



Impact and Effectiveness of Various Developmental Programmes among SC/ST Population of Puducherry

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Abstract

Earth is the only planet in the universe that sustains life. Each child born constitutes a human life. Human life is a secured and tangible asset to a nation. It is noteworthy and pride to utilise this sacred human capital to attain maximum productivity and efficiency in shaping the growth and development of the economy. Mother India is fortunate enough and blessed with a huge population of 121 crores (based on Census 2011). It may reach 134 crores in 2021. Each and every person born has a special talent hidden in their mind and in personal appearance. It is the responsibility of each person to express their ideas and skills in the production of goods and services that contribute their share of production in GDP of our nation. In this concept, large sections of people who are neglected and deprived such as Physically Challenged, Transgender, Widows, Orphans, Mentally Retarded Children, etc. are taken due care through government sponsored institutions and by incentives and subsidies. It uplifts the status of these people in their growth and development. In the same way government takes a special care and allocates a certain amount of expenditure towards the upliftment of the disadvantaged groups of people especially Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. SC population is around 17 % and ST is 9 % of the total Indian population as per 2011 Census. Hence the present study focuses and analyse the impact of various developmental schemes and programmes oriented towards SC and ST in the Union Territory of Puducherry. It also studies about the awareness and socio-economic conditions of the standard of living of SC and ST in the region of Karaikal that belongs to the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Key Words: Scheduled caste, Adidraavidars, Scheduled Tribe, Adivashis, Incentives, Subsidies, Social Transformation.

Introduction

Man is a Social Animal with a special gift of sixth sense viz. active brain in existence. It is that makes a human being to think in a rational manner to maximise satisfaction which tend to be operational and productive in the economy. So every human being born has its own intrinsic and extrinsic value to the society. It is the potential of the man that have to be manipulated and utilised in the best possible manner in the development and growth of the economy. Government is entrusted with the responsibility to uplift all the neglected and downtrodden community in their growth and development. Hence the administration has come forward with various subsidies and developmental programmes for the forward look of the people in the community. 25 percent of people in the Indian population belong to the most disadvantaged group who are called as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. These people are taken care through various developmental schemes and programmes that are implemented for their real development. Today all the government educational institutions are being run and monitored to accommodate all the neglected and downtrodden community especially SC and ST to flourish in their life. Government implemented various developmental schemes and policies to provide a helping hand to the needy SC and ST people. Most of the people supported and made use of the policies in the best possible manner. Hence the study analyse the impact and effectiveness of the various developmental programmes in the social transformation of SC and ST in the present era.

Historical Origin of SC and ST

Simon Commission in 1928 put forth the word Dalits in their analysis and study. The term Dalits was in use as a translation for the British Raj Census Classification of Depressed Classes. It was popularised by Economist and Social Reformer Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891 - 1956). He included all the depressed people irrespective of their caste in to the definition of Dalits. Later Gandhiji referred that depressed classes and untouchable were synonymous. Untouchable means whose touch will pollute a high caste Hindu. Gandhiji called untouchable as Harijans. It means the Children of God. It can be considered that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi are the fore fathers of SC and ST who played an important role in the origin and creation. Both of them are lawyers and fought for the rights that people of present generations enjoy today. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was given privilege and pride to frame the Constitution of India that was adopted since 1950.

Definition of SC and ST

The Constitution has not put forth a particular definition for the term scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. According to basic definition, SC and ST are officially designated groups of historically Disadvantaged people in India. Scheduled Caste are classified people who are neglected from the society to enjoy the rights and benefits since their work and job and status are considered as inferior and not given due respect by the people in the society. Hence a major group of people are forced to be as segregated and discriminated. It only paved a way to create a special provision to safeguard and sanction a constitutional status to this group. Scheduled Tribe are the people residing in forest areas especially in mountain and hilly places to safeguard the natural resources and reap all the benefits of

nature in the form of agricultural products. In the present era SC are called as adidravidar (Dalits) and ST are named as adivashis. It is these two sets of people who are really working with nature are to be taken care and to be given all the benefits in their upliftment and development of their families and status. Hence the government is striving hard to allocate maximum expenditure in attaining the best for this community of people.

Constitutional Status of SC and ST

The Status of Special provisions granted to SC and ST are framed in the constitution of India by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and adopted from 1950 to till date. Article 341 of the Constitution endorse upon a special rights and powers for the people of scheduled caste. In the same manner article 342 caters to the Rights and needs of the population of scheduled tribe. An important Act was enacted in 1989 to safeguard the rights and privileges for the upliftment of that community. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) act of 1989 was enacted and was further amended in 2015 to strengthen its role and responsibilities.

