



# **AWARENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF SC STUDENTS IN COIMBATORE CITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Scheduled Caste (SC) students is a governmental initiative that aims to bridge educational disparities and foster inclusivity. This program operates with the objective of providing financial support to students belonging to the Scheduled Caste category, who often face economic challenges in pursuing higher education. By offering scholarships, fellowships, and grants, the scheme seeks to alleviate the financial burden associated with education, covering expenses such as tuition fees and living costs. The objective of the study is to analyse on awareness and effectiveness of national scholarship scheme for higher education of sc students in Coimbatore city. Descriptive research method and convenience sampling technique have been adopted in the study. Primary data and secondary data have been used to collect the data for the study. The survey is conducted with 250 students from over 10 institutions in Coimbatore which includes 5 self finance college and 5 government colleges. Simple percentage analysis, chi square analysis, correlation analysis and oneway anova have been applied as statistical tools to reach the findings of the study. In conclusion, it is evident from the findings of this study that while the National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Scheduled Caste (SC) students plays a significant role in promoting access to higher education, there are several areas for improvement to enhance its effectiveness. Government initiatives must prioritize community engagement and targeted outreach to ensure equitable access to information, particularly in remote or disadvantaged areas. It is concluded that continuous evaluation and adjustments to the scholarship coverage and disbursement

processes are necessary to address evolving financial barriers and ensure the scheme adequately meets the needs of SC students.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Scheduled Caste (SC) students is a governmental initiative that aims to bridge educational disparities and foster inclusivity. This program operates with the objective of providing financial support to students belonging to the Scheduled Caste category, who often face economic challenges in pursuing higher education. By offering scholarships, fellowships, and grants, the scheme seeks to alleviate the financial burden associated with education, covering expenses such as tuition fees and living costs. The overarching goal is to empower marginalized communities, particularly the Scheduled Castes, by ensuring they have equal opportunities to access and excel in higher education. Through this initiative, the government endeavours to break the cycle of poverty, reduce historical disparities, and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the nation. This study explores the awareness and effectiveness of the National Scholarship Scheme, shedding light on its impact in facilitating educational aspirations and fostering positive social change within the SC student community.

The National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Scheduled Caste (SC) students stands as a pivotal initiative aimed at fostering inclusivity and equal opportunities in the educational landscape. As education plays a crucial role in socio-economic development, governments worldwide recognize the significance of ensuring marginalized communities have access to higher education. In the context of India, where the Scheduled Caste population historically faced systemic challenges in accessing quality education, the National Scholarship Scheme assumes a vital role.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

An admirable effort to lower financial obstacles and advance educational inclusion is the National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of SC students. Nevertheless, even with the best of intentions, there is a serious problem with the program's poor awareness and execution. The main issue is that government initiatives are not reaching enough people, educational institutions are not doing enough, and there are difficulties using the media and communication networks to get important information about the plan out there. This lack of knowledge has a detrimental effect on SC students, making it more difficult for them to get the money they require to continue their studies.

The National Scholarship Scheme's lack of knowledge and efficacy has a domino effect that negatively affects SC students' academic performance and raises dropout rates. As a result, this causes worthy students to lose out on chances and hinders their academic progress. The goal of the study is to examine these problems in depth, pinpointing the underlying reasons and suggesting fixes to raise awareness and improve efficacy. By addressing these issues, the study hopes to empower SC students and make sure they can take full use of the National Scholarship Scheme for their postsecondary education, which will ultimately contribute to the development of a more diverse and equal educational environment.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

### Primary objective

- To study on awareness and effectiveness of national scholarship scheme for higher education of SC students in Coimbatore city

### Secondary objectives

- To assess the effectiveness of government initiatives in promoting awareness of the National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education among SC students.
- To evaluate the contribution of educational institutions in promoting the National Scholarship Scheme among SC students.
- To examine the impact of media and communication channels in disseminating information about the National Scholarship Scheme.
- To analyse the extent to which the National Scholarship Scheme provides adequate financial coverage, including tuition fees and living expenses, for SC students pursuing higher education.
- To investigate the influence of the National Scholarship Scheme on the academic performance of SC students.

