

Socio-Economic and Educational Conditions of Minorities in India: A Case of Muslim Minorities

Presentation

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At Dr.MCRIHRD, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad

Context

- Political Philosophy - Social Contract and the State: Natural Rights, Human Rights, Welfare State, Theory of Justice
- Democracy – principle of proportional representation in socio-economic and political dimensions of life
- Inclusive Development: Participation and contribution in Development process, Equal Opportunity
- Social Diversity (Confluence of people with different socio-religious identities) - Desirable
- Social, Economic and Educational Inequality – undesirable process and outcome
- India is a diverse country and consisting of socio-economic and educational inequalities across different population groups identified by the religion, caste, location, gender etc.
- Muslims being the major minority community in India and are found to be one of those disadvantageous groups in the country

Policy and Studies of Minority Issues

- Pre-independence, British Government
 - Administrative Reforms 1909: Separate Electorates for Depressed classes
 - Dyarchy of 1919 Reforms and Poona Pact 1932 – Communal Electorates for Sikhs, Muslims
- Constitutional Assembly Discussions
- Post-Independence: Not much policy attention
- Sachar Committee 2006
- Ranganath Mishra Committee
- Post-Sachar Committee
- Mahmood Rahaman Committee – Maharashtra
- Sudhir Commission – Telangana
- Other Independent Studies: Giri Institute in UP
- CDPP State Level Studies – UP, Rajasthan, and Bihar

Population Distribution: Minority Share

- Major Religious groups: Hindu, Muslims, Christian, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist
- Hindus form majority, around 80% of total population
- Among the minorities: Muslims are nearly 14%
- Christians 2.5%
- Sikhs 2%
- Others 1.5%
- Together minorities account for 20% of total Population in the country

Education: in Knowledge Economy / Society

- Knowledge Economy: knowledge, information and networking
- Instrumental role of Education
- Economic Growth: Means of Income Growth
- Human Capital Formation
- Capability and functioning
- Perspectives of Economic Development, Human Development and Human Rights
- Equal Opportunity Perspective

Reality Check: India

- Illiteracy prevails
- Poor Levels of Education
- Quality Compromise: Poor Standards
- Educational Deprivation of Children and Child Labour
- Inequalities across sub-population groups differed their socio-religious, geographical, gender, and economic characteristics
- Poor, socially backward and minorities: disadvantaged

Illiteracy by Socio-Religious Groups in India, Census 2011

(Adult (15+) Population)

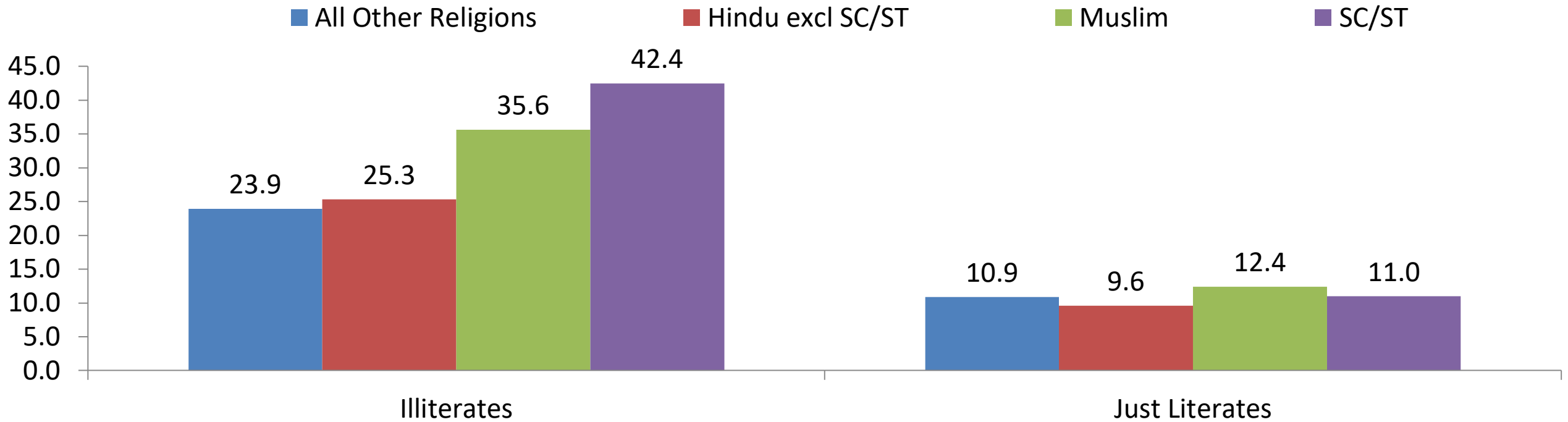


Table: Illiteracy Rate in Population across Socio-Religious Groups (SRGs) in India, PLFS-4 (2020-21)

