



A Study of the implementation of Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman Scheme in Aurangabad District

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➤ **Abstract:**

The state government has provided educational facilities to the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists; the level of education among them is increasing. The current policy of liberalization has reduced the availability of jobs. Therefore, the proportion of educated unemployed found among the general population is higher among the Scheduled Castes and the neo-Buddhists. The Scheduled Castes and the neo-Buddhist families who have land to do so have been provided with a means of income. However, landless agricultural families below the poverty line have no other means of subsistence and have to resort to employment guarantee schemes or hire private individuals. As a result, their livelihood is adversely affected. To increase their sources of income and change their living standards, they need to reduce their dependence on wages and provide them with a permanent source of income. For this, the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swamibhan scheme has been started in 2004 to provide land to the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist landless agricultural laborers below the poverty line through the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance. This scheme is an ambitious scheme prepared by the government for the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist landless agricultural laborers. This paper reviews the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme implemented in the Aurangabad district.

(Key words: Empowerment, Swamibhan, scheme, landless, Scheduled Castes)

➤ Introduction:

India is a country of villages. Even today, two-thirds of our population lives in villages. Agriculture is the foundation of the Indian economy. But today the village is an obstacle in the development of India and agriculture has become an obstacle in the development of the village. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar said the village is a 'home of ignorance and a refuge of caste system'. The so-called untouchable castes who have rights, on the other hand, are the so-called untouchables of yesteryear and the Scheduled Castes of today who have been working on this farm for generations. To be born in the next caste, it is necessary to serve the upper castes in this birth without any complaint. The second class always relied on the kindness of the first class to survive. They had no such means of subsistence. Agriculture is wealth, its owner is the owner of the village, the one who does not have agriculture is the village worker.

According to Agricultural Census 2010-11, the total number of account holders in Maharashtra is one crore thirty-seven lakhs. The number of account holders with two hectares or less is one crore eight lakh (78 percent). The Socio-Economic Caste Survey 2011-12 shows that there is one landless family for every three families. To achieve the development of the Scheduled Castes, it is necessary to improve the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and to bring them in line with the castes who have traditionally owned agricultural land. This cannot be achieved unless the ownership of the land comes to the Scheduled Castes.

As the state government has provided educational facilities to the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists, the level of education among them is increasing. The current policy of liberalization has reduced the availability of jobs. Therefore, the proportion of educated unemployed found among the general population is higher among the Scheduled Castes and the neo-Buddhists. The Scheduled Castes and the neo-Buddhist families who have land to do so have been provided with a means of income. However, landless agricultural families below the poverty line have no other means of subsistence and have to resort to employment guarantee schemes or hire private individuals. As a result, their livelihood is adversely affected. To increase their sources of income and change their living standards, they need to reduce their dependence on wages and provide them with a permanent source of income. For this, the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swamibhan scheme has been started in 2004 to provide land to the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist landless agricultural laborers below the poverty line through the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance. This scheme is an ambitious scheme prepared by the government for the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist landless agricultural laborers. This scheme is implemented in all districts except Mumbai and Mumbai suburbs.

➤ Objectives of the study:

The present study has been done for the following objects.

1. To study the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme in the Aurangabad district.
2. To study which of the Scheduled Castes have benefited the most from this scheme.

3. To review the social condition of the beneficiary under the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme.

➤ **Research Methodology:**

The Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme for the economic development of Scheduled Castes has been studied by the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance, Government of Maharashtra. Therefore, an evaluative research design has been used for the study.

Data Collection Method:

The interview schedule technique was used to compile the primary data in the study. Secondary data about the development of the Scheduled Castes have been collected through newspapers, websites, and secondary sources.

Sampling Method and Sampling Size:

The scheme has benefited 418 beneficiaries in Aurangabad, Paithan, Khultabad, Kannad, Gangapur, Vaijapur, Silod, Soygaon, and Phulambri talukas of Aurangad district from 2004-05 to 2010-11. A total of 418 people from 66 villages in Aurangabad district have benefited. Out of the total 418 beneficiaries, 25% or 105 beneficiaries have been selected from the convenient sample selection system of 66 villages by selecting 45 villages according to the level random sample selection system. It has been analyzed without taking information from 105 beneficiaries through the interview-schedule.

