



# Inter-District Analysis Of Variations In Levels And Pattern Of Income Of Scheduled Caste Households In Punjab.

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## Abstract

The objective of this research paper is to estimate per household and per capita income and highlight the inequalities in the distribution of income prevailing among the different categories of scheduled castes households across the districts in rural Punjab. The study is based on a primary survey of 453 households. The study reveals that the average annual income of scheduled caste households is the highest in Hoshiarpur district followed by Ludhiana and Mansa districts. The income from government and private services are the major sources of income in Hoshiarpur district. On an average, 18.68 per cent and 17.47 per cent of their total income comes from private services and government services. In the Mansa district, the sampled households earn the maximum income from artisans work and hiring out labour in agriculture. In the case of Ludhiana district, the scheduled caste households earn the maximum income from private services and wages from construction work. The income concentration is the highest in Hoshiarpur district followed by Ludhiana and Mansa districts.

**Keywords:** Scheduled caste, categories, income, per capita, distribution.

## Introduction

Indian society is based on the caste system which incorporates the notion of purity and pollution. There was a prejudice that scheduled castes were impure, polluted and untouchable. They were not included in the mainstream society and their entry was banned in temples, bringing water from upper-caste wells and even social communication with upper caste Hindus was prohibited (Kumar, 2013). Due to the rigidity of caste system, the scheduled castes were treated as outcastes, polluted, downtrodden, marginalised and exploited by the other higher castes in the ancient times.

The 'Sudras' have been classified as inferior and the last varna among the four varnas that are Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Sudras. This Sudras have suffered social and economic inequalities. They have treated as untouchable castes and they used to reside outside the village due to social stigma of untouchability. These untouchable castes were official declared as depressed castes in 1932. Gandhi named

the untouchable as 'Harijans', 'Hari' means 'God' and 'Jan' means people, Gandhi used to call them people of 'God'. After that Simon Commission in 1935 first time used term 'Scheduled Castes' for all the untouchable castes, who were listed in census of India 1931 (Karade, 2008).

Majority of the SC poor households survived only on one time meal per day and have a kachha house with thatched roof. Such houses don't provide protection against wind, rain, cold, inadequate lighting which are dangerous to human beings (Rajuladevi, 2001). The scheduled castes are still comparatively illiterates and less educated than the general category. This can be attributed to some reasons such as early marriage, high female illiteracy due to importance to male child, child labour, superstition, dominance of higher castes, and deprivation from socio-economic status (Chouhan, 2013). Their endowment of physical capital is also limited. The majority of the schedule castes are landless agriculture labourers and poor (Suryanarayana, 2001).

Per capita income in rural India is clearly higher for non- SC/St as compared to SC/STs. The incidences and intensity of poverty are much higher among those belonging to the SCs and STs than among others (Adhikari, and Mazumdar, 2010 and Chakrabarty 2001). Poverty rate is much higher among scheduled caste in India as well as in Punjab, because scheduled castes have been deprived of their rights for long time. They have suffered social and economic discrimination. They were not included in the mainstream of society. Therefore, they remained trapped of a vicious cycle of poverty. Most of the people belonging to scheduled castes are illiterates and residing in the rural areas. Therefore, they cannot come at par with other sections of the society. Poverty is synonymous with scheduled castes in India as well as in Punjab, most of them, especially rural illiterates, are born in poverty, live in poverty and die in poverty. Also it may not be wrong to use 'poverty' and 'Scheduled Castes' interchangeably (Mahadeva, 2003).

Punjab has the highest proportion of scheduled castes as compared to the other states of India. In Punjab, the SC population has grown at higher rate than the rest of the population. In 1971, the proportion of scheduled castes was 24.7 per cent. It reached to 26.9 per cent and 28.3 per cent in 1981 and 1991, respectively (Census of India, 2001). However, in next decade (2001-2011), it has reached to 31.9 per cent. Despite the operation of the wage employment program targeted at poor and vulnerable sections for the last several years, they have not been able to provide a minimum living to a large number of scheduled castes. As nearly 60 per cent of agricultural labour households and little more than 40 per cent of wage labour in rural non-farm sector are below the poverty line and failed to achieve a minimum level of income and consumption (Das and Mehta, 2012). Thus, a vast majority of scheduled caste wage labour households are without security cover of minimum income and living standard (Thorat, 1999). The present paper is an attempt to examine per household and per capita income and highlight the inequalities in the distribution of income prevailing among the different categories of scheduled castes households in rural Punjab.