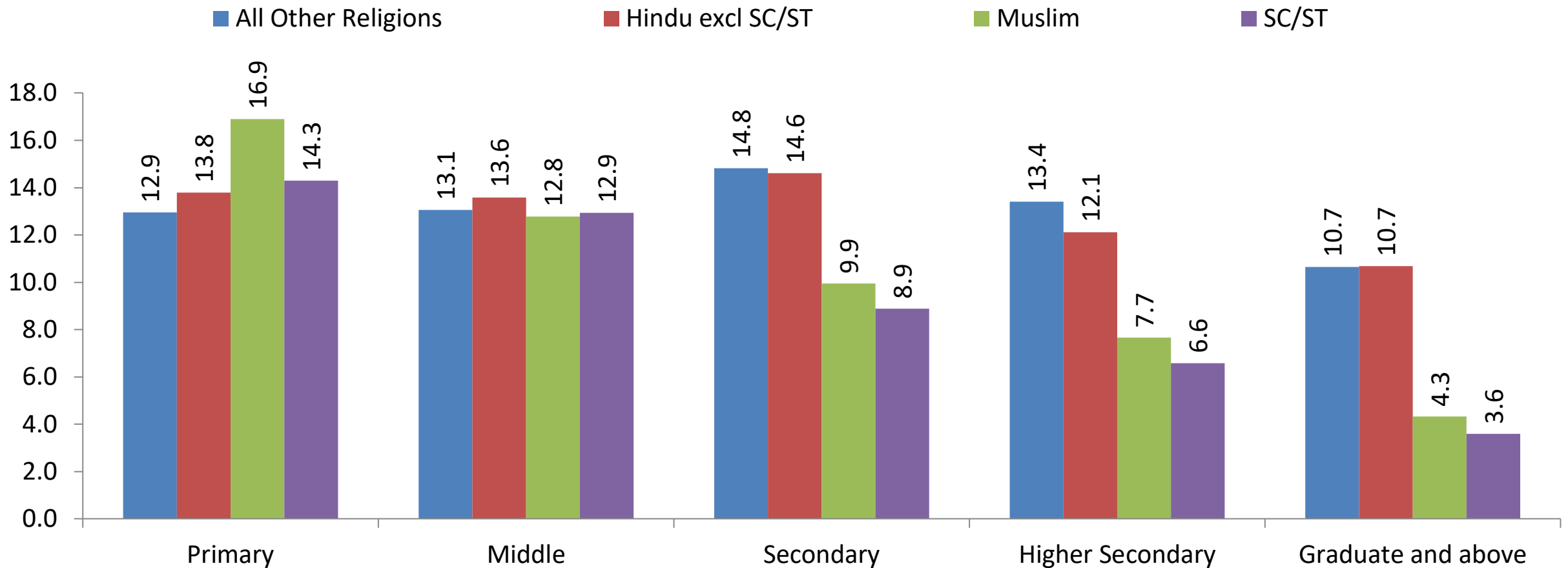
Indicator	SC	ST	HOBC	HOth	MOBC	MOth	Oth-Min	Total
7 + age	30.7	26.4	20.7	11.3	24.8	20.3	14.9	20.7
Adults (15+)	36.2	30.8	24.1	12.7	29.6	23.7	17.0	23.9

Note: Percentage of Illiterates in the respective age-groups (7+ or 15+ years of age) Population.

Source: Authors' estimates using unit record data of PLFS-4 (2020-21).