State Wise Composition of SC and ST Population in India

India is a union of 28 states and 9 union territories in the present scenario. The SC population in 2011 census is around 16.25 percent of the Indian population. There are about 1241 different SC castes according to constitutional status. Most populated SC states are Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab. No SC Population in Nagaland, Lakshadweep islands and in Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Table 1.1: Composition of SC/ST Population among the 28 states of India as per 2011 Census

State	Total Population	Scheduled Caste population	% of SC	Scheduled tribes population	% of ST	Total Population of SC/ST	% of SC/ST
Andhra Pradesh	49577103	13878078	27.99	5918073	11.95	19796151	39.94
Assam	31205576	2231321	7.15	3884371	12.45	6115692	19.60
Arunachal Pradesh	1383727	NO SC	-	951821	68.79	951821	68.79
Bihar	104099452	16567325	15.91	1336573	1.28	17903898	17.19
Chhattisgarh	25545198	3274269	12.82	7822902	30.63	11097171	43.45
Goa	1458545	25449	1.74	1492275	10.23	174724	11.97
Gujarat	60439692	4074447	6.74	8917174	14.75	12991621	21.49
Haryana	25351462	5113615	20.17	NO ST	-	5113615	20.17
Himachal Pradesh	6864602	1729252	25.19	392126	5.71	2121378	30.90
Jharkhand	32988134	3984644	12.08	8645042	26.21	12629686	38.29
Karnataka	61095297	10474992	17.15	4248987	6.95	14723979	24.10
Kerala	33406061	3039573	9.10	484839	1.45	3524412	10.55
Madhya Pradesh	72626809	11342320	15.62	15316784	21.09	26659104	36.71
Maharashtra	112374333	13275898	11.81	10510213	9.35	23786111	21.16

Manipur	2570390	97328	3.79	1167422	45.42	1264750	49.21
Meghalaya	2966889	17355	.58	2555861	86.15	2573216	86.73
Mizoram	1097206	1218	.11	10361155	94.43	10362373	94.54
Nagaland	1978502	No SC	-	1710973	86.47	1710973	86.47
Odisha	41974218	7188463	17.13	9590756	22.85	16779219	39.98
Punjab	22743338	8860179	38.96	NO ST	-	8860179	38.96
Rajasthan	68548437	1221593	1.78	9238534	13.47	1046127	15.25
Sikkim	610577	28275	4.63	206360	3.38	234635	8.01
Tamil nadu	72147030	14438445	20.01	794697	1.10	15230142	21.11
Telengana	35003674	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura	3673917	654918	17.83	1166813	31.76	1821731	49.59
Uttarakhand	10086292	1892516	18.76	--	-	1892516	18.76
Uttar Pradesh	199812341	41357608	20.70	1134273	0.57	42491881	21.27
West Bengal	91276115	21463270	23.51	5296953	5.80	26760223	29.31

Source: Census of India (2011)

The share of ST population in Indian population is around 8.52 per cent. There are about 735 scheduled tribes spread all over India. Most populated ST states are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka. There is no ST population in Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi and Puducherry. Tribal populated states are Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Dadra & Nagarveli and Lakshadweep.

Table 1.2: Comparison of total population to SC and ST population

Year	Total population of India	Total SC Population of India	Percentage of SC population	Total ST population of India	Percent of ST Population	Total SC/ST population
2001	1028737436	166635700	16.2	84326240	8.20	250961940 (24.40)
2011	1210569573	201378372	16.6	104545716	8.60	305924088 (25.2)

Source: Census of India (2001 and 2011)

Composition of SC and ST Population in the 9 union territories of India

India consists of nine Union Territories as of today. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands there are no SC population. Likewise there are no ST population in Delhi NCT, Chandigarh and Puducherry. Dadra & Nagarveli and Lakshadweep are purely ST dominated area. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have a share of around 19.71 percent of both SC and ST.

Table 1.3: Composition of SC/ST Population in 9 Union Territories of India as per 2011 Census

Name of U.T.	Total Population	SC	% of SC	ST	% of ST	Total SC/ST	% of SC/ST
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	380581	NO SC	-	28530	7.50	28530	7.50
Chandigarh	1055450	199086	18.86	NO ST	-	199086	18.86
Dadra & Nagarveli	3437709	6186	1.80	178564	51.95	184750	53.75
Delhi NCT	16787941	2812309	16.75	NO ST	-	2812309	16.75
Daman & Diu	243247	6124	2.52	15363	6.32	21487	8.84
Jammu & Kashmir	12267032	924991	7.54	1493299	12.17	2418290	19.71
Ladakh	12267032	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	274000	NO SC	-	61120	94.80	61120	94.80
Puducherry	1247953	196325	15.73	No ST	-	196325	15.73

Source: census of India (2011)

Composition of SC and ST Population of Puducherry

Union territory of Puducherry is spread over four major regions in the southern parts of India. It consists of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The population of Puducherry in 1961 is around 369079. SC population shared around 15.40 percent of the total population. In 2011, population of Puducherry increased to 1247953 and its percentage share stood at 15.73. Among the four regions, Puducherry region shared around 77 percent followed by Karaikal which is 20 percent. Yanam share increased from 3 percent to 4 percent since it is developing at a faster rate. Mahe share is negligible. In union territory of Puducherry 5 legislature seats are allotted for SC candidates. Central Government disburses grants in aid to union territory of Puducherry since independence for the fast development.