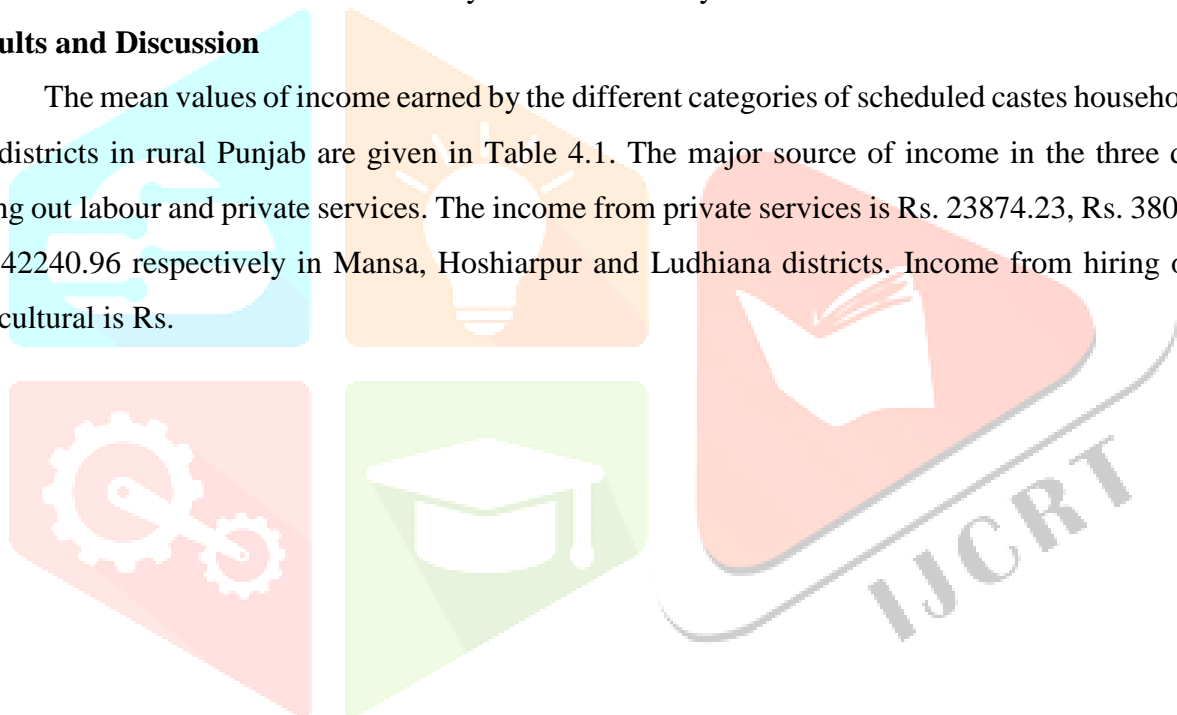
### **Data and Methodology**

The present study is based on primary sources of data. A three-stage stratified random sampling techniques is used. The whole Punjab state is divided into three regions on the basis of high, medium and low concentration of scheduled caste population. There is maximum concentration of Scheduled Caste population in the districts of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Fazilka, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Firozpur, Jalandhar,

Faridkot, Moga, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala districts. The districts of Taran Tarn, Mansa, Bathinda, Barnala, Fategarh Sahib and Amritsar comprise medium concentration of the Scheduled Caste population. The lowest concentration of the Scheduled Caste population lies the districts of Pathankot, Sangrur, Rupnagar, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Pataiala, Sahibjada Ajit Singh Nagar at the first stage, one district from each region, i.e., Hoshiarpur district from highest concentration region, Mansa from medium concentration region, Ludhiana from low concentration region has been selected randomly for the purpose of present study. One village has been selected randomly from each development block of the selected districts. Thus, ten villages from Hoshiarpur district, five villages from Mansa district and thirteen villages from Ludhiana district have been selected. A stratified proportional sample of scheduled caste households comprises different categories of scheduled caste households taken up for survey. 453 households were selected randomly from the three districts for the purpose of survey. Out of the total selected 453 households, 188 households from Ludhiana district, 135 households from Hoshiarpur district, and 130 households from Mansa district have been selected. It is a cross-sectional analysis related to the year 2021-2022.

