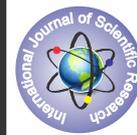


SC/ST WELFARE ADMINISTRATION IN DHARWAR AND GADAG DISTRICT



Political Science

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Manjunat

Guest Faculty, Department of Political Science, Shayadri Arts College, Shivamogga (KS)-Karnataka

ABSTRACT

Karnataka is well known in the country as a model state from the points of view of social welfare and economic development. It has a great legacy of social reformation movement led by Basava who played a historical role in the establishment of a welfare state based on human values and progressive experiments. Nalvadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar also played a crucial role in the modernization of Karnataka and empowerment of Dalits and other weaker sections before independence. Devaraj Urs also remains in the history of Karnataka as the foremost champion of social justice and economic equity. Karnataka has also witnessed a strong Dalit movement, which fought for the human rights and distributive justice. The state government has established the Directorate of Social Welfare to plan and execute special programmes for the social and economic progress of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The department has implemented several programmes for the benefit of SC/ST population and prepared grounds for the welfare and progress of these marginalized sections through suitable legislative support, financial support, planning support and social support. Studies have reported that Karnataka model of development is based on constitutional aspirations and human values. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are entitled to constitutional safeguards, reservation benefits and welfare opportunities. They are also fully entitled to certain rights and privileges, which were denied to them in the past on the ground of caste system and the practice of untouchability. The Government of Karnataka, through Social Welfare Department, formulated various programmes and schemes for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes especially for their integrated.

Introduction:

The Constitution lays down the general principles of affirmative action for SCs and STs. To effectively implement the various safeguards built into the Constitution and other legislation, the Constitution under Articles 338 and 338A provides for two statutory commissions: the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The chairpersons of both commissions sit ex officio on the National Human Rights Commission.

Social Welfare Department is the Nodal Department to monitor the overall Development of Scheduled Caste people in Karnataka. The department provides financial assistance to students in terms of sanctioning various types of scholarships and incentives, management of pre - metric and post - metric hostels, residential schools, training centre etc., special emphasis is given for infrastructure development in sc colonies / thandas alongwith construction of various types of bhavans for social activities, implementation of economic development schemes, self - employment schemes, ganga kalyana yojane, land purchase scheme and other training programmes are being taken up by Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation, Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation, Dr. Babu Jagajivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation and Karnataka Residential Education Institutional Society etc. The department also sponsors SC candidates to nursing and paramedical other job oriented training programmes to unemployed youths. The role of Social Welfare Department in the development of SC/ST population in Karnataka is examined in this article, which is based on qualitative research method.

STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTES

According to the Census Report (2015), in Karnataka there are 1.04 crore SC and ST population. The Scheduled Caste population consists of 17.5 percent of the population in Karnataka state. They are known by different names in different parts of the state and comprise many sub-castes and communities. At present, about 101 sub-castes have been recognized as Scheduled Castes who are the largest single group in the state. However, they are also the weakest in terms of political, economic, social and cultural resources. They are largely concentrated in the rural areas and depend upon agricultural labor or agriculture related activities for subsistence. Those who have migrated to the cities and townships have taken up occupations such as construction work, street sweeping and other manual labour, which are not economically remunerative. Bhat (2005:06) observes: "The reservation benefits are received by the higher echelons of the power structure that constitute a microscopic minority among the

Scheduled Castes. The majority of them languishes in low-end jobs and remains below the poverty line according to the empirical evidence. The ownership of agricultural land is minimal and the majority of the land holders have small and unviable holdings".

STATUS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

There are several indigenous groups of people known as „Primitive Tribal Groups in Karnataka state. The tribal population of Karnataka has increased to 42.48 lakh in 2011. They constitute 6.95 percent of the population in the state. The decadal growth has increased to 80.8 percent because of a spurt in fertility rates and addition of several new tribes to the Scheduled Tribes category. In Karnataka, Scheduled Tribes enjoy the benefit of reservation in the legislature, educational institutions, government jobs and other developmental activities. There is perceptible improvement in the sex ratio of STs since 2011. The child sex ratio is also high.

The gap between the ST male and female literacy rate has also declined marginally according to recent statistics. The literacy rate for ST women is the lowest in the state when compared to other women. There is unequal access to educational resources and opportunities. The development programmes have not reached these sections because of poor literacy and massive social exclusion. Enrolment in secondary and higher education is lower than primary education. The tribal economy is based on subsistence agriculture, hunting and gathering activities. The land ownership is very poor. A majority of the Scheduled Tribes are small and marginal landholders in Karnataka state.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OF KARNATAKA STATE

Objectives and Functions

The socio-economic and educational development and empowerment of Scheduled Caste people is the vision of the Scheduled Caste Development Department. The department is responsible for the implementation of welfare and development schemes for the educational, economic and social development of Scheduled Caste people. The schemes are funded by the Central Government under the „Centrally Sponsored Schemes“ and implemented by State Government alone. The schemes are implemented broadly at three different levels – namely a) State level (Social Welfare Commissionerate), b) District level (Zilla Panchayat) and c) Taluk Panchayat level. These schemes cover the main priority sectors: education, employment, housing, irrigation, etc. The objectives of the department are as follows:

1. To promote education among SCs by creating improved

educational opportunities and establishment of quality educational institutions.