Table 1.4: Percentage of SC and ST Population in the Union Territory of Puducherry

Year	Population of Puducherry	Scheduled Population	Percentage
1891	-	-	-
1901	246354	-	-
1911	257179	-	--
1921	244156	-	-
1931	258628	-	-
1941	285011	-	-
1948	317253	-	-
1961	369079	56846	15.40
1971	471707	72921	15.46
1981	604471	96636	15.99
1991	807784	130262	16.13
2001	974345	157771	16.19
2011	1247953	196325	15.73

Source: census of India (2011)

Table 1.5: Composition of SC and ST Population among the four regions of Union Territory of Puducherry

(Brackets indicate Percentage)

Year	Population of U.T. Puducherry	SC Population	Puducherry Region	Karaikal Region	Mahe Region	Yanam Region
1961	369079	56846 (15.40)	41180 (72.44)	14004 (24.63)	23 (0.04)	1639 (2.88)
1971	471707	72921 (15.46)	53974 (74.01)	17145 (23.51))	25 (0.05)	1777 (2.44)
1981	604471	96636 (15.99)	74029 (76.60)	19987 (20.68)	73 (0.07)	2547 (2.64)
1991	807784	130262 (16.13)	100072 (76.82)	26329 (20.21)	110 (0.08)	3751 (2.88)
2001	974345	157771 (16.19)	120962 (76.67)	30862 (19.56)	122 (0.08)	5807 (3.68)
2011	1247953	196325 (15.73)	152406 (77.63)	35348 (18.00)	144 (0.07)	8427 (4.29)

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics - Government of Puducherry (Karaikal Region)

Effectiveness of Educational Developmental Programmes in Union Territory of Puducherry

Puducherry stands second in attainment of full literacy rate after Kerala. In Puducherry literacy rate is high due to increased number of government and private schools. Female literacy rate is very high in Puducherry since various scholarships are announced and disbursed to each and every SC student. Union territory of Puducherry is blessed with 731 schools spread over four regions. About 284646 students are at a liberty to get full education at the right time. Child labour is fully abolished. All the children are compelled to join the school and made to study. Noon meal scheme is implemented vigorously at a greater speed to attract the children and parents. All the SC students are interested to join the school and pursue their studies. All the educational books and stationary items are supplied free for all the government school students. Free government school buses are picking up the students at their residence which gains more attraction and enthusiasm for students and parents. Hence each and every SC student gets maximum education and benefits from government to increase their standard of living.

Table 1.6: Total Number of Schools in U.T. of Puducherry

Institutions	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	Total
Primary school	180	74	11	15	280
Middle school	53	23	9	0	85
High school	135	45	7	16	203
Higher secondary school	128	24	7	4	163
Total schools	496	166	34	35	731

Table 1.7: Number of Students admitted at school level in Puducherry

Students	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	yanam	Total
Pre primary	26453	6080	1802	1628	35963
1to 5 th	78326	16876	4784	4046	104032
6 th to 8 th	49852	10394	2527	2657	65430
9 th and 10 th	33901	6989	1654	1690	44234
11 th and 12 th	27155	5097	1434	1301	34987
Total Students	215687	45436	12201	11322	284646

Table 1.8: Literacy Rate of U.T. of Puducherry (Census 2011)

Students	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	Total
Literacy rate	85.4	87.1	97.9	79.5	85.8
Male	91.2	92.4	98.6	82.8	91.3
Female	79.9	82.0	97.3	76.4	80.7

Socio - Economic Status of SC/ST Families in Puducherry

An opinion survey was conducted among the SC students of the college to study the socio economic status of their families in Karaikal region. 150 students under stratified sampling method were selected for study through a questionnaire. Based on that the following assessment and status of the SC families and their occupational structure was analysed SC illiterate population above 40 years are engaged mainly in the agricultural sector and now shifted their nature of work in construction industry. All the people are also given an opportunity to render their share of contribution in the 100 days work sponsored by the central government. Every SC people find a suitable job that satisfies their standard of living. No people are idle since they are ready to accept any kind of job that fetches a good salary per day and per month. In Puducherry region SC socio-economic status is very good and satisfactory. Since it is a small state all the people are aware about the various developmental schemes of the government and availing all the benefits. Since Puducherry people are enjoying maximum benefits from the government in education, health facilities and PDS allocations. Most of the people of Tamilnadu shift their residence to Puducherry region.