### Results and Discussion

The mean values of income earned by the different categories of scheduled castes households across the districts in rural Punjab are given in Table 4.1. The major source of income in the three districts is hiring out labour and private services. The income from private services is Rs. 23874.23, Rs. 38051.85 and Rs. 42240.96 respectively in Mansa, Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts. Income from hiring out labour agricultural is Rs.



**Table 4.1**  
**Levels of Household Income of Different Scheduled Castes**

(In Rs., Per Annum)

Sl. No	Sources of Income	Ludhiana				Mansa			Hoshiarpur				
		Ramdasi a	Mazhabi	other	All	Ramdasiasia	Mazhabibi	All	Ramdasi a	Mazhabibi	Ad-Dharmi	other	All
1.	Hiring out labour agriculture	19046.88	37232.41	-	24058.51	19208.33	38012.05	31361.54	34952.38	37720	28982.45	37441.15	34088.89
	(i) Contractual labour	8398.44	20482.14	-	11819.15	13125	30530.12	24338.46	24095.24	23280	24017.54	22823.53	23948.15
	(ii) Casual labour	10648.44	16750	-	12239.	6083.3	7481.9	7023.08	10857.14	14440	4964.9	14617.	10140.7
2.	Wages for construction work	26953.13	27625	-	26579.79	48916.67	10000	24446.15	22952.38	27600	11350.88	12411.76	16600
3.	Artisans work	-	-	-	-	10750	45674.	33130.77	-	5760	16192.	11588.	10822.2
4.	Sale of milk	4803.75	2892.86	-	4132.3	6750	8518.0	7930.77	2571.43	4040	2385.9	2647.0	2822.22
5.	Sale of cow dung	1382.81	392.86	-	1058.5	2458.3	301.20	1100	857.14	2880	421.05	294.12	918.52
6.	Govt. services	23512.5	19285.7	165700	25278.	11250	2602.4	5815.39	126666.7	-	40189.	15964.	40693.3
7.	Private services	49947.6	25928.5	24000	42240.	38492.	15132.	23874.23	55523.81	31120	41561.	24235.	38051.8
8.	Hiring out labour in Industrial sector	27609.38	25714.29	-	26457.45	11812.5	4915.66	7500	18857.14	3120	15912.28	7235.29	12051.85
9.	Pensions	22350.1	9857.14	53250	21264.	10603.	3397.5	6084.46	36000	2880	26828.	7882.3	19446.3
10.	Remittances	3750	-	25000	3085.1	7916.6	0	2923.08	11904.76	8000	47192.	3529.4	24148.1
11.	MGNREGA income	12650	14891.1	-	13048.4	14570.8	24645.8	21115.38	6538.09	15424	14317.5	15650	13860
12.	Others	2980.47	982.14	-	2321.8	4250	3493.9	3800	11142.86	800	2526.3	-	2948.15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92721</b>	<b>164801.8</b>	<b>267950</b>	<b>189526.5</b>	<b>186979.8</b>	<b>156694</b>	<b>169081.8</b>	<b>327966.7</b>	<b>139344</b>	<b>247862.3</b>	<b>138879</b>	<b>217799.6</b>

Rs. 34088.8 and Rs. 24058.50 in Mansa, Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts respectively. The income from construction work is Rs. 16600, Rs. 24446.15 and Rs. 26579.79 in the Hoshiarpur, Mansa and Ludhiana districts, respectively. In Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and Mansa districts, income earned from Govt. services is Rs.40693.33, Rs.25278.72 and Rs.5815.93 respectively.

The income earned from the pension is Rs.21264.95, Rs. 19446.3 and 6084.46 in Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur and Mansa districts respectively. But income earned from MGNREGA labour is the highest (Rs. 21115.38) in Mansa district and the lowest (Rs. 13048) in Ludhiana district. The corresponding figure is Rs. 13860 for the Hoshiarpur district. Income from Industrial sector is the highest in Ludhiana district and the lowest in Mansa district. Some part of income is earned from other sources, sale cow dung and sale milk. In the case of Ludhiana district, the highest average income is earned from private services followed by income hiring from hiring out labour in construction work, income from hiring out labour in industrial and government services. In Mansa district, the highest income is earned from artisans followed by hiring out labour in agriculture and construction labour.