➤ **Purpose of Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swamibhan Scheme:**

The landless agricultural families below the poverty line in the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists have to resort to employment guarantee schemes or hire private individuals as they have no other means of subsistence. As a result, their livelihood is adversely affected. To increase their sources of income and change their living standards, they need to reduce their dependence on wages and provide them with a permanent source of income. To achieve economic and social development of the landless agricultural laborers below the poverty line in the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists by providing 4 acres of deserted land or 2 acres of irrigated land for cultivation.

➤ **The procedure of Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swamibhan Scheme:**

A district-level committee has been set up under the chairmanship of the District Collector to determine the rates of land to be allotted to the landless agricultural laborers, Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists, purchase of land, and selection of beneficiaries. To provide quality land to the landless agricultural laborers, Scheduled Castes, and Neo-Buddhists at reasonable rates, the District Collector has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee. Find out where good quality land is available in the district and where there are a large number of Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist landless agricultural families below the poverty line. The process of purchase should be completed first by determining the availability of land and fixing the rate as per the prevailing government order. Beneficiaries should be selected by a committee under the control of the District Collector by casting lots in the name of all the landless agricultural laborers living below the poverty line in the area where the land is available. The

selection process should be completed by casting separate ballots for the priority class. The selection process is extremely transparent. The information required for this process should be compiled by the Commissioner of Social Welfare, Pune, and made available to the selection committee.

Under the control of the District Collector, the committee should send a proposal to the Joint Commissioner of Social Welfare for the location of the purchased land, price of the land, list of beneficiaries, and copies of the agreement taken from those to whom the land is to be allotted. The Commissioner, Social Welfare should give final approval to the proposal and distribute the amount and give possession of the land to the beneficiaries. A sub-committee has been constituted at the taluka level under the chairmanship of the Revenue Sub-Divisional Officer to assist the District Level Committee for the effective implementation of this scheme. The Assistant Commissioner, Social Welfare is the Member Secretary of the Sub-Committee.

4 acres of dry land or 2 acres of irrigated land should be made available to landless agricultural families below the poverty line of Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists. But sometimes 4 acres 10 to 20 gunthas of arable land or 2 acres 10 to 20 gunthas of irrigated land are available for sale. The District Collector has pointed out to the Government that there are difficulties in purchasing land. Since February 25, 2005, the committee has been empowered to purchase up to 20 gunthas of land under 4 acres of arable or 2 acres of irrigated land and distribute it to the beneficiaries. The District Collector brought the matter to the notice of the government that there are many difficulties while implementing this scheme. According to him, since 2005, instead of the previous three years, the purchase of land in the concerned area has been done based on five years of purchase and sale transactions and the prevailing speed calculators. The purchase committee has been given the power to increase the rate of up to 20% of the above rate if the farmer is not ready to sell the land.

To facilitate the land purchase process for the district-level committee in the land purchase process under Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman Scheme, the following partial changes have been made in their jurisdiction from 13th March 2012.

A) The Collector should try to purchase the land at the prevailing redireckoner price. If the land is not available as per the redireckoner price, the value of the land should be negotiated with the concerned landowner. Accordingly, the price of redireckoner should be increased up to 20% first, but if the land is not purchased, the 20% amount should be increased to 20% at 100%, i.e. double the price of redireckoner. However, the maximum amount should be Rs.3.00 lakhs.

B) If the beneficiary finds the land himself and fulfills all the other terms and conditions of the scheme, the land should be given to him as a priority. However, at the time of the purchase of land, the rate of land should be Rs. 3.00 lakh per acre.

Under this scheme, at the time of purchase of land, land enumeration fee, stop duty and registration fee, etc. The cost of the matter is covered by the sanctioned provisions. The land purchased under this scheme is registered in the name of the Government as the beneficiary of Class-II. Only then is the land allotted to the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are also given potable land which is available along with arable or irrigated land. 50 percent of the cost of land purchase is an interest-free loan and 50

percent is a grant. Part of the loan is provided by a financial institution or National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, or Nationalized and Co-operative Bank. The State Government guarantees the loan of National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation. The interest is paid by the government to the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation and the bank. Loans to Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist landless agricultural families are interest-free and for 10 years. Debt repayment starts 2 years after loan approval.

