



Journal Homepage: - www.journalijar.com

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)

Article DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01/13342

DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/13342>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION - A STUDY ON SCHEDULED CASTES IN GUNTUR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Bontha Ambedkar¹ and V. DivyaThejomurthy²

1. Ph.D. Research scholar, Department of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar, Guntur, Andhrapradesh-522510, India.
2. Co-ordinator, Department of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar, Guntur, Andhrapradesh-522510, India.

Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 29 June 2021

Final Accepted: 30 July 2021

Published: August 2021

Key words:-

Scheduled Caste, Social, Indian
Constitution, Human, Andhra Pradesh

Abstract

The Scheduled Castes, according to the 2011 census, are 20.13 crores and constitute 16.6 per cent of the total population of the country and have long suffered from extreme social and economic backwardness. The Scheduled Castes category comprises many castes which share certain common handicaps in relation to the rest of the castes in society. They are quite distinct in caste hierarchy. They are economically dependent, educationally backward, politically suppressed, and socially the worst sufferers. Further they were classed as untouchables. The term "scheduled castes" refers to a list of castes prepared in 1935 by the British Government in India. But during the ancient period and medieval period they were known as "Panchamas" (fifth group), "Chandalas" (heathens or outcastes) and "Antyajas" (lowest class), and during the British period they came to be called first as "Depressed Classes" (dalitjatis) or "Exterior Castes" (avarnas), later as Harijans (children of God), and finally as "Scheduled Castes" (castes listed in the Government Schedule Article 341).

Copy Right, IJAR, 2021., All rights reserved.

Introduction:-

The Constitution prescribed certain protective measures and safeguards for the Scheduled Castes. The following are main articles, which safeguards the interest of the Scheduled Castes.

Article 15 (1)

The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

Article 15 (2)

No citizen shall, on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to:

1. access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment, or
2. The use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.

Corresponding Author:- Bontha Ambedkar

Address:- Ph.D. Research scholar, Department of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar, Guntur, Andhrapradesh-522510, India.

Article 15 (3)

Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any special provision for women and children.

Article 15 (4)

Nothing shall prevent the state from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes.

Article 16 (4)

Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class or citizen which, in the opinion of the state is not adequately represented in the services under the State.

Article 17

Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.

Article 19 (5)

This article provided "Free Movement throughout the territory of India, to the residing and settling in any part of India and of the acquisition, holding and disposal of property" and vest authority in the state to make suitable laws imposing regional restrictions on exercising of these rights for the protection of the interest of any scheduled tribes.

Article 23

Traffic in human beings and beggars and other similar forms of forced labor are prohibited and any violation of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.

Article 25

All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion.

Article 29 (2)

No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of state funds on grounds only on religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

Article 330 (1)

Seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for Scheduled Castes.

Article 332 (1)

Seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the Legislative Assembly of every State.

Article 334

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this part, the provisions of this Constitution relating to: (a) The Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes in the house of the people and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Article 335

The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration in the making of appointments to service and posts in connection with the affairs of the union or of a state.

Article 338 (1)

There shall be a special officer for the Scheduled Castes to be appointed by the President of India.

Article 338 (2)

It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes under this Constitution and report to the President upon the working of those safeguards at such

intervals as the President may direct and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Article 339 (1)

The President may at any time and shall at the expiration of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, by order, appoint a Commission to report on the administration of the scheduled areas in the State.

Above all, are some of the important and the necessary Constitutional safeguards that have been provided by the Government to the Scheduled Castes in order to protect them from several disabilities. Further the Government has provided several welfare measures to bring them into the main stream of development after the Independence.

After Independence, the Constitution of India prescribed protection and safeguards for the Scheduled Castes (and also Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes) with the object of removing their social disabilities and promoting their varied interests.

The SCPs envisage identification of schemes of development which would benefit Scheduled Castes, qualification of funds from all divisible programmes and determination of specific targets as to the number of families to be benefited from these programmes. The overall objective is to assist the scheduled caste families to substantially improve their income. The provision of basic services and facilities, and access to opportunities for social and educational development are also to be brought under the purview of the special component plans. During the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85), Rs.4,481 crore were earmarked for the special component plans. Till 1990, only eight Central Ministries had formulated the special component plans for the scheduled castes. The Special Central Assistance (SCA) to the special component plans for the Scheduled Castes is an additive to the state plans and programmes for the Scheduled Castes.

It does not follow the systematic pattern for special schemes. The states use this additional assistance for income generating economic development schemes in conjunction with the outlays in their special component plans, so as to assist the economic advancement of the maximum possible number of scheduled caste families living below the poverty line.

For example, it may be illustrated that the percentage of special component plan outlay of the state plan outlay in between 1980-81 and 1988-89 had varied between 4 per cent to 7 per cent each year, while the Special Central Assistance during this period had varied from Rs.100 crore to Rs.175 crore each year.

The Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDCs) in the state is envisaged to interface between the scheduled caste families and financial institutions in respect of bankable schemes of economic development. The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations provide money and loan assistance to these families, thereby helping to increase the flow of funds from financial institutions to scheduled caste families. The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations have 20 been set up in eighteen states and three union territories.. Besides arranging financial assistance for traditional occupations like agriculture, animal husbandry and household industry, the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations also arrange for diversification of occupations such as financing of small shops, industries, auto-rickshaws and many other trades and professions. Some corporations arranged for irrigation facilities too, like digging wells and tube wells. Some of them also imparted training to enable the beneficiaries to take up profitable occupations or to improve their existing skills.

A review of Scheduled Caste's economic development and social status in India during the past five decades reveals interesting trends. The trends show that, a slow but steady progress is being made. The slow progress gives impression that not much has been done in both economic development and social status attainment by Scheduled Castes. The trends also reveal that even to attain minimal progress it took more than four decades. It reflects the complexity of Indian stratification and the challenge of developing and reaching the downtrodden. The trends further revealed that many preparatory and infrastructural development programmes were required in the form of a host of developmental programmes for the poverty stricken general population as well as specifically Scheduled Caste population.

Thus, in spite of several constitutional safeguards and welfare measures provided by the Government through its policies and programmes during the planned development, still the Scheduled Castes have been suffering with low

profile. It is evident from the present status of Scheduled Castes in the country. Thus, there is every need to study the impact of developmental programs on the transformation of the socio economic conditions of scheduled castes in the newly formed state like Andhra Pradesh and there is immense need to study the socio economic conditions of scheduled caste population in the well developed regions like Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.

References:-

1. Parvathamma, C (1984), "Scheduled Castes and Tribes – A Socio-Economic Survey", Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi.
2. R.S. Tirupathi, P.D Tiwari(1991), Dimensions of Scheduled castes development in India, Uppal Publishing House, New Delhi - 110002
3. Rabindra Kumar(1996), "Impact of Rural Development on Scheduled Castes", Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
4. Praveen Yogi (2000), "Social Justice and Empowerment", Kalpaz Publications, New Delhi.
5. Vani Prabhakar (2001), "Third World Sociology – Backward Classes, Tribes and Classes" Dominant Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi..
6. Ghanshyam Shah, (2002) Dalit and State, concept publishing company, New Delhi 110059.
7. Government of India, Annual Report 2003-2004, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
8. Muthlagu (2007), poverty eradication in India under anti-poverty programmes –Kurukshtra, journal, December.
9. JaganKarade(2008), Development of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in India. Cambridge Publishing House.
10. Government of Andhra Pradesh (2013) directorate of economics and Statistics.