In Hoshiarpur district, government services is the first important source of income and private services is the second important source of income. In the case of Ad-Dharmi category the average household income is Rs.247862.3 in Hoshiarpur district. The Ramdasia category earns the highest average income of Rs.327966.7 in Hoshiarpur district and the lowest of Rs.186979.80 in Mansa district. It is Rs.19272.1 in Ludhiana district. The Mazhabi households earn the highest income (Rs.164801.80) in Ludhiana district followed by Mansa and Hoshiarpur districts.

### **Pattern of Income**

The relative shares of individual components of income are given in Table 4.2. The table clearly shows that in the Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts, income from private services is the important source of income. This source contributes 22.52 and 17.47 per cent respectively to the total income of an average scheduled caste household in the Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts. The second important source in three districts is income from government services. The share of sources from government service is 18.68 and 13.48 per cent in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts respectively. The hiring out labour in agriculture is third in these few districts. This proportional share is 15.66 and 12.48 per cent in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts respectively. The wages from construction work rank fourth in Ludhiana district and remittance rank fifth in Hoshiarpur district. This indicates that in

**Table 4.2**  
**Income Pattern of Scheduled Castes**

(Percentage of the Total Income)

Sl. No.	Sources of Income	Ludhiana				Mansa			Hoshiarpur				All
		Ramdasi a	Mazhab i	othe r	All	Ramdasi a	Mazhab i	All	Ramdasi a	Mazhab i	Ad-Dharm i	other	
1.	Hiring out labour agriculture	13.35	22.59	0	12.84	10.27	24.25	18.54	10.66	27.07	25.25	26.95	15.66
	(i) Contractual labour	6.88	12.43	0	6.31	7.02	19.48	14.39	7.35	16.71	15.39	16.43	11
	(ii) Casual labour	6.47	10.16	0	6.53	3.25	4.77	4.15	3.31	10.36	9.86	10.52	4.66
2.	Wages for construction work	14.15	16.76	0	14.17	26.16	6.38	14.46	7	19.81	8.37	8.94	7.62
3.	Artisans work	0	0	0	0	5.75	29.15	19.59	0	4.13	7.82	8.34	4.98
4.	Sale of milk	2.17	1.76	0	2.2	3.61	5.44	4.69	0.78	2.9	1.79	1.91	1.91
5.	Sale of cow dung	0.49	0.24	0	0.56	1.32	0.19	0.65	0.26	2.07	0.19	0.21	0.42
6.	Govt. services	13.71	11.7	61.84	13.48	6.02	1.66	3.44	38.62	0	10.77	11.5	18.68
7.	Private services	20.83	15.73	8.96	22.52	20.59	9.66	14.12	16.93	22.33	16.34	17.45	17.47
8.	Hiring out labour in Industrial sector	13.55	15.6	0	14.11	6.32	3.14	4.44	5.75	2.24	4.88	5.21	5.53
9.	Pensions	11.64	5.98	19.87	10.28	5.67	2.17	3.6	10.98	2.07	11.66	5.68	8.93
10.	Remittances	2.05	0	9.33	1.64	4.23	0	1.73	3.63	5.74	2.38	2.54	11.09
11.	MGNREGA income	6.98	9.04	0	6.96	7.79	15.73	12.49	1.99	11.07	10.55	11.27	6.36
12.	Others	1.08	0.6	0	1.24	2.27	2.23	2.25	3.4	0.57	0	0	1.35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Calculated from Table 4.1



Hoshiarpur district more people went to foreign country, so that income from remittance is higher in this district. Income from salaries ranks third in all the three districts.

The relative share of pensions is the highest in Ludhiana district and the lowest in Mansa district. The relative share of income from MGNREGA labour is the highest in Mansa (12.49) district followed by Ludhiana (6.96) and Hoshiarpur (6.36) districts. In Mansa district, the most important source of income of an average scheduled caste household is artisan work. An average household earns about 20 per cent from this source. The hiring out labour in agriculture is second important source of income in Mansa district contributing 18.54 per cent to total income. The wages from construction work contributes 14.46 per cent to total income of an average scheduled caste household in Mansa district. The income from private services ranks fourth in this district. The income from sale of milk is the highest in Mansa district followed by Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts among the sampled scheduled castes households. An average sampled household earns 0.65, 0.56 and 0.42 per cent respectively in Mansa, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts from the sale of cow dung. For the Ramdasia category, the relative share of income from private services is the highest in Ludhiana district (20.83 per cent) followed by Mansa (20.59 per cent) and Hoshiarpur districts (16.93 per cent). In the case of Ramdasia households the share of wages from construction worker is the highest in Mansa district (26.16 per cent) followed by Ludhiana (14.15 per cent) and Hoshiarpur (7.00 per cent) districts. The share of income from government services is the highest in Hoshiarpur district i.e., 38.62 per cent followed by Ludhiana (13.71 per cent) and Mansa (6.02 per cent) districts. The share of pensions is 11.64 per cent in Ludhiana district followed by Hoshiarpur (10.98 per cent) and Mansa (5.67 per cent) districts. The share of income from MGNREG Alabour is the highest in Mansa district (7.79 per cent) and the lowest in Hoshiarpur district (1.99 per cent). The corresponding figure for the Ludhiana district is 6.98 per cent.