2. To promote the livelihood of SCs by creating economic opportunities through skill development, capacity building and conducting training programmes etc.
3. To promote economic empowerment of SCs: make them economically self-dependent.
4. To prevent and eliminate discrimination and exploitation.
5. To ensure dignity of living among SC communities by providing essential and adequate community infrastructure in SC habitats.
6. To create comprehensive social awareness and bring about attitudinal changes for ensuring social justice and equity for all.
7. To deliver good governance and ensuring transparency.
8. The functions of the department include:
9. Construction and maintenance of educational infrastructures in Hostels and Residential Schools for SCs, both Girls and Boys.
10. Undertaking capacity building and skill development programmes for unemployed youths
11. Effective implementation of Reservation Act by giving priority to employment and education.
12. Implementation and Monitoring of Reservation Policies, POA Act and PCR Act.
13. Providing habitat improvement and basic amenities like drinking water, CC roads, drainages, toilets in SC habitats.
14. Conducting mass awareness programmes at State / District / Taluk levels for general public, officers / officials.
15. To promote Good Governance in its full form and in its true spirit viz., improve the delivery system; increase accountability; eliminate corruption and bring Transparency in the day to day functions through E-Governance and E-technology.

Organizational Structure

The Commissioner of Social Welfare heads the department of Social Welfare. Several officers and functionaries at the state level assist he/she. The welfare programmes are implemented by the Zilla Panchayats at the district level. The District Social Welfare Officer is Head of Social Welfare at the District Level and assists the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat in implementing the Social Welfare Programmes. The Taluk Social Welfare Officer is the Head of the Taluk level unit and he/she works under the control of Taluk Panchayat and assist the Executive Officers, Taluk Panchayat and District Social Welfare Officer of the District for the implementation of Departmental Schemes. The hierarchy of the Commissionerate of Social Welfare is as follows:

1. Office of the Commissioner, Social Welfare,
2. Office of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research Institute,
3. Office of the Principal, Pre-examination Training Centre,
4. Office of the District Social Welfare Officer,
5. Office of the Taluk Social Welfare Officer,
6. Office of the Hostel Warden.

Welfare Schemes

The department implements educational, economic and social welfare schemes for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka state.

Educational Programmes

The department implements several educational programmes for the improvement of the educational status of SC/ST population. Prominent educational programmes include:

1. Assistance to pre primary to Scheduled Castes Students,
2. Pre-metric and post metric concessions to Scheduled Castes Students,
3. Reservation of seats in educational institutions,
4. Pre-metric hostels to accommodate students studying in standard 5 to 10,
5. Post metric hostels to accommodate students studying for post metric courses,
6. Special incentives to Scheduled Castes students who get 60 % or

above marks in SSLC and post metric courses,

7. Book Bank scheme for students studying in professional courses,
8. Tutorial system for students who failed in SSLC, Higher Secondary and degree Courses,
9. Educational concessions to parallel college students,
10. Educational concession to Scheduled Caste students studying in self financing colleges,
11. Educational concessions to students of ITI and Vocational Institutions,
12. Better education scheme with residential facilities,
13. Financial assistance to children of those who engaged in unclean occupation,
14. Sports Hostel to impart training in sports and games to talented SC/ST Students,
15. Model Residential Schools to impart education to bright students,
16. Imparting coaching to appear for civil service through IAS coaching centers,
17. Assistance for Centre of Excellence for skill development,
18. Pre Examination Training Centers,
19. Entrance coaching (Medical/Engineering),
20. Assistance for subsidized hostels.

The department manages hostels in the urban and rural areas to facilitate the educational progress of the SC/ST communities. The students receive scholarship, food, clothing, shelter and other basic needs in the Pre-Metric and Post-Metric hostels throughout the state. In addition to this, several voluntary agencies are also encouraged to run hostels wherever necessary, by giving them only food charges, building rent and honorarium to the staff. These are called Grant-In-Aid Hostels. The department also provides prize money for the meritorious students, cash prize for rank holders, financial assistance to the students in higher educational institutions, extra study tour charges, and financial assistance to study in abroad and allied facilities. The department also organizes several training programmes for the academic and professional development of SC/ST students and youth.

Details of Distribution Funds under Plan and Non-Plan SC/ST Welfare Programmes

S. No.	Districts	Plan Component	Non-Plan Component	Amount (in lakhs)
01	Dharwad	874.46	796.56	1671.02
02	Gadag	441.06	653.13	1094.19

Source: Annual Report, 2013, Directorate of Social Welfare, Bangalore, pp.121-122

CONCLUSION

The Government of Karnataka has not achieved notable progress from the point of view of integrated development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are the most disadvantaged sections of society. Scholars and activists have identified several loopholes from this point of view. They have urged the state government to bring amendments to the Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources), Act, 2013. The government has not allocated 24.75% funds proportionate to the population of the SC/ST communities so far. It is necessary to ensure proper allocation of funds and utilization of funds for the welfare and progress of SC/ST communities in the state. It is necessary to earmark adequate funds and implement various development programmes based on social commitment and responsibility. The elected representatives and officials responsible for non-utilization of funds and non-performance should be brought to the book in order to prevent any misuse and misappropriation of funds meant for the development of SC/ST communities in the study area.

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