relevant (percentage) shares to assess the presence and extent of under-representation in enrollments for under-graduate studies. This is done separately for the four social groups: the Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes, the OBCs and a residual category of Others. In terms of religion, we distinguish the Hindus, the Muslims, and, a residual category of Others covering Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Others.⁴ For the social group OBCs, we also distinguish, by religion, the Hindus, the Muslims and the residual category of Others as defined above.

⁴ The clubbing of Christians and Sikhs with Others has been necessitated by the relatively small sample size of persons belonging to these religions who are attending 'Graduate and above' level of education and having HigherSecondary as their highest level of completed education is, individually, well below 100.

Consider first, the social group categories.

In rural India, both the **Scheduled Tribes** and the residual category of (non-SC/ST, non-OBC) **Others are over-represented** in under-graduate enrollments. Curiously, for both these social groups, the difference between their shares in the population attending under-graduate studies and their share in the population with higher secondary certificate is identical: 1.7 percentage points.

Focusing on the OBCs we noted above that their share in the total population in the 2004-05 EUS relative to their share in the 1999-2000 has gone up by over 5 percentage points. In the rural population in the 17-25 age-group, the OBC share has gone up by 6 percentage points – from 36.6 per cent to 42.6 per cent. However, their share in the population (in the 17-25 age-group) with a Higher Secondary Certificate has gone up from 31.1 per cent to 40.8 per cent i.e. by 9.7 percentage points. And, their share in under-graduate enrollments (all subjects) went up even more sharply – from 27.6 per cent in 1999-2000 to 38.3 per cent in 2004-05 – by 10.7 percentage points. So that, while the **OBCs** continued to be under-represented in under-graduate enrollments, **the extent of under-representation has gone down from 3.5 percentage points in 1999-2000 to 2.5 percent points in 2004-05.**

It needs to be stressed that this results on the extent of under-representation of OBCs in under-graduate enrollments is not conditioned by the inclusion of states with a history of reservations in higher education for the OBCs. In fact, the exclusion of the four southern states and West Bengal, **reduces** the OBC under-representation from 2.5 to 1.7 percentage points. (See Table 3.R).

For the **Scheduled Castes** also, the extent of under-representation in under-graduate enrollments has gone down: from 1.3 percentage points in 1999-2000 to 0.8 percentage points in 2004-05.

A classification by **religion** shows that, in **rural India relative to their share in the population in the 17-25 age-group with a higher secondary certificate, the Muslims are, if anything, over-represented**, while the Hindus and the residual group 'Others' are under-represented.

In Urban India too, the residual social group **Others** is over-represented in under-graduate enrollments. As in rural India, the **OBCs are under-represented but to a slightly smaller extent – 1.9 percentage points as against 2.5 percentage points in rural India**. However, between 2000 and 2005, unlike in rural India, the extent of OBC under-representation has gone up slightly – from 1.3 to 1.9 percentage points. When classified by religion, the difference between the share of a group in the population (in the 17-25 age-group) with a higher secondary certificate and among those attending under-graduate studies, is quite

small – under one percentage point. In urban India, as in rural India, the exclusion of the southern states and West Bengal **reduces** the OBC under-representation in under-graduate enrollments – albeit marginally.

Thus, **as on 1st January 2005**, relative to their share in the population (in the 17-25 age-group) with the qualifying level of education (namely, a higher secondary certificate), **for no social group or for groupings by religion is the extent of under-representation in enrollments for under-graduate studies – where present – is more than 2.5 percentage points.** This is true not only in respect of the OBCs but also in respect of the Muslims.

