

4. The Commission is also told that 70% of the males if not 100% drink country made liquor made from molasses – perhaps – by the members of the community themselves and illicitly. This must be a hangover from the tribal days. Pitted against the general standards of acceptability in the country, this practice of making and drinking illicit liquor must be considered as a sign of backwardness.

The leaders of the Community also claimed that the agricultural land shown in col.10 of table as 156.50 acres must be much more and that the urban land shown as 19800.00 sq.mtrs. must be much less since at most 12 families lived in urban area. The Commission finds this assertion acceptable since most of the Bhatus live in the rural areas.

Page No.2 of the Table gives the details of the state of education amongst the Bhatus.

The leaders of the community say that the literacy rate at best can be 60% and not 83.65% as shown in col.6 of page No.2. The literacy rate is really not very relevant since the Govt. here provides free school education to all children up to Higher Secondary level. However even at 83.65%, it is below the State Literacy Rate which is 97%. 7

The percentage of Matriculates has been shown in col.7 of page No.2 as 31.56. This is slightly above the State percentage which is 30.7%. The leaders of the Community contend, however, that not more than 15/20% of their community are Matriculates. Considering the state in which the Community is at present, this may as well be true.

The percentage of Graduates as shown in col.8 is 4.37% which though a bit higher than the State percentage of 4.8% is accepted by the leaders. This also shows the low standard of education among the members of the community.

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