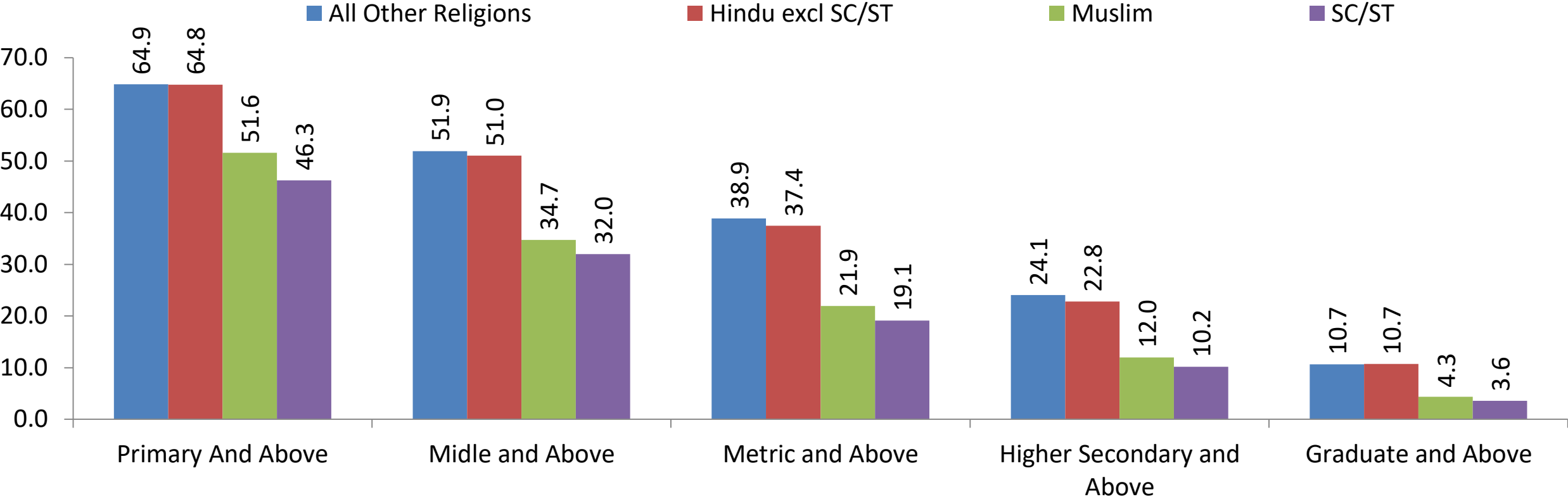
Levels of Education in India, 2011

Completion Rate: Percentage of Adult (15+) Population by Level of Education



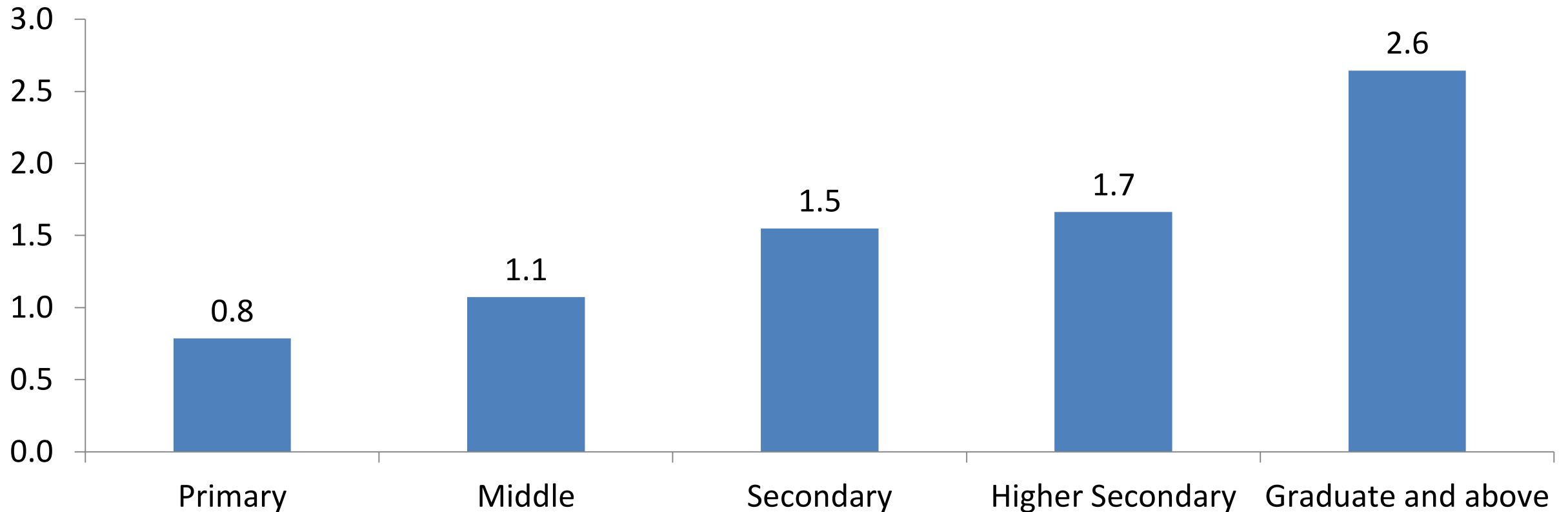
Cumulative Percentage by Level of Education in India, 2011