We examine next the situation in respect of **enrollments for post-graduate studies.** As noted previously, the relevant age-group is 20-30 and the minimum qualification for entry into a post-graduate programme of studies is a Graduate degree. Tables 4R and 4U present, respectively for the rural and the urban populations, the percentage shares of each social groups in:

- i) the total population in the 20-30 age-group;
- ii) the population in this age-group with a Graduate degree; and,
- iii) the population in this age-group with a Graduate degree and attending educational institutions for ‘Graduate and above’ level of education.⁵

⁵ Sample-size considerations have necessitated restricting this analysis to social groups only. Even in respect of the social groups, given the relatively small sample size, in respect of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes each taken separately of the number of persons in the 20-30 age-group with a

Consider first the case of **social groups in rural India**. We have a striking result. The only social group under-represented in post-graduate enrollments relative to their share in the population in the 20-30 age-group with a Graduate degree – is the residual (non-SC/ST, non-OBC) social group of Others. **The OBCs are significantly** – by nearly 4 percentage points – **over-represented in post-graduate enrollments**. This has been due to a sharp rise – from 26.4 in 1999-2000 to 41.8 per cent in 2004-05 – in their share among those in the age-group with a Graduate degree who are currently attending institutions for post-graduate studies. This is true for all OBCs irrespective of whether they are Hindus, Muslims or belong to other religions. The exclusion of the four southern states and West Bengal **increases** the extent of over-representation – from 3.9 to 9.4percentage points.

In Urban India, among social groups, the extent of under-representation in post-graduate enrollments is highest for the Scheduled Castes – 1.8 percentage points – and the least – 0.3 percentage points – for the OBCs. The exclusion of the southern states converts this marginal under-representation to a marginal (0.4 percentage points) over-representation of OBCs in post-graduate enrollments.

Graduate degree and attending post-graduate programmes, it is best to view the two social groups as a single category.

Finally, a brief comment and some results bearing on the issue of exclusion of the so-called “**Creamy Layer**” of the OBCs from the purview of the proposed 27 percent quota for the OBCs in admissions to institutions for higher education.

As we had noted in our earlier comment on the issue (Sundaram, 2007), in a quota regime, the quota seats will first be filled from all eligible Reserved Category Students, with the further provision that all among them making the ‘cut’ on the basis of the cut-offs for the General Category Students are **not** to be counted towards the filling-up of the quota. It is only when the number of eligible applicants from the reserved category falls below the number of reserved seats that the balance of reserved seats will get transferred to the General Category.

In the sort of quota regime out outlined above, the relevant questions are: (i) whether in a **non-quota regime** the ‘Creamy Layer’ gets a fair representation in the admissions to the under-graduate and post-graduate courses; and (ii) whether the exclusion of the “Creamy Layer” so depletes the pool of the eligible candidates of the OBCs that there are not enough of them to fill the quota.

For an empirical answer to these two questions from the Employment-Unemployment Survey we need to define a relevant cut-off figure specified in terms of monthly per capita expenditure. A useful starting point is provided by the cut-offs underlying the “Income/Wealth Test” provided in the Schedule to OM No. 36012/22/93-(SCT) dated 8th September, 1993 of the Department of Personnel

and Training, Government of India which contains the criteria to determine the Creamy Layer amongst the OBCs. As per this schedule, “the Income/Wealth Test prescribes that the sons and daughters of persons having gross annual income of Rs.2.50 lakhs or above or wealth above the exemption limit as prescribed in the Wealth Tax Act for a period of three consecutive years would be treated to fall in creamy layer”, with the provision that, “Income from salaries or agriculture land shall not be clubbed”.

Clarifications regarding creamy layer amongst OBCs have been spelt out in a Circular [No. 36033/0/2004-ESH.(Res)] dated 14th October 2004 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.

Specifically, in respect of the Income Test it is clarified that “Income of the parents from the salaries and from the other sources (other than salaries and agriculture land) is determined separately. If either the income of the parents from the salaries or the income of the parents from Other sources (other than salaries and agriculture land) exceeds the limit of Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum for a period of three consecutive years, the sons and daughters of such persons shall be treated to fall in creamy layer. But, the sons and daughters of parents from (sic) other sources (salaries?) is also less than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum and income from other sources is also less than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum **will not be treated as falling in creamy layer even if the sum of income from salaries and the income from other sources is more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum**

for a period of three consecutive years. It may be noted that income from agriculture land is not taken into account while applying the Test (Para 9 of the Circular, Emphasis added).

From the emphasized portion of the DPT Circular of 24th October 2004 quoted above, in principle, sons and daughters of parents whose total income – (excluding income from agriculture land) is as high as Rs.4.99 lakhs per annum could escape falling into the creamy layer category.

