

Education Scheme for Backward Castes in Rajasthan: an Analysis



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Abstract

Rajasthan has traditionally been classified as a state ranking low on human development. In the 1980s, like most other southern and north-western states Rajasthan too began to display improvement in its economic and social performance. Economic growth rates rose, poverty proportions reduced, literacy rates visibly improved, and there was an all-round improvement in the infrastructure.

In 2011, the proportion of SC people in the state was 17.83 per cent and ST people was 13.98 per cent. The proportion of socially backward people in the population is likely to exceed much more than 30 percent, which poses several socio-economic problems for the planners.

As we know that various schemes and programs are being implemented by the state government keeping in view the welfare of the backward castes. But despite the tireless efforts of the Central and State Governments, the situation of the backward castes community in the state has remained the same.

The Social Justice & Empowerment Department in Rajasthan has mainly concentrated its programs towards the educational and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Castes along with welfare of handicapped, destitute and needy children, women and aged persons

The present study focuses on Education development scheme for backward castes in Rajasthan. Social Justice and Empowerment Department has provided various incentives in the form of hostel Facility, tuition fee, free supply of books, mid day meals, Scholarships for Backward Castes in Rajasthan.

Keywords: Elementary Education, Illiteracy, Empowerment, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Enrollment Rate, Discrimination, Mid Day Meal, Deficiencies.

Introduction

Equality, freedom, justice and dignity to all citizens are ensured by the constitution of India. While developing the constitution in 1950, special emphasis was laid on building an inclusive for which development of backward and weaker sections of the society was taken into priority. This made the central and state governments to form and implement various policies, programmes and schemes for social, economic and political development of the weaker sections of the society.

Rajasthan has traditionally been classified as a state ranking low on human development. For the three decades of development up to the early 1980s, the state exhibited slow progress on almost all economic and social and health indicators. In the 1980s, like most other southern and north-western states Rajasthan too began to display improvement in its economic and social performance. Economic growth rates rose, poverty proportions reduced, literacy rates visibly improved, and there was an all-round improvement in the infrastructure.

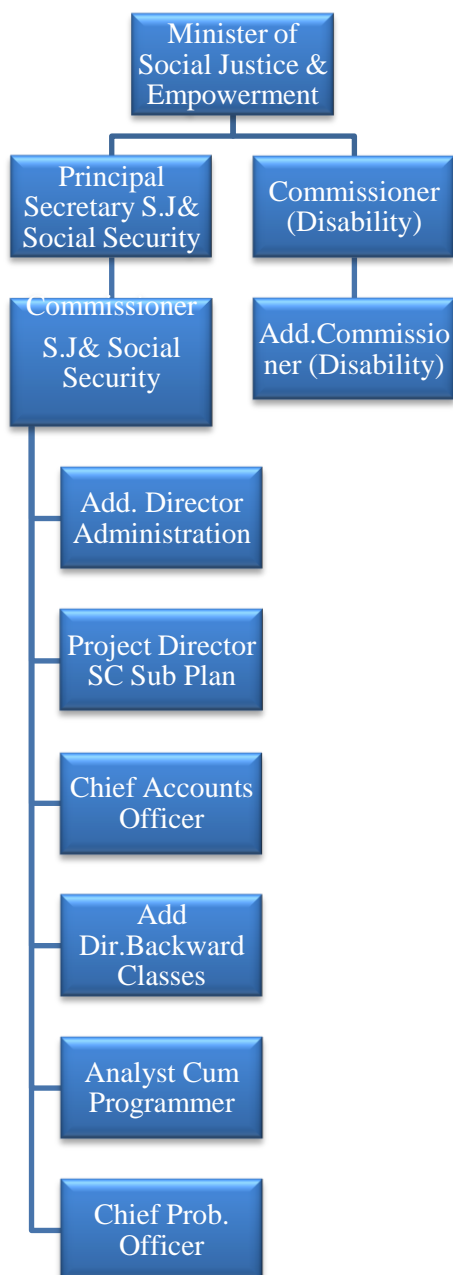
In 2011, the proportion of SC people in the state was 17.83 per cent and that of ST people it was 13.98 per cent. With other backward castes people, the proportion of socially backward people in the population is likely to exceed much more than 30 percent, which poses several socio-economic problems for the planners.

Under the article 46 of the constitution provision has been made for the protection and benefit of the vulnerable and backward castes of the society. The Central Government as well as State Governments are responsible for uplifting weaker sections according to the directions of the Indian Constitution. In the year 1951-52 the State Government decided to establish a separate department for all round development of these sections and was named as "The Backward Classes Department". The object of this department was limited and later on this department was

renamed as “Social Welfare Department” bringing various aspects of general welfare under its wings. By a notification dated 21.02.07, the domain of the department has been changed as "Social Justice & Empowerment Department".

The Social Justice & Empowerment Department in Rajasthan has mainly concentrated its programs towards the educational and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Castes along with welfare of handicapped, destitute and needy children, women and aged persons¹.