(Adult (15+) Population)

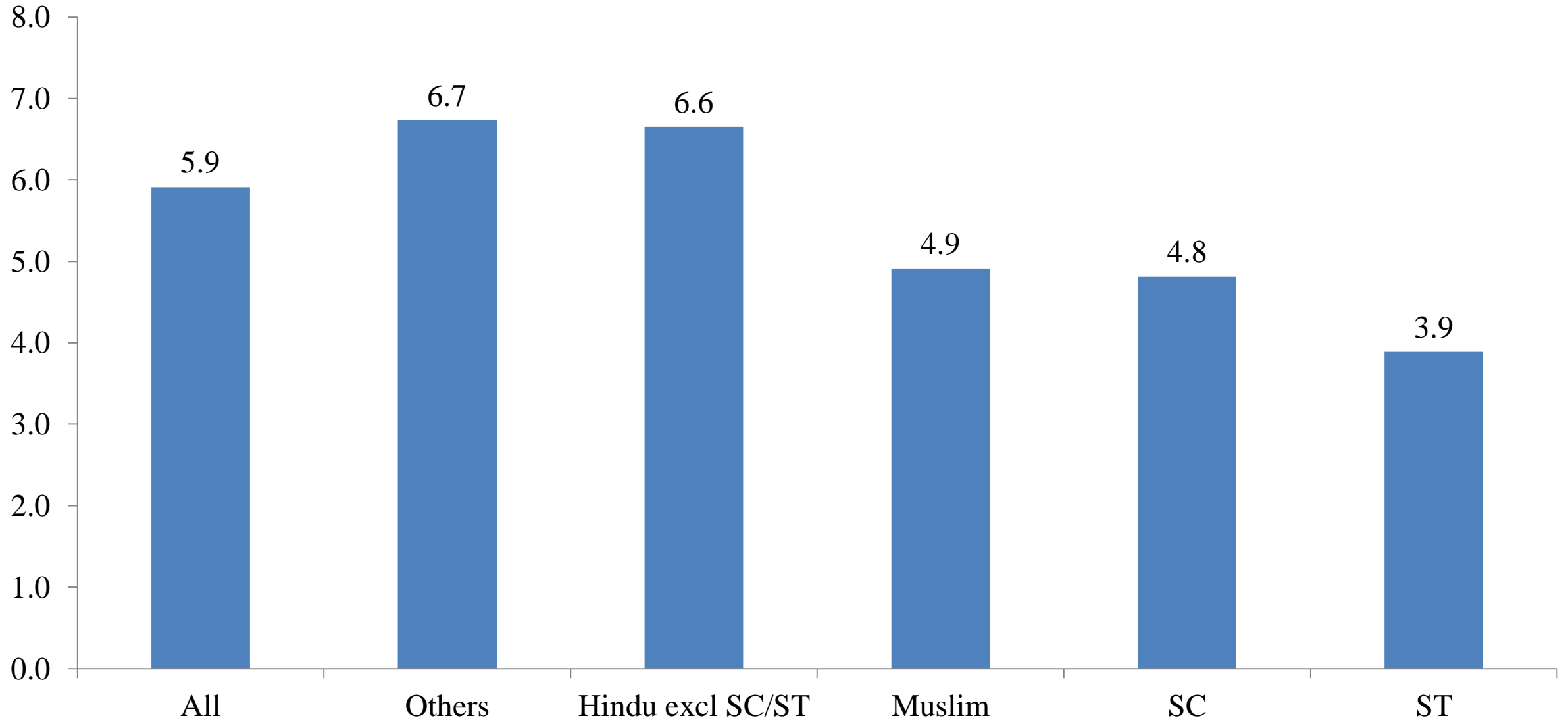


Disadvantage of Muslim in India

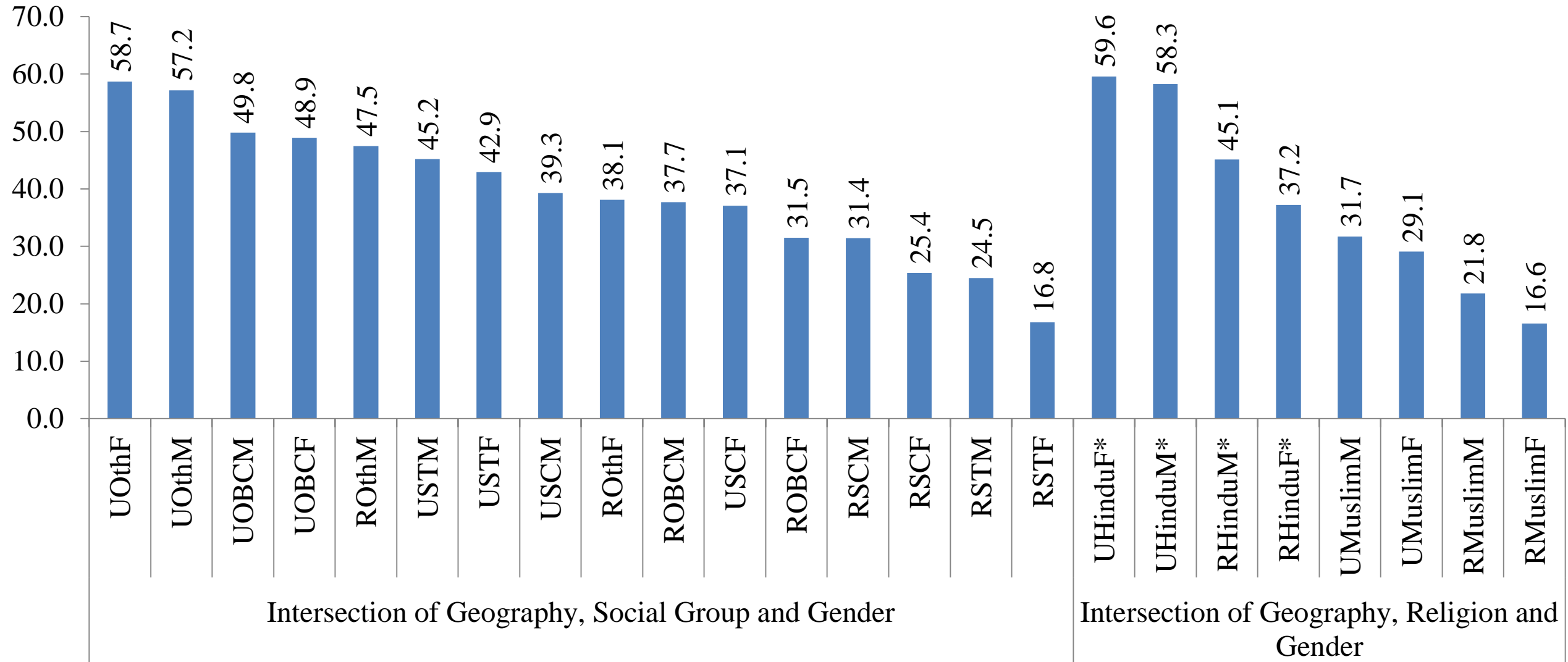
Odds Ratio: How less likely that a Muslim Person complete particular level of education when compared to Hindus (excl. SC/ST)



Mean Years of Schooling in India, 2011



Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) among the College-age for Post-Secondary Education across population Groups with overlapping the social/religious, gender and location identity in India



Diagnosis

- Supply (inadequate Institutions) or Demand problem
- How secular is learning environment in India?
- Drop outs or Push outs
- How Positively Discriminative is India's state Policy benefiting the disadvantaged or mitigating their disadvantaged?