Given that, in the top two expenditure classes roughly defining the 90-95th and the 95-100th percentile, the average household sizes were 4.06 and 3.64 in rural India and 3.26 and 2.90 in urban India in 2004-05,⁶ assuming an average family size of 4 members in rural India and of 3 members in urban India for the population in the 'creamy layer' would be in order. The Income Test, as clarified by the DPT Circular of 24th October 2004, would thus translate into an annual **per capita income** of Rs.1.25 lakhs in rural India and Rs.1.33 lakhs in urban India, excluding, in both cases, income from agricultural land.

Allowing for an average savings rate of 40 percent, with a further 10 percent allowance to take account of the effect in terms of an understatement of Consumer Expenditure, of the use of an abridged one-page schedule in the Employment-Unemployment Survey, **an income cut-off of Rs.1.25 lakhs per**

⁶ See NSSO Report on Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure 2004-05, Tables 1R and 1U. (Government of India, 2006).

capita to define the creamy layer will translate to a monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs.5208 in rural India. Similarly, for urban India, an annual per capita income of Rs.1.33 lakhs would translate into a monthly per capita expenditure of Rs.5542. So that all OBCs with a monthly per capita expenditure in EUS of Rs.5208 or more in rural India and of Rs.5542 or more in urban India would, on the considerations set out above, constitute the creamy layer amongst the OBCs.

Now, the lower limit of monthly per capita expenditure defining the 98-99th percentile of the total population in the NSS 61st Round Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2004-05 is estimated to be Rs.1441 in rural India and Rs.3034 in urban India. For the 99-100th percentile, the corresponding lower-limits are Rs.1825 in rural India and Rs.3464 in urban India.

In view of the foregoing, it would be fair to say that, in terms of the 'Income Test' defining the creamy layer amongst the OBCs as clarified by the October 2004 Circular of the Department of Personal and Training, Government of India, at most top 2 per cent of the population in terms of monthly per capita consumer expenditure in the Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2004-05.⁷

Nevertheless, keeping in view the sample-size considerations, our empirical analysis of the creamy layer issue is focused on the outcomes for OBCs located

⁷ This will hold true for rural India even if we took the Income Test cut-off to be half i.e. just 2.50 lakhs – again, excluding income from agricultural land. For urban India with an Income cut-off Rs.2.50 lakhs, the Implicit MPCE cut-off of Rs.2771 would define the top 4 percent of the all-India Urban population.

in the expenditure classes defining the **top ten percent of all-India population** – separately for the rural and the urban population.⁸ The relevant results are presented in Table 5.

In respect of **under-graduate studies**, in **rural India**, in the top-most decile the OBCs accounted for **37 per cent** of the 17-25 population with **Higher-Secondary** and **38 per cent** of those in the age-group and decile **with higher-secondary** and **attending under-graduate studies**. The corresponding percentages for urban India are, respectively, 20.4 and 19.3. So that, in the topmost decile, **even in the absence of any quotas for the OBCs**, the OBCs are slightly over represented in rural India (by a little over one percentage point) and slightly under-represented in urban India – also by a little over one percentage point. Parallel results for access to post-graduate studies indicates that, in rural India, the OBCs in the top-most decile are significantly over-represented while in urban India they are marginally (one-half of one percentage point) under-represented.

As for the pool of qualified OBCs, **excluding** the OBCs in the top-most decile, close to 72 (86) percent of the OBCs in the 17-25 age groups with Higher-Secondary certificate in rural (urban) Indian are available. For post-graduate studies, the relevant proportions are 69 percent in rural india and 80 percent in urban India. It needs to be stressed that, for a more narrowly defined ‘creamy

⁸ To put this in perspective, as per EUS 2004-05, the lower limit of MPCE defining the 90th percentile is Rs.865.21 in rural India and Rs.1919.10 in urban India.

layer', say, the top 2 percent of the population or, even the top 4 percent of the population, the pool of qualified OBCs **after exclusion of the creamy layer** so defined would be even larger.

So that, if there is little case for a 27 percent quota for the OBCs, there is even less of a case for not excluding the creamy layer among them from the preview of such quotas.

