



## Impact of Policies on Educational Provision and Implications for SC and STs

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<b>KEYWORDS</b>	

### Introduction:

Education was perceived as crucial to processes of planned change. It was seen as the key instrument for bringing about a social order based on value of equality and social justice. Expansion and democratization of the education system was sought, the two primary 3 egalitarian goals of which were the universalisation of elementary education and the educational "upliftment" of disadvantaged groups. The State's special promotional efforts have undoubtedly resulted in educational progress for the SC/ST especially in regions where policy implementation combined with the dynamism of reform, and most crucially with anticaste, dalit, tribal and religious conversion movements.

The last two decades have spelt the decline of the Welfare State under the powerful impact of global economic forces and neo-liberal economic policies. The egalitarian ethic underlying planned change and development is being rapidly decimated. The ideology of the Indian State's New Economic Policy emphasizes the pre-eminence of markets and profits. In the context of an elite directed consensus on the inevitability of liberalisation and structural adjustment, the predominant problems and debates of education have undergone major shifts.

### The Scheduled Castes

The Scheduled Castes constitute around 16.63(20.1 Crore) per cent of the Indian population today. There are marked state and regional variations in terms of these proportions. Punjab has the highest proportion at 28 per cent. Among the larger states, (barring the North Eastern, where high tribal concentrations exist) Gujarat has the smallest percentage of SCs at 7.41%. From a sociological point of view, apart from their increasing visibility the most significant contemporary fact concerning the Scheduled Castes is their growing political assertion and identity formation as 'dalit'.

### Scheduled Tribes

A conspicuous trait of Indian culture is the survival of tribal society and culture in the midst of a rapidly changing society. Scheduled Tribes who inhabit isolated mountainous regions were not appropriated into the agriculture based kingdoms of the plains, in the absence of easy communication and transport facilities. According to the Census of 2011, the Scheduled Tribes, constitute 8.1% of the Indian population. In absolute terms, this comes to some 83.6 million people, classified under 461 different communities. They are spread over the entire country but are most heavily concentrated in central, eastern and north-eastern India. Two broad types of 6 scheduling viz. area based and community based exist for tribes. Areas under the Fifth Schedule belong to nine major states of western and central region extending from Maharashtra on the West to Jharkhand in the East. Vulnerable tribal populations of some states are left out however, such as in West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The Sixth

Schedule applies to tribal areas in states of the North East.

Structural adjustment policies have led to following developments in education:

- the expansion of private funded educational institutions at all levels of education,
- narrow skill/knowledge based education geared to meeting the demands of the economy,
- budget cuts on education and slashing of teacher salaries in the interests of economy measures and positions, and
- adopting narrow market oriented definitions and discourses of excellence,
- advocating foreign borrowing for funding of basic educational commitments and making education a component of the safety net,
- involving NGOs as a support or replacement for the state delivery system, and
- advocacy of a state withdrawal from all social sectors including the sector of education

Coverage of hostel schemes has substantially risen, indicating that a genuine demand for separate lodging and boarding arrangements exists for facilitating the pursuit of education among SC/ST communities. Reports of Commissioner of SC/ST – attest to this. Systematic studies are few and far between.

### Adi Dravidar and Tribal welfare scheme by Tamil Nadu government

The educational programs are providing scholarships, fees concessions, free schemes to Adi Dravidar and Tribal welfare school students, etc.. The benefits under each such scheme are discussed hereunder.

### Scholarships:

- Government of India Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- Government of India Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the children of those engaged in unclean occupation.
- Higher Education Special Scholarship
- Overseas Scholarship
- State Government's Special Post-Matric Scholarship (beyond X Std.)

### Special Incentives for girl students:

To encourage education among girls, special incentives have been announced for girl students studying in government and government aided schools. From 3rd std to 5th std – Rs.500 per annum and for 6th std. – Rs.1000 per annum, will be paid but this scheme is applicable to Adi Dravidar /Tribal Girls only. There is no income limitation.

To encourage the SC youth to join Civil Services, financial

assistance of Rs.25,000/- is given per candidate, who has passed Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination and to prepare for Civil Services (Main) Examination but the annual income of the family should not exceed Rs.2.00lacs and the applicant should not be an employee either in state or central government. The number of attempts should not exceed three.

**Socio – Economic Development Activities :**

The government has introduced a numerous schemes for upliftment of SC/ST in the state. The list of the schemes provided hereunder.

- Removal untouchability,
- Assistance to SC/ST people affected by Riots
- Select Villages schemes
- Economic assistance through SHG by TAHDCO
- Land Purchase Scheme and Land Development Scheme.
- Entrepreneur Development Programme
- Self Employment Programme for Youth (SEPY)
- Providing interest free loan to tribals, provision of essential articles at reasonable price and marketing the Minor Forest produces to ensure better returns to the tribals through LAMP Societies.
- To improve the Socio-Economic and Educational Development of Scavengers, the The Tamil Nadu Scavengers Welfare Board has been established

**CONCLUSION**

Government schemes meant for the upliftment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have been effectively implemented to a greater extent and have had a great impact on the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people. This is clear from the fact that there is a considerable improvement in the status of underprivileged people.

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