The relative share of income from wages from construction worker in the total income of the Mazhabi category is 19.48, 16.71 and 12.43 in Mansa, Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts, respectively. The Mazhabi category earned the highest income from artisans (29.15 per cent) followed by MGNREGA (15.73 per cent), hiring out labour agriculture (24.25 per cent), private services (9.66 per cent) and labour wages from construction (6.38 per cent) in Mansa district. For the Mazhabi category in case of Ludhiana district, the important sources of income are income from hiring out labour in agriculture (22.59 per cent), labour wages from construction worker (16.76 per cent), private services (15.73 per cent), Industrial wages (15.6 per cent) and MGNREGA labour (9.04 per cent). In Hoshiarpur district, income from hiring out labour agriculture (27.07), private services (22.33 per cent), labour wages for construction (19.81 per

cent) and income from MGNREGA labour (11.07 per cent) are the main sources of income for the Mazhabi category.

### **Per Capita Income**

The family size of an average sampled scheduled caste household is 4.53. However, there are considerable variations in the family size across the three districts. In Hoshiarpur district, the average family size is 4.44, whereas, it is 4.14, 4.32, 4.38 and 4.50 for the Ad-Dharmi, Mazhabi, others and Ramdasia categories, respectively. The average family size in Mansa district is 4.55 and it is 4.51 and 4.63 for the Mazhabi and Ramdasia categories, respectively. The average family size in Ludhiana district is 4.57, and it is 4.23, 4.70 and 5.00 for the Mazhabi, Ramdasia and other category, respectively. So, it becomes necessary to analyse the per capita income levels. To see whether a different scenario emerges when their mean values adjusted with family size, the per capita income has been calculated. Across the three districts per capita income of the scheduled castes categories is presented in Table 4.3. The table depicts that like average income the per capita income of an average sampled household is also the highest in Hoshiarpur (Rs. 49086.73) followed by Ludhiana (Rs. 41046.55) and Mansa (Rs. 37129.44) districts.

In Mansa district, an average sampled scheduled caste household earns Rs. 5344.59 from agricultural labour, Rs. 4636.82 from MGNREGA labour, Rs. 1741.55 from sale of Milk, Rs. 1646.95 from Industrial work and 1336.11 from pensions. In Ludhiana district, an average sampled household earns Rs. 5790.45, 5532.48, 4220.96, 2855.76 and 2678.69 from Industrial labour, govt. services, pensions, MGNREGA labour, casual labour and agriculture labour respectively.

In Hoshiarpur district Rs. 5442.40, 5397.33, 4382.72, 3741.23, 3123.71, 2716.19 and 2285.48 are earned from remittances, agricultural labour, pensions, labour wages, MGNREGA labour, industrial labour and casual labour respectively by an average sampled scheduled castes household. The per capita income from sale of milk is the highest in Mansa district (Rs. 1741.55) and the lowest in Ludhiana district (Rs. 904.40). The corresponding figure for Hoshiarpur district is Rs. 939.99.

The Ramdasia category earns Rs. 62611.77 per capita annually in Hoshiarpur district and Rs. 41458.95 in Ludhiana district. The per capita income of this category is Rs. 40428.06 in Mansa district. The per capita income of the Mazhabi households is the highest, i.e.,



