

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES & ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED/SCHEDULED TRIBE COMMUNITY IN INDIA

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• **ABSTRACT**

Most of the areas inhabited by the SC/ST Communities are remote and underdeveloped. The SC/ST Communities live mostly in isolated villages or hamlets. A smaller portion of their population has now settled in permanent villages as well as in towns and cities. There are innumerable constraints responsible for lower pace of these communities development process than desired. These communities have been given numerous rights and concessions under various statutes of central as well as State Governments but they remain deprived of the benefits arising out of such statutory provisions due to their ignorance and apathy of enforcing agencies. There exists lack of awareness among tribal population about various developmental programs launched by Government of India and States, resulting in their exploitation. In spite of the efforts made by the Government, the benefits are not reaching to the really needy poor people. The basic problem is not of the scarcity of resources but that of mismanagement. The multiplicity of the agencies which are carrying out these programs has compounded the problem. Many times they are not able to co- ordinate their efforts or fail to follow up the programs over a longer duration. Against this backdrop, the present study reviews the impact of various developmental programs of the Central and the State Governments on overall development of SC/ST Communities.

(Keywords: Government Policies; Developmental Programs; Community Development; Annual Plans; Constitutional Mechanism; Action plan of government of India; resources utilization;

• **INTRODUCTION**

The SC/ST Community constitute a significant portion of Indian population. Development of an economy is positively related to the their social, cultural and the economic development. Development of an economy links its past heritage, with the present. In this chapter an attempt has been made to define the tribes and to establish

their significant position in India. The Indian subcontinent has the second largest tribal population in the world. Many of the tribal communities have been living in this country even since what we call the Pre-Aryan period. We come across the names and descriptions of various tribal communities in the ancient Indian literature which includes the “Vedas” the “Ramayana” and the “Mahabharata”. The “Rig Veda” speaks of the 'Asuras' the tribal groups such as the Nishadas, the Gordhrajs, the Sabaras, the Nagas and the Yakshas etc. are also spoken of in the Ramayana. The Mahabharata also refers to the Kiratas, the Mundas etc. In the BhagawatPurana, there is a story about the origin of the Konds, the Bhils and theMushhars.

• **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To critically analyze the various governmental programs introduced and implemented for the welfare of Scheduled caste and schedule Tribes;
2. To assess the impact of development and welfare programs on the generation of additional income and employment among the sample households.
3. To offer training programs for Skill up-gradation leading to self / Wage employment.
4. To plug critical gaps of finance in economic support scheme.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

- The present seminar paper mainly highlighting impact of government policies and programs to improve the economic conditions, economic status of SC/ST minority community of India.
- For this study purpose the secondary sources of data was used from bulletins of Government of India, data base of SC/ST budget allocations under different schemes, Adivasi Budget data base from 2015 to 2019.

CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR UPLIFTMENT OF SCHEDULE CASTES:

The deep concern of the framers of the Constitution for the uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes is reflected in the elaborate constitutional mechanism set-up for their uplift.

Article 17 abolishes Untouchability.

- Article 46 requires the State ‘to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- Article 335 provides that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.
- Article 15(4) refers to the special provisions for their advancement.
- Article 16(4A) speaks of ‘reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of SCs/STs, which are not adequately represented in the services under the State’.
- Article 338 provides for a National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with duties to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided for them, to inquire into specific complaints and to participate and advise on the planning process of their socio-economic development etc.
- Article 330 and Article 332 of the Constitution respectively provide for reservation of seats in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the legislative assemblies of the States.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT:

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to oversee the interests of the Scheduled Castes. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of the Scheduled Castes rests with all the Central Ministries in the area of their operations and the State Governments, the Ministry complements their efforts by way of interventions in critical sectors through specifically tailored schemes. The Scheduled Castes Development (SCD) Bureau of the Ministry aims to promote the welfare of Scheduled Castes through their educational, economic and social empowerment. Efforts made by State Governments and Central Ministries for protecting and promoting the interests of Scheduled Castes are also monitored.

INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE DEVELOPMENT

(A) EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF SCHEDULED/SCHEDULED TRIBE COMMUNITY :

Various scholarships are provided to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) to ensure that education is not denied due to the poor financial condition of their families. These Scholarships are provided at both pre-matric and post-matric levels. Scholarships are also provided to SC students for obtaining higher education in India and abroad, including premier educational institutions. The Scholarships can broadly be classified into the following three types:

Pre-Matric Scholarships : The objective of the pre-matric Scheme is to support the parents of SC children for educating their wards, so that the incidence of drop outs at this stage is minimized.

