

Impact Of Educational Status Of Scheduled Caste And Scheduled Tribes In Karnataka

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Abstract

Based on historical evidence, the first goal of welfare systems 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 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, 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 measures that directly improve the economic position of Scheduled Castes, given their economic backwardness. Through comprehensive and integrated beneficiary-oriented programmes for individuals, families, and groups of families, the Special Component Plan assists the underprivileged Scheduled Castes in improving their socioeconomic circumstances. The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of welfare schemes by analysing the data at hand in order to comprehend the evolving lifestyle patterns and circumstances of the formerly marginalised groups in our society.

Keywords: Scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, state plan, special component plan

Introduction

In the present day, a group of people in Indian society who were once known as "Sudras" and "Untouchables" 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."

One could argue that indigenous are the only depressed class. The Scheduled Castes include all Harijans. The Scheduled Castes, Harijans, and depressed classes comprise all of the untouchables.¹ Thus, rather than being a sociological idea, scheduled castes are a constitutional one. Socially speaking, their sole commonalities are poverty and the Assistant Professor position in the Department of Social Work at Dharwad University, Karnataka. Social disabilities as a result of their status as untouchables up until recently, despite the fact that they have always been an essential component of the Village society. They make up

16.73 percent of our nation's population and are primarily rural residents, dispersed throughout all of the Indian Union's states. As a result, they comprise a large portion of Indian society.

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 specialist 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, projects, and social laws for the benefit of these populations.

Effective coordination is necessary for all of these projects to function, and civil society organisations 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.⁴ 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, 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 programmes' 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 under various developmental projects, particularly to those residing in Ambedkar villages as well as those that are not. Comparing the evolving socioeconomic progress and position of Scheduled Castes 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 research assessed the measures for the impoverished historically (Shah, 2000) ^[7].

Objectives

1. To investigate how welfare facilities affect the Scheduled Castes' standard of existence.
2. To investigate how various welfare programmes, with a focus on educational initiatives, affect the standard of living of Scheduled Castes.

Methodology

The Bangalore Rural District's villages served as the study's location. The study was conducted in a few villages located in one of the Karnataka districts where the Scheduled Caste population is largest. It might be possible to provide a broad overview of the state's Scheduled Castes. Using a multistage random sampling technique, a sample of 300 respondents who are members of Scheduled Castes from two distinct tehsils was selected for the current study. A planned and organised 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.

Findings and Summary

Due to their lack of awareness, the majority of the intended beneficiaries do not receive benefits from government programmes. In light of this, the respondents were questioned about their knowledge of government initiatives aimed at promoting the welfare of members of Scheduled Castes. Only sixty-seven (22.33%) of the 300 respondents overall stated that they were aware of a few government programmes intended to support Scheduled Castes. The remaining 233 respondents, or 77.67%, said they had no knowledge of any government programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes.

Table 1: How Many Respondents were Benefited from Welfare Schemes

Villages	Yes	No	Total (N = 67)
Achalu	8(11.94)	0(0)	8 (11.94)
Achalahalli	5(7.46)	0(0)	5 (7.46)
Adihosahalli	3(4.47)	0(0)	3 (4.47)
Agara	3 (4.47)	6(8.95)	9 (13.43)
Beeragondanahalli	4(5.97)	0(0)	4 (5.97)
Budigere	0 (0)	7(10.44)	7 (10.44)
Byalalu	7(10.44)	0(0)	7 (10.44)
Devarahosahalli	2 (2.98)	2(2.98)	4 (5.97)
Halenijagal	3 (4.47)	0(0)	3 (4.47)
Heggunda	2(2.98)	0(0)	2 (2.98)
Manchanabele	7(10.44)	1(1.49)	8 (11.94)
Pemmanahalli	7(10.44)	0(0)	7 (10.44)
Total	51(76.11)	16(23.89)	67(100)

Figures in brackets shows percentage

Improvement in the quality of living conditions of scheduled castes

Regarding the improvement in the quality of living conditions after taking these benefits from the schemes, it was found

that there has been a very little improvement as a result of the schemes. The following table presents the detail.

