Progress across social groups has been uneven in Tamil Nadu. For the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, poverty remains higher than for other groups. These groups also lag behind others in schooling and access to salaried jobs. Moreover, open defecation is higher among households belonging to these groups. One area where most households in the state face a challenge is access to drinking water, with levels of access being lower than the national average.

More poverty among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households by Social Group, 2012 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Caste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Backward Caste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty among Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu is lower than in many other states

SC population below poverty line, 2012 (%)
There is variation in schooling levels by social group in Tamil Nadu

*Education attainment, 2012 (% adults)*

- **Scheduled Tribe**
  - Illiterate: 52
  - Literate or primary school completed: 20
  - Middle school completed: 10
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 18

- **Scheduled Caste**
  - Illiterate: 29
  - Literate or primary school completed: 24
  - Middle school completed: 17
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 30

- **Other Backward Caste**
  - Illiterate: 21
  - Literate or primary school completed: 23
  - Middle school completed: 16
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 41

- **General**
  - Illiterate: 6
  - Literate or primary school completed: 12
  - Middle school completed: 14
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 68

More casual wage jobs for those belonging to the Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu

*Share of employed, 2012 (%)*

- **Scheduled Tribe**
  - Casual Wage: 48
  - Salaried: 38
  - Self-employed: 14

- **Scheduled Caste**
  - Casual Wage: 61
  - Salaried: 16
  - Self-employed: 22

- **Other Backward Caste**
  - Casual Wage: 38
  - Salaried: 36
  - Self-employed: 26

- **General**
  - Casual Wage: 17
  - Salaried: 27
  - Self-employed: 56
Open defecation is high among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu

Households practicing open defecation, 2012 (%)

Access to drinking water is lower than the national average for most households in Tamil Nadu

Households with drinking water on premises, 2012 (%)

Tamil Nadu
Social Inclusion