**Table 4.3**  
**Per Capita Income of Different Categories of Scheduled Castes**

Sl. No.	Sources of Income	Ludhiana				Mansa			Hoshiarpur				All
		Ramdasi a	Mazhaba	other	All	Ramdasi a	Mazhaba	All	Ramdasi a	Mazhaba	AddDhar	other	
1.	Hiring out labour agriculture	4049.83	8797.46	0	5265.41	4153.14	8527.01	6886.82	6672.72	8731.47	7120.69	8543.62	7682.81
	(i) Contractual labour	1785.71	4839.66	0	2586.72	2837.83	6848.64	5344.59	4600	5388.88	5900.86	5208.05	5397.33
	(ii) Casual labour	2264.12	3957.8	0	2678.6	1315.31	1678.37	1542.23	2072.7	3342.5	1219.8	3335.5	2285.4
2.	Wages for construction work	5703.89	6527.42	0	5817.22	10576.58	2243.24	5368.24	4381.81	6388.88	2788.79	2832.21	3741.23
3.	Artisans work	0	0	0	0	2324.32	10245.9	7275.33	0	1333.3	3978.4	2644.2	2439.0
4.	Sale of milk	1021.39	683.54	0	904.4	1459.45	1910.81	1741.55	490.9	935.18	1370.6	604.03	939.99
5.	Sale of cow dung	294.01	92.82	0	231.66	531.53	67.56	241.55	163.6	666.66	103.45	67.11	207.01
6.	Govt. services	4999.33	4556.9	33140	5532.4	2432.42	583.78	1277.02	24181	0	9874.1	3642.9	9171.2
7.	Private services	10620.1	6126.5	4800	9244.8	8322.74	3394.59	5242.65	10600	7203.7	10211.	5530.2	8575.9
8.	Hiring out labour in Industrial sector	5870.43	6075.94	0	5790.45	2554.05	1102.7	1646.95	3600	722.22	3909.48	1651.01	2716.19
9.	Pensions	4752.17	2329.1	10650	4220.9	2292.7	762.16	1336.11	6872.7	666.66	6591.5	1798.6	4382.7
10.	Remittances	797.34	0	5000	675.2	1711.71	0	641.89	2272.7	1851.8	11594.	805.37	5442.4
11.	MGNREGA income	2689.7	3518.56	0	2855.76	3150.45	5528.64	4636.82	1248.18	3507.37	3517.67	3571.14	3123.71
12.	Others	633.72	232.06	0	508.14	918.91	783.78	834.45	2127.2	185.18	620.69	0	664.44
	<b>Total</b>	41458.95	38940.	53590	41046.	40428.1	35150.3	37129.4	62611.	32255.	61681.	31690.	49086.

Source: calculated from Table 4.1.

Rs. 38940.51 in Ludhiana district followed by Rs. 35150.27 and Rs. 32255.56 in Mansa and Hoshiarpur districts respectively. The analysis of per capita income shows that the per capita income is low in Mansa district this is due to reason that Mansa is less developed district compared to Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts.

### Household Income Distribution

The distribution of household income among the scheduled caste households in different districts is given in Table 4.4 The table shows that the bottom 10 per cent of the scheduled caste households share only 4.31 per cent of the total income in Mansa district. The corresponding figures are 3.72 and 2.84 per cent in Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts, respectively. On the other hand, top 10 per cent of the scheduled caste households share the highest income in Hoshiarpur district i.e., 35.4 per cent followed by Ludhiana (28.5 per cent) and Mansa (22.6 per cent) districts.

In Ludhiana district a clear contrast emerges when we compare bottom 50 per cent sampled scheduled caste households who earn near equal than the income earned by top 10 per cent scheduled caste households. In Mansa district, bottom 40 per cent of the total households earns equal income to the top 10 per cent households. The bottom 60 per cent households accounts for 29.45 per cent of the total income in Hoshiarpur district which is less than the share of the 10 per cent household.

**Table 4.4**  
**Distribution of Household Income of Scheduled Castes**

Cumulative Percentage of Households	Cumulative Percentage of Household Income of Scheduled Castes		
	Ludhiana district	Mansa district	Hoshiarpur district
10	3.72	4.31	2.84
20	8.69	10.01	6.82
30	14.44	16.43	11.34
40	20.88	23.78	16.88
50	28.05	32.00	22.28
60	36.23	41.05	29.45
70	45.56	51.32	37.66
80	56.65	62.67	47.93
90	71.5	77.4	64.6
100	100	100	100
<b>Gini Coefficient</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.42</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021-22*

This shows that the income concentration is the highest in Hoshiarpur district followed by Ludhiana and Mansa districts. The Gini Coefficient also supports this result. The value of Gini coefficient is 0.42 in Hoshiarpur, 0.32 in Ludhiana and 0.26 in Mansa district. An inter district analysis shows that the sampled households have a relatively less skewed distribution of income in Mansa district.