The Organization set up of Social Justice & Empowerment Department in Rajasthan is as under:



Source: Prayas & Pragaty from Social welfare department in Rajasthan.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is as follows:

1. To understand the status of the welfare efforts for the backward castes.
2. To understand the allocation and expenditure for the welfare of backward castes.
3. To study access of the development and welfare schemes being operated in the State.
4. To study the present bottlenecks and limitations of Backward Castes development and corrective measure.

Need of the Study

As we know that various schemes and programs are being implemented by the state government keeping in view the welfare of the backward castes. But despite the tireless efforts of the Central and State Governments, the situation of the SC/ST community in the state has remained the same. Even today, this community is far from the mainstream of development and is compelled, to live life on the margins. The government spends huge amount in the name of welfare and upliftment of backward castes.

There are many reasons for not reaching the benefits of government schemes to backward castes which include illiteracy, lack of awareness, deficiencies in government structure, and lack of proper implementation etc.

Methodology

Secondary data would be used, which were compiled from the following sources:

1. Social Welfare Department, GOR(Government of Rajasthan), Jaipur.
2. Statistical Abstracts, GOR, Jaipur.
3. Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), GOR, Jaipur.
4. Budget Estimates, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
5. Prayas & Pragaty from Social welfare department in Rajasthan.

Additional information is obtained through census reports, five year plan documents, educational technical surveys and other published and unpublished reports. Some information is obtained from various Rajasthan government offices, Non Government Organization (NGO).

Review of Literature

Even though there is not much literature available on backward castes, yet in recent years numerous studies have been conducted to evaluate individual programs being executed on backward castes and to highlight constraints to the development of backward caste economy in different parts of the state.

According to Lim, Ai Li and Anand, Rita², Since 2001, Habitat International Coalition, Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN) conducted a study concerning the ongoing struggle for land and housing rights of 6 nomadic communities namely Bhopas(traditional Hindu religious story performers), Gadhia Lohars(blacksmiths), Kalbelias(practitioners of black magic and snake charmers), Nats(acrobats and jugglers who perform in fair and carnivals), Banjaras (traders of salt and cattle) and

Bawarias(hunters, trappers and trekkers) of Alwar District, Rajasthan. The primary objective of the study was to identify the substantive concerns of the communities and to articulate these concerns within the paradigm of fundamental human rights, and in particular, the right to land and adequate housing.

Nagi B.S³, study is an evaluative study, and was conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal, States having the largest concentration of tribal population. The study was conducted with the objective of assessing operation, performance, infrastructural facilities, social environmental factors, and attitudes and reactions of students and parents regarding ashram school. Although the most of the Ashram schools were in pucca building a few lacked boundary walls, toilet and bathroom facilities in hostels. In about 33% schools, the water supply was not adequate. The highest number of such ashram schools were found in Bihar (80%), Followed by West Bengal (60%) and Orissa (50%). In about 26% schools, electricity supply was not available. There was a big problem in basic need in such Ashram Schools like toilets, drinking water, electricity, Library, Teacher etc.

Chawla, Berman and Kawiorska (1998)⁴ estimated the total expenditure on health care in Poland and showed new evidence of high levels of private spending on health care. They analyzed that health care expenditure in Poland is higher from many other European Countries. They revealed that private expenditure on health is a significant proportion of total expenditure on health and in particular, on financing outpatient care.

Sharma (1999)⁵ in his study, "A Study of Public investment in Rural Primary Health Care in Assam", found that for rural primary health care in the state the per capita government expenditure in real term grew over the period from 1983-84 to 1995-96 at an average annual compound rate of 2.1 percent. However, he observed that per capita expenditure on Primary health care remained somewhat higher for the state as a whole than for the rural sector.

Balasubramanyam, K P The congress regime in Karnataka is collaborating with cab – halling firms Uber and Ola in facilitating auto loans for members of Sc and St interested in driving taxis, as part of larger welfare effort aimed at underprivileged communities. Chief minister Siddaramaiah, who has built his image as a messiah of SC/ST's other backward classes and minorities, has stepped up spending targeted at these communities with the Assembly election just month away.

Divakar, N.Paul, The Union budget 2017-2018 marks a paradigm shifts in budgeting for the development of SCs and STs communities, not only with the merger of plan and non plan categories but also by moving away from the sub plan policy of a targeted budget.

Sharma, Nidhi In the run –up to the high stakes elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the Narendra Modi –led government has moved to

reframe social welfare schemes for other backward classes (OBCs). The targeted schemes promise quality residential accommodation and scholarships to OBC students.

Singh, Nagendra The study focuses on the status of budget and programmes for the people with disabilities in Rajasthan and the effectiveness of the provisions and schemes for their welfare. The study also focuses of the provisions and schemes in the state for their welfare.

The present study will discuss Education development scheme for backward castes in Rajasthan. As we know that various incentives in the form of hostel Facility, tuition fee, free supply of books, mid day meals, Scholarships, and so on, is provided by Social Justice and Empowerment Department for Backward Castes in Rajasthan.