➤ **Total allotted land in Aurangabad district under Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme:**

Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme is being implemented in the Aurangabad district from the year 2004-2005. Under Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme, 4 acres of arable (dry land) land or 2 acres of irrigated land has been allotted to the landless agricultural families below the poverty line in the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist elements. The total number of beneficiaries and total allotted land in Aurangabad district for the period 2004-2005 to 2010-2011 is shown in Table No. 1.

Table No. 1.

Total beneficiaries and total land allotted under Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme in Aurangabad district, 2004-05 to 2010-11
(land in acres)

Year	Total Beneficiary	Allocation Land				Total Land Allocation
		Arable	Beneficiary	Irrigated	Beneficiary	
2004-05	38	106.00	27	22.00	11	128.00
2005-06	273	973.00	240	66.00	33	1039.00
2006-07	27	100.00	26	2.00	1	102.00
2007-08	44	152.96	42	4.04	2	157.00
2008-09	36	134.39	36	-	-	134.39
2009-10	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011-12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	418	1466.35	371	94.04	47	1560.39

Source: Special District Social Welfare Office, Aurangabad

A total of 1518.39 acres of land has been allotted to 418 beneficiaries under the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme in Aurangabad district. In the year 2004-2005, a total of 38 beneficiaries were allotted land in Aurangabad district, out of which 27 beneficiaries were allotted 106.00 acres of arable land and 11 beneficiaries were allotted 22.00 acres for a total of

128.00 acres of land. In the year 2005-2006, out of 273 beneficiaries, 240 beneficiaries were given 973.00 acres of arable land and 33 beneficiaries were given 66.00 acres of irrigated land. From 2006 to 2007, out of the total 27 beneficiaries, 26 beneficiaries were allotted 100.00 acres of agricultural land and 1 beneficiary was allotted 2.00 acres of irrigated land for a total of 102.00 acres of land. Out of the total 44 beneficiaries in 2006-2008, 42 beneficiaries have been allotted 152.96 acres of arable land and 2 beneficiaries have been allotted 4.04 acres of irrigated land for a total of 157.00 acres. In the year 2008-2009, 134.39 acres of arable land has been allotted to a total of 36 beneficiaries.

A total of 1560.39 acres of land has been allotted to 418 beneficiaries from 2004-2005 to 2010-2011. No land was allotted to any beneficiary during 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

➤ **The Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme Funds received and total expenditure incurred by Aurangabad district:**

Under the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme, Aurangabad district was informed about the funds received from the government from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and the total expenditure incurred. The year-wise funds received by Aurangabad district under this scheme and the total expenditure incurred on the scheme are shown in Table No. 2.

Table No. 2

Total expenditure incurred by the Government on the funds received by the Government of Aurangabad District under Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme (Year: 2004-05 to 2010-11)

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sr.No.	Year	Dedicated amount	Total expenditure
1	2004-05	50.00	50.00
2	2005-06	450.00	450.00
3	2006-07	55.00	55.00
4	2007-08	100.00	100.00
5	2008-09	111.18	111.18
6	2009-10	115.10	115.10
7	2010-11	-	-
Total		881.28	881.28

Source: Special District Social Welfare Office, Aurangabad

The Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme, Aurangabad District received a total of Rs. 8810.28 lakhs in the form of funds from the Government during the eight years 2004-05 to 2011-12 and the same amount has been spent. In the year 2004-05, a fund of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been received from the Government. In the year 2005-06, a fund of Rs. 1450.00 lakhs has been received. In the year 2006-07, a fund of Rs. 55.00 lakhs has been received. In the year 2007-08, a fund of Rs. 100.00 lakhs was made available. 111.18 lakhs in 2008-09 and Rs. 115.10 lakhs in 2009-10. All the funds received from the government have been spent on the implementation of the full funding scheme.

In the two years 2010-11 and 2011-12, no funds have been made available by the government for the scheme.

It is clear from this that in the year 2005-06, the highest fund of Rs. 450.00 lakhs was received in the Aurangabad district. Most of the beneficiaries have been given benefits in 2005-06. As the government did not provide funds for this scheme in the year 2010-11, no benefit was given to the beneficiaries. If the government does not provide funds for the scheme, the scheme can be implemented properly.

