



Impact of educational status of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in rural Karnataka

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26648652.2022.v4.i2a.104>

Abstract

Based on historical evidence, the first goal of welfare programs was to offer fundamental medical and therapeutic care. State governments periodically introduce various plans for this purpose, keeping in mind the provisions of the constitution. In this sense, the lives of those belonging to Scheduled Castes have been improved by the actions of succeeding governments. For this reason, enormous sums of money have been set aside. Positive aim can be inferred from the quantity of schemes that have been accepted for that reason. However, the consequence is incredibly unsatisfactory in terms of the outcome and the real social and economic development. In order to facilitate the flow of benefits and financial outlays from the General Sector in the State Plan for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe, the State Government established a separate Directorate for the purpose of formulating, overseeing, and reviewing the schemes of the Special Component Plan. This Directorate is overseen by the Welfare Department. It is necessary to adopt programs that directly improve the economic position of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribe, given their economic backwardness.

Through comprehensive and integrated beneficiary-oriented programs for individuals, families, and groups of families, the Special Component Plan assists the underprivileged Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in improving their socioeconomic circumstances. The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of welfare schemes by analysing the facts at hand in order to comprehend the evolving lifestyle patterns and circumstances of the formerly marginalized groups in our society.

Keywords: Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe, economic backwardness, socio economic status, SCP, educational status

Introduction

Today, a group of people in Indian society who were once known as "Sudras" and "Untouchables" and tribal communal and who experienced social and economic disadvantages are referred to as Scheduled Castes. For the purposes of the Indian Constitution, castes, races, or segments of groupings that are considered to be Scheduled Castes under Article 341 are referred to as "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe". The Scheduled Castes, Harijans, and depressed classes comprise all of the untouchables, scheduled tribes comprises of tribal communities. Thus, rather than being a sociological idea, scheduled castes and tribes are a constitutional one. Socially speaking, their sole commonalities are poverty and the Assistant Professor position in the Department of Social Work. Social difficulties brought on by the reality that, up until recently,

The idea of "welfare" implies everyone's wellbeing. The definition of welfare, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica, is "the well-being of all sections of society, particularly depressed classes." Social welfare is not the same as broad social services, such as health, education, etc. The job is specialized and intended to help the weaker and more vulnerable segments of society. It includes services specifically designed to support women, children, people with physical disabilities, people with mental retardation, and other groups that are socially or physically handicapped. The government has created a number of services, programs, and social laws for the benefit of these populations.

Effective coordination is necessary for all of these programs to function, and civil society organizations and other government social welfare institutions are gradually but

methodically achieving this goal. Information about these problems is covered in this section. According to the most recent census conducted in the State of Karnataka by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat and the Department of Local Government, 5.39 lakh (62%) of the 8.71 lakh families living below the poverty line in the state are members of the Scheduled Caste and scheduled tribe. The primary goal of the Indian government, which operates as a welfare state, is to meet the basic requirements of every segment of the population by providing them with basic amenities.

A fair amount of literature pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and tribe, reports of the commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as well as some empirical research studies, are currently available. Up until now, the majority of studies on Scheduled Castes focused on various aspects of their social, economic, political, and cultural life, either highlighting a single aspect or a combination of aspects. However, very little study has been done to examine and evaluate different government schemes in terms of how they actually affect the Scheduled Castes and the condition. Furthermore, there hasn't been any tracking done thus far about the intended recipients' perceptions of the programs' effects.

The real living circumstances of families living below the poverty line in several impoverished regions of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa were examined, and it was discovered that there was a significant information gap between the general public and bureaucrats regarding the process of the socioeconomic development of the poor. It assessed the effects of the government's inefficient attempts to help the underprivileged in such places critically (Saithnath's, 1996)^[5]. The purpose of the study was to assess the advantages

provided to Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes under various developmental programs, particularly to those residing in Ambedkar villages as well as those that are not. Comparing the evolving socioeconomic progress and position of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribe in Ambedkar and non-Ambedkar villages has also been attempted (Kaur and Pattanaik, 2000) [6]. In Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India (in Peter Reonald Desouza (ed.), the author conducted a critical assessment of the policies and initiatives designed to ameliorate the plight of the nation's impoverished. The historical evaluation of the substandard measures was conducted by Shah (2000) [7].

Objectives

1. It has been assumed that the quality of life of the majority of the scheduled castes and tribe is still not improved.
2. It has been assumed that majority of the targeted beneficiaries do not get the benefits from the government schemes just because of their ignorance about them.

