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**A Comparative Study of the Economic Growth Among the
Dalits Peasants of Commercial and Non-commercial
Crop Cultivators of Rural India**

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KEYWORDS Dalit Peasants. Educational Level. Empowerment and Socio-economic Status

ABSTRACT This paper has sought to examine how the cultivation of a cash crop (tobacco) has impacted the socio-economic profile of a village (Karavadi) where this crop is being extensively cultivated. For comparison purposes, another village (Veerabhadrapuram) in the same district, where this crop is has not been cultivated was considered for this study. The issues discussed were income levels, educational status of the children, quality of houses and inter-caste relations. One very significant fact that emerged from the study is that greater economic empowerment of the deprived sections of society mean much more than a materially better quality of life for them. It can also bring in its wake upward social mobility of the so-called Dalits due to the gradual eradication of social evils like untouchability.