Hostel Facilities

Hostel facilities are provided by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department to SC, ST, OBC, SBC and DTNT students. In these hostels, facilities like lodging, meals, coaching, dress, stationary etc. are provided free of cost. 33,677 students have been benefited with an expenditure of Rs 6,554.51 lakh during 2016-17 up to December, 2016. Progress of five years is as follows in table no.1

Table: 1 Year wise progress of Hostel facilities

Year	Expenditure (Rs lakh)	Beneficiaries
2012-2013	6117.97	28842
2013-2014	7859.48	31935
2014-2015	9671.66	31947
2015-2016	8744.87	33930
2016-2017	6554.51	33677

Source: Prayas & Pragaty from Social welfare department in Rajasthan.

Post-Matric Scholarships

Post-matric scholarships are being provided to the SC, ST and OBC students, whose annual parental income is upto Rs 2.50 lakh for SC/ST students and Rs 1.00 lakh for OBC students. Under this scheme, during 2016-17 upto December, 2016 an amount of Rs. 42,247.60 lakh has been disbursed as scholarship to 2,56,041 students. Year wise progress is as shown in table no 2.

Table: 2 Year wise progress of Post-Matric Scholarships

Year	Expenditure (Rs lakh)	Beneficiaries
2012-2013	38928.00	491712
2013-2014	47434.44	658565
2014-2015	38820.09	445304
2015-2016	40612.48	423661
2016-2017	42247.60	256041

Source: Prayas & Pragaty from Social welfare department in Rajasthan.

Post-Matric Scholarships for SBC

Post-Matric scholarships are also being provided to the SBC students whose; annual parental income is upto Rs 2.50 lakh. During the year 2016-17 upto December, 2016 an amount of Rs 4,458.38 lakh has been provided for scholarship to 17,987 students. Year wise progress is as shown in table no 3

Table: 3 Year wise progress of Post-Matric Scholarshipsfor SBC

Year	Expenditure (Rs lakh)	Beneficiaries
2012-2013	3364.00	49912
2013-2014	3686.00	52785
2014-2015	5964.00	63087
2015-2016	5073.82	52812
2016-2017	4458.38	17987

Source: Prayas & Pragaty from Social welfare department in Rajasthan.

Book Bank Scheme

The department of social justice welfare has also established book banks in Medical, Technical, Veterinary, Agriculture and Polytechnic colleges to assist Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes students who are unable to purchase the prescribed texts Books. For this purpose, the department every year collects the list of required books from the colleges and purchases the books.

Anuprati Yojana

There is a provision of incentive of Rs 1.00 lakh per SC/ST/SBC/BPL of OBC & GEN candidate selected in the All India Civil Services examination, Rs 50,000 to a candidate passing the State Civil Services examination and also the incentive of Rs 40,000 to Rs50,000 to a candidate getting admission in IITs, IIMs and National Level Medical Colleges. Besides this, a provision of Rs 10,000 per SC/ST candidate has been ear marked for the students securing 60 per cent marks in their senior secondary examination and getting admission in Government engineering /medical colleges. During 2016-17 (upto December, 2016) 784 candidates have been benefited with an expenditure of Rs.239.88 lakh under this scheme. The expenditure and number of beneficiaries under this scheme during five years is shown in table no 4.

Table:4 Year wise progress of Anuprati Yojana

Year	Expenditure (Rs lakh)	Beneficiaries
2012-2013	337.46	1099
2013-2014	260.29	728
2014-2015	148.03	359
2015-2016	238.00	734
2016-2017	239.88	784

Source: Prayas & Pragaty from Social welfare department in Rajasthan.

Here analysis reveals that government running many programs for education development for backward castes but percentage increased in expenditure is too high as compare to number of beneficiaries. Gender inequality (hostel) also shown in education development scheme. There are many reasons for not reaching the benefits of government schemes to backward castes which include illiteracy, lack of awareness, deficiencies in government structure, and lack of proper implementation etc.

Conclusion

Education scheme for backward castes in Rajasthan shows that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in many villages remain in utter poverty, illiteracy and ignorant of various government programs launched for their development. Many of them are under employed

and economically dependent on the caste Hindus. Here we have some conclusion:

1. The State government running many programmes for education development for backward castes but percentage increased in expenditure is too high as compare to number of beneficiaries.
2. Book Bank scheme expenditure also shows lack of awareness of book bank scheme for backward castes student.
3. The condition of backward castes still is not improved as their requirement.
4. Government provides many schemes for education development and also gives much incentive. But their education disability not meets out completely.

Suggestion

1. The GoR must allocate at least 1% of total budget on the welfare of the differently abled people and all the departments must make efforts for increasing the inclusion of differently abled people in their schemes.
2. There must be an increase in the amount given as pension to the differently abled people.
3. All the schemes and programmes run by the State Government must set and achieve targets for the differently abled beneficiaries.
4. There is a need of Budget Management for Backward castes so that mismanagement at high and low level of government organization is restricted.

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Footnotes

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