### Distribution of Per Capita Income

The distribution of per capita income among the different categories of scheduled castes households in the three districts is given in Table 4.5. The table shows that the bottom 10 per cent of the sampled scheduled caste population share only 3.75, 4.72 and 2.85 per cent of the total per capita income in

Ludhiana, Mansa and Hoshiarpur districts, respectively. On the other hand, the top 10 per cent population share 24.99, 22.59 and 29.69 per cent in Ludhiana, Mansa and Hoshiarpur districts, respectively. A clear contrast is obvious from the fact that the bottom 40 per cent scheduled caste population accounts for 21.95 per cent, 25.99 per cent and 18.30 per cent of the total per capita income in Ludhiana, Mansa and Hoshiarpur districts, respectively. This clearly brings out that the share of bottom 40 per cent scheduled caste population is less than from the top 10 per cent population in Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts.

**Table 4.5**

**Distribution of Per Capita Income of Scheduled Castes**

Cumulative Percentage of Households	Cumulative Percentage of Household Income of Scheduled Castes		
	Ludhiana District	Mansa District	Hoshiarpur District
10	3.75	4.72	2.85
20	9.04	10.86	7.02
30	15.04	17.6	12.11
40	21.95	25.99	18.3
50	29.43	33.78	24.02
60	37.93	42.97	31.75
70	47.67	52.9	40.98
80	59.15	64.13	52.94
90	75.01	77.41	70.31
100	100	100	100
<b>Gini Coefficient</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.37</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021-22*

The value of Gini Coefficient is the highest in Hoshiarpur district (0.37) followed by Ludhiana (0.30) and Mansa districts (0.23). The values of Gini Coefficient of per household income are higher than per capita income. This implies that the concentration of per household income is greater than the per capita income in all the three districts.

### Conclusions and Policy Implications

The above analysis shows that the annual income is the highest in Hoshiarpur district followed by Ludhiana and Mansa districts respectively. The main sources of income in the case of an average sampled scheduled caste household are income from private services. This source contributes 22.52 and 17.47 per cent respectively to the total income of an average scheduled caste household in the Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts. The second important source in three districts is income from government services. The share of sources from government service is 18.68 and 13.48 per cent in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts respectively. The hiring out labour in agriculture is third in these districts. This proportional share is 15.66 and 12.48 per cent in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts respectively. The wages from construction work rank fourth in Ludhiana district and remittance rank fifth in Hoshiarpur district. This indicates that in Hoshiarpur district more people went to foreign country, so that income from remittance is higher in this district. Income from salaries ranks third in all the three districts.

The relative share of pensions is the highest in Ludhiana district and the lowest in Mansa district. The relative share of income from MGNREGA labour is the highest in Mansa (12.49) district followed by

Ludhiana (6.96) and Hoshiarpur (6.36) districts. In Mansa district, the most important source of income of an average scheduled caste household is artisan work. An average household earns about 20 per cent from this source. The hiring out labour in agriculture is second important source of income in Mansa district contributing 18.54 per cent to total income. The wages from construction work contributes 14.46 per cent to total income of an average scheduled caste household in Mansa district. The income from private services ranks fourth in this district. The income from sale of milk is the highest in Mansa district followed by Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts among the sampled scheduled castes households. An average sampled household earns 0.65, 0.56 and 0.42 per cent respectively in Mansa, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts from the sale of cow dung.

The income concentration is the highest in Hoshiarpur district followed by Ludhiana and Mansa districts. The Gini Coefficient also supports this result. The value of Gini coefficient is 0.42 in Hoshiarpur, 0.32 in Ludhiana and 0.26 in Mansa district. An inter district analysis shows that the sampled households have a relative less skewed distribution of income in Mansa district.

The emphasis should be on non-farm activities to provide employment and also promoting regular jobs in the government as well as in the private sector for the scheduled caste population in the Punjab. There should be an emphasis on promoting higher education and technical education in rural areas. The government should start special training programs for the rural scheduled caste people to upgrade their skills and capabilities. These results also point to the need to provide some additional concessions to scheduled castes in rural areas to start their own businesses instead of relying on casual jobs and being stuck in a vicious cycle of poverty. The establishment of agro-based industries in the rural areas and proper implementation of MGNREGS would go a long way to increase income of these households.

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