

- With respect to proportions of population in poverty or affluence, DMs are unquestionably the worst off among all Dalits, in both the rural and specially the urban sector. DMs are completely absent in the affluent group for urban India. There is a significant gap between DMs and DCs and Dalit Sikhs, and small one between them and Hindu Dalits. DCs may be said to moderately better off than other Dalits except Dalit Sikhs, who are even better off. DCs have a much higher proportion in poverty than Dalit Sikhs, specially in rural India, but roughly comparable populations in affluence.

- When it comes to intra-community comparisons, DMs and DCs are a study in contrasts. DMs are only slightly worse off than non-Dalit Muslims, specially the OBCs, but this is because non-Dalit Muslims are much worse off than their non-Muslim counterparts. In other words, the Muslim community as a whole tends to be very badly off compared to other communities, specially in the urban areas, and consequently the intra-community gap between Dalits and non-Dalits is by far the smallest for Muslims. DCs are at the other end of the spectrum, with the highest inter-caste differentials, but for the opposite reason, namely, that non-Dalit Christians and specially the upper castes tend to be much better off. However, DCs are closest to Dalit Sikhs, who are actually slightly better off than them on the whole, but have less poverty (specially rural poverty) so that their inter-caste differentials are lower than those for Christians.

- The picture with respect to average levels of consumption measured by percentiles of MPCE confirms and amplifies the findings based on proportions of population in poverty and affluence. However, what this analysis brings out clearly is that, with the exception of rural Dalit Sikhs who are slightly better off all along the economic spectrum except at the very top, all other Dalits are basically the same in economic terms. Whatever differences there are among Dalits of different religions only become visible in the top 25% of the distribution. In other words, other than rural Dalit Sikhs, 75% of all other Dalits are economically indistinguishable from each other, both in the urban and specially the rural areas. Another point that is strongly emphasised in this analysis is the serious levels of poverty among urban Muslims of all castes including Dalits.

- With respect to comparisons of occupational structure, there seem to be no dramatic contrasts in rural India. The only noteworthy feature is that it is only in this non-decisive area of comparison (i.e. the data is more prone to