To sum up: in rural India, despite a sharp rise in the share of the OBCs in the total population (by 5 percentage points or more) and a sharper rise in their share in the population (in the 17-25 age-group) with a Higher Secondary Certificate, an even sharper rise in their share in under-graduate enrollments has resulted in a reduction in the extent of their under-representation in under-graduate enrollments from 3.5 to 2.5 percentage points between 1999-2000 and 2004-05. As for enrollments into programmes for post-graduate studies, the OBCs are over-represented by nearly 4 percentage points. Even in Urban India, the extent of OBC under-representation in under-graduate enrollments, though higher than in 1999-2000, is still less than 2.0 per cent.

In respect of Muslims too, in rural India, they are, if any thing, over-represented in under-graduate enrollments. In Urban India, the extent of under-representation of Muslims in under-graduate enrollments is less than one (0.7) percentage point.

Clearly, relative to their share in the population with the qualifying level of education, no social or religious group is under-represented in enrollments to higher education by more than 2.5 percentage points. Clearly, there is not much of a case for a 27 percent reservation for the OBCs in enrollments to higher education and, if, despite this, we do have quotas for the OBCs, there is even less of a case for not excluding the 'creamy layer' among them from the preview of such quotas. Public policy aimed at redressing social group inequalities in educational attainments must focus on where the problem is more acute: the gap between the share of disadvantaged groups in population (in the relevant age-group) and their share in the population eligible for enrollments for higher education – a gap that is quite significant for Muslims in both rural and in urban India and for OBCs in urban India. Persistence of such gaps for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes despite a history of reservations points to the urgent need to focus on quality in school-level education. OBC quotas in higher education merely divert attention and resources from more difficult but necessary tasks lower down in the educational pyramid.

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Table 1: Composition of All-India Rural and Urban Population by Social Groups and Religion: All-India, 2004-05

Percentage Shares		
Social Groups	Rural	Urban
Scheduled Castes	10.3	3.1
Scheduled Tribes	21.3	15.0
OBCs	42.9	36.0
Others	25.5	45.9
All	100.0	100.0
Religious Groups		
Hindu	83.4	77.4
Muslim	11.5	16.4
Christian	2.1	2.5
Sikh	2.0	1.5
Others	1.1	2.2

Table 2: Proportion of Population with Higher Education in rural and urban India by Social Groups and Religion: All-India, 2004-05.

Percentage of Population by level of completed education

Segment	Higher Secondary and Above				Graduate & Above			
	Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban	
	All-Age Population	Population in 17-30 age-group	All-Age Population	Population in 17-30 age group	All Age Population	17-30 Population	All Age Population	17-30 Population
ST	2.1	5.8	14.7	28.2	0.7	1.5	6.2	9.8
SC	3.0	8.3	9.1	19.4	0.9	2.1	3.6	6.7
OBCs	4.4	11.5	13.4	26.5	1.4	3.1	5.9	10.2
Others	8.0	18.3	27.3	44.1	3.1	6.0	15.5	21.3
All	4.8	12.0	19.2	33.4	1.6	3.5	10.0	14.7
Hindu	5.0	12.4	20.8	35.8	1.7	3.7	10.9	15.9
Muslim	2.5	6.6	8.5	17.1	4.8	1.7	3.8	6.6
Christian	8.9	18.6	25.5	46.8	2.5	4.7	11.8	18.9
Sikh	6.7	18.4	26.5	41.8	1.5	3.4	14.7	17.7
Others	5.9	13.4	29.5	54.3	1.7	3.8	16.9	27.6

Table 3 R: Share of Social/ Religious Groups in the 17-25 population (total and with higher secondary) are attending institutions for Under Graduate Studies in Rural India: All-India, 2004-05.