Table 2: If any improvement in the Quality of Living Conditions of Scheduled Castes

Villages	Positive change	Condition worsen	No change	Total (N=51)
Achalu	1	2	5	8
Achalahalli	0	1	4	5
Adihosahalli	0	0	3	3
Agara	1	0	2	3
Beeragondanahalli	2	0	2	4
Budigere	0	0	0	0
Byalalu	2	1	4	7
Devarahosahalli	0	0	2	2
Halenijagal	0	0	3	3
Heggunda	0	0	2	2
Manchanabele	0	3	4	7
Pemmanahalli	2	0	5	7
Total	8(15.68)	7(13.73)	36(70.58)	51(100)

Figures in brackets show percentage

The above table shows that out of 51 respondents who took benefit of the schemes, 8 (15.68%) respondent felt that they were positively benefited from them. 7 (13.73%) respondents felt that their conditions worsened because they could not pay back the loans that they took under the scheme. And due to the interest, their debt burden increased all the more. It may be mentioned here that these respondents were those who had taken loans for carrying out small business like shops, dairy or a pony-cart etc. Since the business could not take-off, their debt-burden increased. of the total, 36 (70.58%) respondents were of the view that there was no change in their living condition due to the welfare schemes.

In a related study, it was shown that 13 (16.45%) of the 79 total recipients said their situation improved as a result of receiving the programme loan since it allowed them to launch their own self-employment business. For the two responders, things stayed largely unchanged after their business failed and they managed to repay the loan. The remaining 64 recipients, or 81%, claimed to have fallen victim to a debt trap.

Thus, based on the current study (see Table 2), we can conclude that while the quality of life for Scheduled Caste members has somewhat changed as a result of various government welfare programmes, it has remained mostly unchanged in the sampled households within the study area.

Educational Schemes and their Impact on Educational status

According to the data, only 10% of the 40 respondents who received benefits from educational schemes reported that their educational status had improved. The remaining 90% of respondents responded negatively, believing that the state government's educational schemes had no effect on their educational status.

Table 3: How Many Respondents Took Benefits from Educational Schemes

Educational Schemes	Availed	Not availed
Free text books to Scheduled Castes students studying in 1 st to 10 th 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 (6-12 th 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	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 Karnataka, 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)

Conclusions

Based on the aforementioned data, it can be inferred that most targeted beneficiaries do not receive benefits from government programmes simply because they are unaware of them, and most members of scheduled castes living in rural areas are unaware of the various government programmes. 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. Out of the three hundred respondents, eighteen (six percent) felt that adjustments should be made to educational plans for better improvement, while sixteen respondents said they did not want any changes 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 Government 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 the society. It is crucial to change the sociocultural norms that are detrimental, especially to females, for these programmes 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. Even while the midday meal programme is an excellent idea in and of itself, it requires a large number of staff members, which causes them to become distracted from their academic responsibilities because they must dedicate a significant amount of time to keeping the program's records. According to two respondents, the reason why pupils aren't given schemes is because teachers don't want to implement them and don't want to finish the necessary paperwork.

After examining the requirements and conditions of the schools, the programme should be put into place. Two respondents believe that scholarships should be awarded at a higher rate due to inflation, while two others suggested that scholarships should be awarded in full because intermediaries such as clerks and the like take a portion of the money and provide the remaining portion. It should be closely monitored, according to four respondents, who also recommended that programmes operate well and allocate additional funding for the media to help spread the word about them. These plans shouldn't be limited to print media. Three respondents suggested that these ideas be made more realistic and that awareness-raising events be held about them.

Therefore, it can be inferred that just 6% of respondents desired modifications to educational programmes in order to enhance the quality of the educational system. This demonstrates even more how ignorant people from Scheduled Castes are in rural regions when it comes to strategies to enhance the education system as a whole.

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- Phytochemicals contain bioactives which help in reduction of various degenerative health disorders.