- **Pre-Matric Scholarship to SC Student** : The objective of the pre-matric Scheme is to support the parents of SC children for educating their wards, so that the incidence of drop outs at this stage is minimized.
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- **Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards:**
- This is also a centrally sponsored scheme, which is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which receive 100% central assistance from the Government of India for the total expenditure under the scheme, over and above their respective Committed Liability.
- **Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students (PMS-SC):** The Scheme is the single largest intervention by Government of India for educational empowerment of scheduled caste students. This is a centrally sponsored scheme. 100% central assistance is released to State Governments/UTs for expenditure incurred by them under the scheme over and above their respective committed liability.

- **Scholarships for obtaining Higher Education and Coaching Scheme:** These include:
- **Top Class Education for Scheduled Caste Students** : The objective of the Scheme is to promote qualitative education amongst students belonging to Scheduled Castes, by providing full financial support for pursuing studies beyond 12th class, in notified institutes of excellence like IITs, NITs, IIMs, reputed Medical/Law and other institutions. Scholarship is awarded to the eligible SC students on securing admission in any of the institutions notified by the Ministry.
- **National Fellowship**: The Scheme provides financial assistance to SC students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil, Ph.D and equivalent research degrees.
- **National Overseas Scholarship**: The Scheme provides assistance to students belonging to SCs, de-notified, nomadic, semi-nomadic tribes etc for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and PhD programmes abroad.
- **Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students**: The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged SC and OBC candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Public/Private sector. The Scheme provides central assistance to institutions/centres run by the Central/State Governments/UT Administrations, Central/ State Universities, PSUs, Registered Private Institutions, NGOs, etc. Coaching is provided for Group 'A' & 'B' examinations conducted by the UPSC, SSC, various Railway Recruitment Boards and State PSCs; Officers' Grade examinations conducted by Banks, Insurance Companies and PSUs; and Premier Entrance examinations for admission in Engineering, Medical and Professional courses like Management, Law etc.

(B) ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SCHEDULED/SCHEDULED TRIBE COMMUNITY :

- **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)**: Set up under the Ministry, to finance income generating activities of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries living below double the poverty line limits (presently Rs 98,000/- per annum for rural areas and Rs 1,20,000/- per annum for urban areas). NSFDC assists the target group by way of refinancing loans, skill training, Entrepreneurship Development

Programmes and providing marketing support through State Channelizing Agencies, RRBs, Public Sector Bank and Other Institutions.

- **National SafaiKaramcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**: It is another corporation under the Ministry which provides credit facilities to beneficiaries amongst SafaiKaramcharis, manual scavengers and their dependants for income generating activities for socio-economic development through State Channelizing Agencies.
- **Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP)**: It is a policy initiative for development of Scheduled Castes in which 100 % assistance is given as an additive to SCSP of the States/ UTs on the basis of certain criteria such as SC population of the States/UTs, relative backwardness of States/UTs, percentage of SC families in the States/ UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line, etc. It is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits from all the general sectors of development for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. Under this Scheme, the States /UTs are required to formulate and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes as part of their annual plans by earmarking resources.
- **Scheme of Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)**: Share Capital contribution is released to the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the ratio of 49:51 between Central Government and State Governments. There are in total 27 such State-level Corporations which are working for the economic development of Scheduled Castes, although some of these Corporations are also catering to the requirements of other weaker sections of the Society, e.g. Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities etc. The main functions of SCDCs include identification of eligible SC families and motivating them to undertake economic development schemes, sponsoring the schemes to financial institutions for credit support, providing financial assistance in the form of the margin money at a low rate of interest, providing subsidy out of the funds made available to the States under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan of the States to reduce the repayment liability and providing necessary tie up with other poverty alleviation programmes. The SCDCs are playing an important role in providing credit and missing inputs by way of margin money loans and subsidy to the target group. The SCDCs finance the employment oriented schemes covering diverse areas of economic activities which

inter-alia include (i) agriculture and allied activities including minor irrigation (ii) small scale industry (iii) transport and (iv) trade and service sector.

- **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes:** The objective of the fund is to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes who are oriented towards innovation and growth technologies and to provide concessional finance to the scheduled caste entrepreneurs. The fund has been launched on 16.01.2015. During 2014-15, Rs.200 Crore were released initially for the Fund to IFCI Limited, which is a Nodal agency to implement it.
- **Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes:** The objective of this Scheme is to provide credit guarantee facility to Young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to Scheduled Castes, who aspire to be part of neo middle class category, with an objective to encourage entrepreneurship in the lower strata of the Society resulting in job creation besides creating confidence in Scheduled Castes. The Scheme has been launched on 06.05.2015. Initially, Rs.200 Crore has been released under the Scheme to IFCI Limited, which is a Nodal agency to implement it.