Performance of Muslims on Indicators representing Other Dimension of Development

- Health and Nutrition
 - Prevalence of Malnutrition and Anaemia
- Economically disadvantage:
 - Landlessness,
 - considerably higher poverty ratio
 - Informal Sector
 - Casual Labour
 - Lower Wage Rate
- Lack of Access to Credit
- Lack of Housing in urban Muslims

Table: Under-Nutrition among Children across Socio-Religious Groups (SRGs) in India, NFHS-5 (2019-21)

Indicator	SC	ST	HOBC	HOth	MOBC	MOth	Oth-Min	Total
Stunting	39.1	39.8	34.7	26.5	36.8	35.1	33.2	35.0
Underweight	34.3	38.5	31.3	22.8	32.5	30.0	22.5	30.5
Wasting	19.3	22.5	18.9	15.6	19.6	19.2	14.2	18.4
SAM	7.6	9.0	7.4	6.3	7.6	8.8	6.0	7.4
Anaemic	70.2	75.0	66.7	64.6	66.9	69.8	54.8	66.7

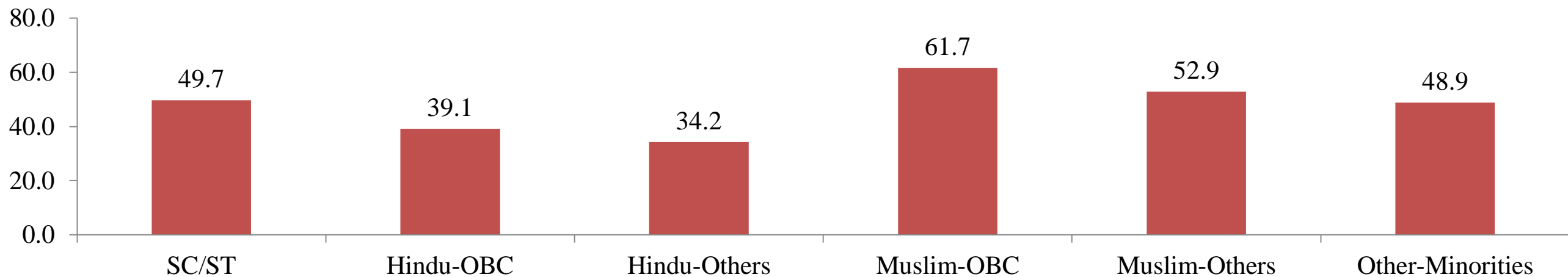
Note: Stunting, Underweight and Wasting are defined as children having Z score of higher-for-age (HAZ), weight-for-age (WAZ) and height-for-weight (HWZ) below (-)2SD of the median fixed by the WHO. SAM – Severely Acute Malnutrition defined as Z-score of height-for-weight (HWZ) below (-)3SD.

Source: Authors' estimates using unit record data of NFHS-5 (2019-21).

Poverty Ratio among Muslims – Percentage of Population living below Poverty Line

UP/ India	All Groups				Muslims			
	1993-94	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12	1993-94	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
Rural	50.3	41.8	33.3	25.4	53.6	44.5	36.2	26.9
Urban	31.9	25.7	20.9	13.7	46.6	41.8	33.9	22.7
Rural&Urban	45.7	37.7	29.9	22.0	51.2	43.6	35.4	25.4

Percentage of Households without Agricultural Land (Landless) across Socio-Religious Groups (SRGS) in :
NFHS-4 (2015-16)



	Informal workers(%)	Regular workers (%)	Casual workers (%)	GER in Higher Education (%)	Drop out	Poverty (%)	MPCE
All India- Average of Muslims	85.4	21.5	24.9	16.6	15.6	25.4	1780.7
All India – National Average	73.1	22.9	23.6	26.3	12.6	22	1986.9

Other Issues

- Inequality, Insecurity
- Religious Identity barriers
- Political under-representation
- Ghettoization – Separate living locality arrangements
- Social Discrimination
- Communal violence and Riots

Constitutional Safeguards and Affirmative Action

- Colonial Govt's provisions for electoral representations declined in Constitutional Assembly discussions
- Not much regarding Affirmative Action at the national level
- Some states have made certain arrangements: reservations in education and employment: Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Concluding Remarks

- Disadvantage in education, economic conditions
- Religious identity barriers and discrimination
- Lack of constitutional safeguards

Thank you