Percentage shares in population in 17-25 age-group

<i>Population Segment</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>With Higher Secondary</i>	<i>With Higher Secondary and attending Institutions for Under Graduate Studies</i>
Social Groups (All Religions)			
Schedule Tribes	10.3	5.7	7.4
Schedule Castes	21.3	15.8	15.0
Other Backward Classes	42.6 (43.2)	40.8 (38.5)	38.3 (36.8)
Others	25.8	37.7	39.4
Religion (All Social Groups)			
Hindu	82.9	85.4	83.9
Muslim	11.7	7.0	9.7
OTHERS	5.4	7.6	6.4
OBCs by Religion	42.6	40.8	38.3
Hindu	37.3	36.7	33.3
Muslim	4.3	2.7	3.5
Others	1.0	1.4	1.5

Notes: Figures within brackets for OBCs represents the situation when we exclude the states with some history of reservations for OBCs: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and, West Bengal.

Table 3U: Share of Social/Religious Groups in the 17-25 Population (Total and with Higher Secondary) attending Institutions for Graduate Studies in Urban India: All-India, 2004-05

Percentage, Shares in Population in the 17-25 age-group

Population Segment			
Social Groups (All Religions)	Total	With Higher Secondary	With Higher Secondary & Attending Graduate Studies
Scheduled Tribes	3.2	3.3	3.4
Schedules Castes	16.3	10.7	10.0
OBCs	35.9 (31.8)	29.5 (24.0)	27.6 (22.3)
Others	44.6	56.5	59.0
Religion (All Social Groups)			
Hindu	76.7	82.6	82.9
Muslim	17.5	9.6	8.9
OTHERS	5.8	7.8	8.2
OBCs (by Religion)	35.9	29.5	27.6
Hindu	28.4	25.3	24.2
Muslim	6.5	2.8	2.2
Others	1.0	1.3	1.2

Notes: Figures within brackets for OBCs represents the situation when we exclude the states with some history of reservations for OBCs: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and, West Bengal.

Table 4 R: Share of Social/Religious Groups in population in the 20-30 age-group (Total and with Graduate Degree) and Attending Institutions for Post-Graduate Studies in Rural India, All-India, 2004-05

Percentage Shares in Population in the 20-30 age-group

<i>Population Segment</i>			
Social Groups (All Religions)	Total	With Graduate Degree	With Graduate Degree & Attending Post-Graduate Institutions
Scheduled Castes	10.9	5.0	7.0
Scheduled Tribes	21.1	12.9	17.3
OBCs	42.1 (42.8)	37.9 (35.9)	41.8 (45.3)
Others	25.9	44.2	34.0

Notes: Figures within brackets for OBCs represents the situation when we exclude the states with some history of reservations for OBCs: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and, West Bengal.

Table 4 U: Share of Social/Religious Groups in Population in the 20-30 age-group (total and with Graduate Degree) and Attending Institutions for Post-Graduate Studies in Urban India: All-India, 2004-05.

Percentage Shares in Population in the 20-30 age-groups

<i>Population Segment</i>			
Social Groups (All Religions)	Total	With Graduate Degree (GD)	Graduate and Attending Post-Graduate Institutions
Scheduled Tribes	2.8	2.2	2.8
Scheduled Castes	15.4	7.4	5.6
OBCs	35.7 (31.2)	25.4 (19.7)	25.1 (20.1)
Others	46.1	65.0	66.5

Notes: Figures within brackets for OBCs represents the situation when we exclude the states with some history of reservations for OBCs: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and, West Bengal.

Table 5: Share of OBCs in the total, Eligible and Currently, Attending Populations in the Top-most Decile of the Rural and Urban Populations: All India, 2004-05

Percentage Share of OBC of the Respective Populations in the 90-100th Percentile

Segment	Total 17-25 Population	17-25 Population with Higher Secondary	17-25 Population with Higher Secondary & Attending Graduate Studies	Total 20-30 Population	20-30 Population with Graduate Degree	20-30 Population with Graduate Degree and Attending Post-Graduate Studies
Rural	40.7	37.1 (27.9)	38.2 (37.1)	40.0	32.1 (31.3)	35.2 (36.4)
Urban	22.2	20.4 (13.8)	19.3 (16.7)	20.8	18.5 (19.5)	18.0 (24.0)

Notes: Figures within brackets give the share of the top-most decile in the total OBC population that is eligible for Graduate/Post Graduate studies and in the total OBC population that is currently attending institutions for Graduate Post-Graduate Studies.