Methodology

The Karnataka villages served as the study's site. Twelve villages in one of Karnataka's districts with the greatest concentration of scheduled castes have participated in the study. It might be possible to provide a broad overview of the state's scheduled caste system. Using a multistage random selection technique, a sample of 300 respondents who are members of scheduled castes in two separate tehsils was selected for the current study. A planned and organized interview schedule assisted in gathering the data. The interview schedule was made up of questions designed to gather pertinent data in accordance with the study's predetermined objectives.

Results and Discussion

Due to their lack of awareness, the majority of the intended beneficiaries do not receive benefits from government programs. In light of this, the respondents were questioned about their knowledge of government initiatives aimed at promoting the welfare of members of Scheduled Castes and

scheduled tribe. Only sixty-seven (22.33%) of the 300 respondents overall stated that they were aware of a few government programs intended to support Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe. The remaining 233 respondents, or 77.67%, said they were unaware of any government initiatives for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes workers.

Table 1: Knowledge of government programs among respondents

Villages	Yes	No	Total (N = 67)
Bagalkote	8 (11.94)	0 (0)	8 (11.94)
Belgaum	5 (7.46)	0 (0)	5 (7.46)
Bijapur	3 (4.47)	0 (0)	3 (4.47)
Chitradurga	3 (4.47)	6 (8.95)	9 (13.43)
Dharwad	4 (5.97)	0 (0)	4 (5.97)
Hassan	0 (0)	7 (10.44)	7 (10.44)
Kolar	7 (10.44)	0 (0)	7 (10.44)
Mysore	2 (2.98)	2 (2.98)	4 (5.97)
Kolar	3 (4.47)	0 (0)	3 (4.47)
Mysore	2 (2.98)	0 (0)	2 (2.98)
Tumkur	7 (10.44)	1 (1.49)	8 (11.94)
Gadag	7 (10.44)	0 (0)	7 (10.44)
Total	51 (76.11)	16 (23.89)	67(100)

From the above table we can see that out of 67 persons who knew about one or the other schemes, 51 (76.11%) persons actually took the benefit from them. Village-wise break-up shows that persons took benefits from one or the other schemes. It was found that in Gadag village none of the respondent took any benefit. It is further evident that of the total respondents who knew about the schemes, 23.89% did not take any benefit out of these schemes. Now it is clear that more than three-fifth (23.89%) sampled respondents were not taking any benefits from the schemes.

Improvement in the quality of living conditions of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe

When considering the enhancement of living conditions subsequent to obtaining these benefits from the schemes, it was discovered that the plans have had very little effect. The information is displayed in the table below.

Table 2: Impact of government schemes on living conditions

Villages	Positive Change	Condition Worsen	No change	Total (N=51)
Bagalkote	1	2	5	8
Belgaum	0	1	4	5
Bijapur	0	0	3	3
Chitradurga	1	0	2	3
Dharwad	2	0	2	4
Hassan	0	0	0	0
Kolar	2	1	4	7
Mysore	0	0	2	2
Kolar	0	0	3	3
Mysore	0	0	2	2
Tumkur	0	3	4	7
Gadag	2	0	5	7
Total	8(15.68)	7(13.73)	36(70.58)	51(100)

According to the above data, 8 respondents (15.68%) out of 51 who used the schemes believed that they had profited positively from them. Seven (13.73%) respondents said that because they were unable to repay the loans they had taken out under the program, their circumstances got worse. And their debt load went up much more because of the interest. It should be noted that the respondents in this case were those who had taken out loans to operate small businesses, such as dairies, stores, or pony carts, among others. Due to the

company's failure to take off, its debt load grew. Of the total, 36 (70.58%) respondents said that the welfare programs had no effect on their living situation. According to a related survey, 13 (16.45%) of the 79 beneficiaries overall reported that their situation improved as a result of receiving the program's loan since it allowed them to launch their own business. For two respondents, the situation was essentially unchanged since their business failed and they managed to repay the loan balance. The 64

beneficiaries who were left (81%) claimed to have fallen victim to a debt trap. Thus, based on the current study (see above table), we can conclude that while the quality of life for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe members has somewhat changed as a result of various government welfare programs, it has remained mostly unchanged in the sampled households within the study area.

Education Schemes and their Impact of Educational Status: Thus, based on the current study (above table), we can conclude that while the quality of life for the members of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe has somewhat changed as a result of various government welfare programs, it has remained mostly unchanged in the sampled households within the study area. How many respondents took benefits from educational schemes?