(C) SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF SCHEDULED/SCHEDULED TRIBE COMMUNITY :

- **The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:** In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted and notified on 08.05.1955. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in the year 1976 as the "Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955". Rules under this Act, viz "The Protection of Civil Rights Rules, 1977" were notified in 1977. The Act extends to the whole of India and provides punishment for the practice of untouchability. It is implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Assistance is provided to States/ UTs for implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
- **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** Assistance is provided to States/ UTs for implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Financial assistance is provided to the States/ UTs for implementation of these Acts, by way of relief to atrocity victims, incentive for inter-caste marriages, awareness generation, setting up of exclusive Special

courts, etc. Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 (No. 1 of 2016) was notified in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 01.01.2016. The Amended Act came into force w.e.f 26.01.2016.

- **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995:**

PoA Rules were amended in June 2014 for enhancing the relief amount to the victims of atrocities to become between Rs.75,000/- to Rs. 7,50,000/- depending upon the nature of an offence. Further Amendment done in the Principal Rules namely the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules, 2016 have been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on 14th April, 2016.

- **The ‘Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013’ (MS Act, 2013):** Eradication of dry latrines and manual scavenging and rehabilitation of manual scavengers in alternative occupation has been an area of high priority for the Government. Towards this end, a multi-pronged strategy was followed, consisting of the following legislative as well as programmatic interventions:

1. Enactment of “Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993(1993 Act);”
2. Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS) Scheme for conversion of dry latrines into sanitary latrines in urban areas; and
3. Launching of National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS).
4. Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

In spite of the above measures taken by the Government, manual scavenging continued to exist which became evident with the release of 2011 the Census data indicating existence of more than 26 lakh insanitary latrines in the country. Therefore, Government decided to enact another law to cover all types of insanitary latrines and situations which give occasion for manual scavenging. The ‘Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013’ (MS Act, 2013) was passed by the Parliament in September, 2013 and has come into force from 6th December, 2013. This Act intends to, inter alia, achieve its objectives to:

1. Identify and eliminate the insanitary latrines.

2. Prohibit:- i) Employment as Manual Scavengers and ii) Hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks
3. Identify and rehabilitate the manual scavengers.

(D) OTHER SCHEMES FOR SCHEDULED/SCHEDULED TRIBE COMMUNITY

- **PradhanMantriAdarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)**: The Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme 'PradhanMantriAdarsh Gram Yojana' (PMAGY) is being implemented for integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SC) majority villages having SC Population concentration > 50%. Initially the scheme was launched in 1000 villages in 5 States viz. Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The Scheme was further revised w.e.f. 22.01.2015 and extended to 1500 SC majority villages in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The principal objective of the Scheme is integrated development of SC Majority Villages:
 1. Primarily through convergent implementation of the relevant Central and State Schemes;
 2. By providing these villages Central Assistance in form of gap-filling funds to the extent of Rs.20.00 lakh per village, to be increased by another 5 lakh if State make a matching contribution.
 3. By providing gap-filling component to take up activities which do not get covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes are to be taken up under the component of 'gap filling'.
- **BabuJagjivan Ram ChhatrawasYojna**: The primary objective of the Scheme is to attract implementing agencies for undertaking hostel construction programme with a view to provide hostel facilities to SC boys and girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities. The Scheme provides central assistance to State Governments/ UT Administrations, Central & State Universities/ Institutions for fresh construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities. The NGOs and Deemed Universities in private sector are eligible for central assistance only for expansion of their existing hostels facilities.

- **Upgradation of Merit of SC Students:** The objective of the Scheme is to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Caste students studying in Class IX to XII by providing them with facilities for education in residential /non-residential schools. Central assistance is released to the State Governments/UT Administrations for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Caste students. While remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in school subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medical.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation:** Dr. Ambedkar Foundation was set up on 24th March 1992, as a registered body, under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860, under the aegis of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. The primary object of setting up of the Foundation is to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideology and philosophy and also to administer some of the schemes which emanated from the Centenary Celebration Committee's recommendations.
- **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre at Janpath, New Delhi:** Setting up of 'Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library' now renamed as 'Dr. Ambedkar International Centre' at Janpath New Delhi was one of the important decisions taken by the Centenary Celebrations Committee (CCC) of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar headed by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. As on date the entire land of Plot 'A' at Janpath, New Delhi measuring 3.25 acre is in possession of the M/o SJ&E for setting up of the 'Centre'. The responsibility of the construction of the 'Centre' has been assigned to National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) at a cost of Rs. 195.00 crore. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre on 20th April, 2015 and has announced that the project will be completed within a period of twenty months. The National Building Construction Company (NBCC), the executing agency has already started the construction work at site and it is at an advance stage.
- **Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi:** The Dr. Ambedkar Mahaparinirvan Sthal at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi, was dedicated to the Nation by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 02.12.2003 and he had also inaugurated the development work at the Memorial at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi. The responsibility of the construction of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial has been assigned to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) at an approx. cost of Rs. 99.00 Crore. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation of the Memorial on 21st March, 2016 and has announced

that the project will be completed within a period of twenty months. The CPWD, the executing agency has already started the construction work at site.