Various Developmental schemes implemented for SC population of Puducherry and Karaikal.

1. House construction subsidy - A SC/ST land owner with patta in his name is sanctioned and granted an amount of Rs. 400000/- for construction of a cement and concrete roof house with toilets.
2. Free distribution of patta for landless people and loan sanctioned to construct a house.
3. Marriage allowance expenditure: Rs. 75000
4. Inter caste marriage: Rs. 250000
5. Pregnancy and birth of a new born baby Rs. 18000
6. Treatment for disease in a body Rs. 3000/month
7. Death in a family Rs.15000
8. House renovation (alteration and decoration) Grants-in aid

SC/ST Scholarship given to the students of Puducherry

1. **Retention Scholarship** - A SC/ST girl student studying in government school from 1st to 5th standard are given an educational bonanza of Rs. 1000 per year.
2. **Pre - Matric Scholarship** - All SC girl students are given Rs. 1500 for studying from 6th to 8th standard and Rs. 2500 is being given to students those who study from 9th and 10th.
3. **Opportunity Scholarship** - Parents are given on opportunity scholarship if their SC girl students are studying from 6th to 12th standard since they sacrifice their income if the students are sent for job.
4. **Special Incentive for passed 10+2 students** - Those students who get 65 percent marks above in 10+2 exams are granted Rs. 1000 as special incentive.
5. **ITI Subsidy** - Those students who join ITI are paid Rs. 170/month.
6. **DR. B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Prize** - Two SC students who score 55 percent marks above in 10+2 exams are granted Rs. 30000 under DR. B.R. Ambedkar memorial prize.
7. **Post - Matric Scholarship** - Students after completing 10+2 are given a Post - matric scholarship to continue their studies in college.

Beneficiaries of SC population through Adidravidar Welfare Schemes in Karaikal region of Puducherry during 2018 - 19

Scheme Achievement 2018-19	No of beneficiaries	Amount sanctioned
Housing subsidy	228	22500000
Marriage assistance	111	8300000
Pregnant and lactating women	189	2268000
Prolonged diseases	8	240156
Inter caste marriage	44	4000000
Funeral rites	340	5100000
Total Amount Disbursed	920	50453156

Suggestions for social transformation of SC and ST in the present situation

1. Separate school and college to be established exclusively for SC and ST.

Supportive justification: Each minority community namely Christian, Muslim, Jain, Sikhs, have set up a special school and college approved through government rules and regulations. All the minority students are given more preference and chance to study and flourish their ideas. Students in the same category mingle each other and get better knowledge and skills. Most of the teachers are in the same category and devote their mind and soul for their welfare of own community. Most of the students are benefited in that college since it is exclusive for them. Hence every minority student gets an opportunity to study as per their choice and wish. In the same way a separate college for SC and a separate college for ST in a particular state can be started to accommodate all the SC and ST students. Discrimination among the student's capability and knowledge can be reduced in this way. Social Transformation can be easily targeted through this innovative method of approaching the goals and objectives.

2. Best qualified and talented SC and ST persons to be employed in the above college/school.

All the best qualified and talented SC and ST community persons to be employed who will take care of the students in a better way. These people also get a job and devote full attention for the upliftment of the students belonging to their own community. Discrimination among students and teachers can be reduced and everyone takes active interest to flourish in their life. Even dull and non attentive students get a due consideration in shaping them better with the help of these devoted teachers.

Conclusions

1. In the Union Territory of Puducherry SC population is around 15.73 percent. There are no ST population. 77 per cent of SC population is in Puducherry region and 20 percent is in Karaikal.
2. Government runs more schools and colleges to accommodate all the SC students. It started a school near a SC residential area to avail the school education easily and comfort. Government sponsored school bus picks up and drop all the young children and students to their residential place and area since all private school students enjoy which dissatisfies the government school children. Government cheers the school students to enjoy education and knowledge through the attractive mode of bus facilities.
3. All the girl SC students are being subsidised and various incentives are given right from their school education up to marriage. Hence all girl students especially SC gets admission in schools and colleges and are more interested to learn and acquire knowledge.
4. Puducherry is being granted grants in aid to foster education, prosper health and develop infrastructure facilities by the central government.
5. Puducherry is monitored by central government and so most of the centrally funded educational institutions are set up in these regions namely JIPMER, Novadaya School, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Pondicherry University. Almost all the states of people are residing in Puducherry which brings glory and pride. Different cultures and traditions spread among all sections of people and so it leads to over all development of the state. Puducherry is attracted by foreign tourists and Indian people to get the blessings from Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

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