➤ **Problems faced by the beneficiaries:**

The lands allotted in the district are 0 to 3 km from the beneficiary villages. The rate of distance is 21 percent. The proportion of beneficiaries with land between 2.1 to 5 km is 35 percent. The proportion of beneficiaries with land between 5.1 to 8 km is 24 percent, while the proportion of beneficiaries with land between distances greater than 08 km is 20 percent. In Aurangabad district, the percentage of land received under Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman Yojana is 21 percent by beneficiaries. The land has been mortgaged due to the non-availability of fertilizer and water. About 13 percent of the beneficiaries have complained that the land is completely rocky. About 13 percent of the beneficiaries have complained that the land is fallow. 11 percent of the beneficiaries have complained that the land is too far away. For other reasons, 08 percent of the beneficiaries complained that the land was not suitable for cultivation, while 26 percent of the beneficiaries said that there was no complaint about the land. Lands have been acquired at a long distance from the village. Due to the distance, it is not possible to cultivate the land properly. The government has given lands but the beneficiary takes a loan to cultivate the land and the loan is being marketed. Debts cannot be repaid on time as there is no crop in the land. Beneficiaries do not have oxen and plows. The lands acquired under the scheme are murmad, hill slopes, rocky, bad so it creates difficulties for cultivation and in the sense of khajya the objective of the government scheme is not achieved.

➤ **Conclusion:**

1. Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman scheme has been implemented in the Aurangabad district as well as other districts in Maharashtra and it is seen that it has been implemented subject to the policy rules of the government.
2. Funds were not used equally in the talukas of the district. It is seen that some talukas have benefited the beneficiaries by using less and some talukas by using more funds.
3. To meet the policy issues in this scheme, it is seen that land has been allotted to the landless agricultural laborers in the age group of 18 to 60 years below the poverty line in the Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist communities.
4. As the beneficiaries of the scheme are from Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhist communities, they fall into sub-castes like Mahar, Chambar, Mang, etc. The beneficiaries of the Mahar caste are in large numbers.

5. Land is allotted under this scheme, as the price of government land is lower than the price of open market land, the landowner is not ready to sell the land and the land is not available for allotment under the scheme. Therefore, it is not possible to implement the plan successfully.
6. While purchasing land under this scheme as per government decision, after a person applies for the sale of land, the purchase committee should inspect the land and if the land is suitable for agriculture, the land should be purchased and given to the beneficiaries. But some lands were bought and distributed by rocks, shrubs, unsuitable for agriculture, hilltops, murrums, and potholes.
7. This scheme is limited to allotment of land only and no other efforts are seen in this scheme as a real part of empowerment and self-respect of landless agricultural laborers belonging to Scheduled Castes and neo-Buddhist families.

➤ **Recommendations:**

1. Under the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Swabhiman Yojana, the government says that the government will buy the land and give it to the landless but the government land should be given under the same scheme which is already there.
2. Since the price of government land is lower than the price of open market land, the landowner is not ready to sell the land. Under the scheme, lands should be purchased at the rate of open market land.
3. As per the policy, a price of up to Rs. It is not clear on what basis the government fixed the price of Rs 3 lakh. If the land cannot be purchased at the market price considering real land prices, then dry land should be purchased at Rs 8 lakh per acre and irrigated land at Rs 10 lakh per acre.
4. The Government should provide funds for the scheme so that the scheme can be implemented properly.
5. The government should increase funding as more beneficiaries can benefit from the scheme and become financially empowered.

Regarding the development of Scheduled Castes, the Planning Commission says, "Despite the provisions of the Constitution and various laws and functional measures taken by the Government, the status of Scheduled Castes has not improved under the Sixth Five Year Plan. The main reason is the lack of financial assistance."

After the landless struggle for landlessness started by Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad in the 1960s, there does not seem to be any strong fight on the issue of land for the deprived. Dadasaheb Gaikwad had raised the question of what would be his land but what would not be his. Three decades later, the Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Scheme was launched to provide land to the landless (2004). The scheme is currently stalled. The main reason for this is the rise in land prices and insufficient funds to buy them. Development is not the only problem in India. The problem is 'Whose development!' The same castes who ruled here for thousands of years and used that power to bring the rest of the castes not only to slavery but also to the level of animalism are still concentrated in power. It is pointless to expect that it will happen.

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