- **BabuJagjivan Ram National Foundation:** The BabuJagjivan Ram National Foundation was established by the Government of India as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and registered under The Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 14th March 2008. The main aim of the Foundation is to propagate the ideals of the late BabuJagjivan Ram, on social reform as well as his ideology, philosophy of life, mission and vision to create a casteless and classless society.

Table:1. Budget for Scheduled Caste - 5 Yr Trend Analysis of Union Budget FYs 2015-20 (Rs.Cr)

Financial Year	Totalplan Outlay/ CS+CSS Schemes(A)	Due Allocations* (B)	Allocation earmarked (Statement 10A of BE) [C]	Proportion of Allocation to SC schemes (C% to A) [D]	Gap in Allocation- SC[B-C] [E]	Total Targeted Schemes- SC[F]	Total Non-Targeted Schemes- SC[G]	Total Gap - SC (G+E)
2015-16 (BE)	465,277	77,236	30,851	6.63%	46,385	9,121	21,730	68,115
2016-17 (BE)	550,010	91,302	38,833	7.06%	52,469	6,665	32,168	84,637
2017-18 (BE)	588,025	97,612	52,393	8.91%	45,220	25,708	26,685	71,904
2018-19 (BE)	788,395	117,282	56,619	7.18%	60,663	28,698	27,921	88,584
2019-20 (BE)	940,946	139,660	76,801	8.16%	62,859	41,391	35,409	98,268
Total	3,332,653	523,092	255,496	7.67%	267,596	111,583	143,912	411,508

Table:2. Budget for Scheduled Tribes - 5 Yr Trend Analysis of Union Budget FYs 2015-20 (Rs.Cr)

Financial Year	Totalplan Outlay/ CS+CSS Schemes (A)	Due Allocations* (B)	ST Allocation Earmarked (Statement 10 B of BE) [C]	Proportion of Allocation to ST schemes (C% to A) [D]	Gap in Allocation- ST [B-C] [E]	Total Targeted Schemes - ST [F]	Total Non-Targeted Schemes - ST [G]	Total Gap-ST (G+E)
2015-16 (BE)	465,277	40,014	20,000	4.30%	20,014	7,469	12,531	32,545
2016-17 (BE)	550,010	47,301	24,005	4.36%	23,295	8,791	15,215	38,510
2017-18 (BE)	588,025	50,570	31,920	5.43%	18,651	15,643	16,276	34,927
2018-19 (BE)	784,881	64,486	39,135	4.99%	25,351	19,623	19,512	44,863
2019-20 (BE)	937,745	75,987	50,086	5.34%	25,901	20,167	29,919	55,820
Total	3,325,938	278,357	165,145	4.96%	113,212	71,693	93,453	206,665

Table: 3 Relevance of schemes for SCs and STs-Relevant, General and Obsolete in Union Budget 2019-20.

Name of the Schemes	Amount Allocated (Rs. Cr.)
Income Support Scheme	18,900
Samagra Shiksha	11,151
National Rural Health Mission	9,611
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)-Rural	9,450
Anganwadi Services (erstwhile Core ICDS)	7,426
Educational Empowerment	5,348
Interest Subsidy for Short Term Credit to Farmers	4,536
Crop Insurance Scheme	3,438
National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools	3,377
SBM-Rural	3,200
National Rural Livelihood Mission	3,060
Special Central Assistance-	2,650
National Rural Drinking Water Mission Compensation to Service Providers	2624
Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojna (PM-AASHA)	378
Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)	370
National Urban Health Mission	364
National Fellowship for SCs	360
Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIES	342
Sub - Mission on Agriculture Extension	241

CONCLUSION:

This paper attempts to study the Socio-Economic conditions of the scheduled caste and schedule tribes and the impact developmental programmes to improve the economic

status of sc/st.. The study is mainly confined to Scheduled caste and scheduled Tribes of relating to overall India. The study examined whether the scheduled castes and tribes have made any real progress with the implementation of various developmental programmes and welfare schemes. Several poverty alleviation programmes have been launched by the central government for the rural poor, comprising small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and rural artisans. This highlights the need for making reforms in these schemes so that they lead to the expansion of productive types of wage-employment and self-employment. Providing the basic amenities in rural areas such as roads, drinking water, schools, medical help, credit supply (banks) and marketing facilities and so on is must. All these will create employment opportunities in rural areas and shall help in reducing poverty. These durable productive assets after completion would create employment opportunities on sustained basis.

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