Table 3: Utilization of educational schemes

Educational Schemes	Availed	Not availed
Free text books to Scheduled Castes students studying in 1st to 10th classes	35 (11.66)	265 (88.34)
Grant for the purchase of Medical, Engineering, Veterinary, Agriculture, Law, CA, MBA, Bio-Science and Polytechnic Books	0 (0)	300 (100)
Attendance scholarship to Scheduled Castes girl students studying in primary classes	0 (0)	300 (100)
Post matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students	5 (1.66)	295 (98.34)
Award of scholarship under the state government Post matric scholarship scheme to SCs.	0 (0)	300 (100)
Pre Matric scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation i.e. sweepers, scavengers, flayers and tanners	0 (0)	300 (100)
Special grant to Scheduled Castes girl students studying in post matric and post graduate classes	0 (0)	300 (100)
Grant to SC students studying in Medical and Engineering Colleges	0 (0)	300 (100)
Opening of hostels for SC boys/girls in school /colleges	0 (0)	300 (100)
Hostels for SC girls in schools and colleges	0 (0)	300 (100)
Coaching for stenography to SC candidates	0 (0)	300 (100)
Setting up of institute for training to SC candidates in stenography	0 (0)	300 (100)
Award to SC sports students(6-12th classes)	0 (0)	300 (100)
Award to brilliant SC students	0 (0)	300 (100)
Setting up of residential institute for coaching of IAS/PCS and other allied services to Scheduled Castes (Ambedkar Institute of Career and Courses) S.A.S. nagar, Mohali	0 (0)	300 (100)
Scheme for residential schools for boys/girls upto 10+2 level in the blocks having low literacy rates	0 (0)	300 (100)
Scheme for promotion of education amongst educationally backward classes in Punjab, state scholarship to SC and BC students	0 (0)	300 (100)
Scheme of pre examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria	0 (0)	300 (100)
Total	40 (13.33)	300 (100)

Multiple response table; *Figures* in brackets show percentage

According to the data, of the 300 students, 35 (11.66%) had benefited from free text book schemes for students from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In contrast, 265 (88.34%) had not benefited from any of the schemes because they were unaware of them or lacked a reliable source for information about them. Regarding the program that offers grants for the purchase of books in the fields of medicine, engineering, veterinary medicine, agriculture, law, C.A., MBA, bioscience, and polytechnics, no one has taken advantage of it. The main causes were that very few students completed the higher education required to qualify for the benefits. However, they anticipated that when their kids reached that point in their schooling, they would be able to take advantage of these programs.

Improvement in the Educational status

Apart from the aforementioned educational programs, none of the 300 respondents had used any of the other programs, including the pre-matric scholarship, the special grant for girls from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the grant for medical and engineering students from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe, the hostel facilities, the stenography and its training program for students from Scheduled Castes, the award for brilliant and sports students, the residential school scheme, etc. Most of the time, the same reasons applied. Singh (2003) ^[8] conducted a similar survey in which 78 respondents out of 104 who had heard of government plans said they were simply familiar with the scheme's name. Twenty-two respondents said they were aware of where to obtain the benefits of the scheme. Merely

4 participants appeared to be certain that they were fully informed about the plan that

Table 4: Improvement in educational status

Responses	No. of Respondents (N = 40)
Improved	4 (10%)
Not Improved	36 (90%)
Total	40 (100%)

No = 40 are the respondents who took the benefit from the scheme

Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the aforementioned data, it can be inferred that most intended beneficiaries do not receive benefits from government programs simply because they are unaware of them, and most members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in rural areas are unaware of the various government programs. Their lack of education and financial hardship are the primary causes of this degree of ignorance. Their lack of literacy has prevented them from benefiting from any of the different schemes. Of the three hundred respondents surveyed, eighteen (or six percent) suggested adjustments to educational plans for improved improvement, whereas sixteen respondents expressed no desire for any changes at all. The remaining 266 responders provided no information at all. The proposals provided by the eighteen change-oriented responders included the provision of free education to all impoverished individuals, regardless of their caste. Even though Karnataka offers free education to female students, some parents choose not to send their female children to school because of a variety of unfavourable attitudes

ingrained in the sociocultural fabric of Karnataka society. It is crucial to change the sociocultural norms that are detrimental, especially to girls, for these programs to be successful. According to one reply, there shouldn't be too many teachers at Anganwari and the cuisine isn't very nice. Both the amount of teachers and the quality of the meals should be raised. Therefore, it can be inferred that just 6% of respondents desired modifications to educational programs in order to enhance the quality of the educational system. This demonstrates even more how ignorant people from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe are in rural regions when it comes to strategies to enhance the education system as a whole.

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