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to Coimbatore. This study focuses on the awareness and effectiveness of the National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education among SC students is broad and significant. The research will delve into the effectiveness of government initiatives in creating awareness about the scheme, evaluating the outreach and impact of educational institutions in promoting it among SC students. The study will also analyse the role of media and communication channels in disseminating information. Furthermore, it will assess the financial coverage provided by the National Scholarship Scheme, including tuition fees and living expenses, for SC students pursuing higher education. Additionally, the research will investigate the influence of the scheme on the academic performance of SC students, offering a comprehensive understanding of the holistic impact of the National Scholarship Scheme on the educational journey of SC students.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a way of explaining how a researcher intends to carry out their research. It's a logical, systematic plan to resolve a research problem. A methodology details a researcher's approach to the research to ensure reliable, valid results that address their aims and objectives. It encompasses what data they're going to collect and where from, as well as how it's being collected and analyzed.

## **Descriptive research design**

This study uses Descriptive research design. It adopts convenience sampling technique. Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling technique wherein researchers select participants based on their ease of access and availability, rather than employing a random or systematic method. In this approach, individuals who are most easily reached or willing to participate are included in the study. Here 10 institutions were selected to collect the data from Coimbatore.

## **Primary data and secondary data**

Primary data and secondary data have been used to collect the data. Here questionnaire has been used to collect the data. It consists of 32 questions. Likert scaling technique has been used to construct the questionnaire. The survey is conducted with 250 students from over 10 institutions in Coimbatore which includes 9 self-finance college and 1 government colleges. Secondary data have been collected by journals, articles, websites and newspapers.

## **TYPE OF PROJECT**

This study uses Descriptive research. Descriptive research refers to the methods that describe the characteristics of the variables under study.

## **TARGET RESPONDENTS**

In this study, target respondents are all SC students in Coimbatore city.

## **TOOLS**

1. Simple Percentage Analysis
2. Chi-Square Test
3. Correlation
4. Anova

## **SAMPLING/DESIGN**

A sampling technique is the name or other identification of the specific process by which the entities of the sample have been selected. This study uses Non-Probability Sampling technique. The non-probability method is a sampling method that involves a collection of feedback based on a researcher or statistician's sample selection capabilities and not on a fixed selection process.

## Convenience sampling

This study used convenience sampling method. A convenience sample simply includes the individuals who happen to be most accessible to the researcher.

## Sample Size

Sample size refers to number of items to be selected from the population to frame a sample. Here the researcher has selected 250 SC students as a sample size.

## Sample Unit

Here sampling unit is Coimbatore.

## LIMITATIONS

- This sample size of the study is limited to 250.
- The data was collected from only SC students.
- The scope of the study is restricted to Coimbatore only.
- The researcher found it difficult to collect the questionnaire, since some of the respondents did not give proper response.

## PERIOD OF STUDY

The period of the study is from the three months.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Phuyal, N. 2023<sup>1</sup>, This study tried to find out the impact of different incentive programmes that were conducted to increase girls' participation in primary education in Nepal.** In this context, the study concentrated on the impact of the Educational Incentive Programme for Girls (EIPG). Increase in the enrolment of girls after the introduction of the EIPG programme in the sample districts Retention of out-of-school girls was 61%, 50% and 44% in the three EIPG districts. With the Primary School Scholarship for All Girls Programme there was no significant. increase in girl's enrolment in the five years. There was a decrease of 11.74% in children's enrolment but increase of 6% in girls' enrolment. The main reason for the decrease in enrolment was transfer to boarding schools or schools in India and family's migration.

**Artis, E (2023)<sup>2</sup>, This module attempts to discuss the educational status, problems and issues related to the children from scheduled castes after independence.** Through this module, the master trainers and teachers become empower to know about the implementation of various programmes, policies and schemes launched by the government for educational development of children from scheduled castes. The

module also highlights the reasons for educational backwardness, constitutional provisions, safety guards and positive discrimination to the empowerment of scheduled castes through educational upliftment of their children.

**Santosh (2023)<sup>3</sup>, This chapter highlights about awareness regarding Different Scholarship Schemes among University Students. One questionnaire was prepared on “Google Form” for online data collection.** Frequency, percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation and chi square test were used for analysing the data statistically. The study reveals that majority (88.75%) of the respondents were aware about State Merit Scholarship followed by 53.33 per cent were aware about National Talent Scholarship whereas only 2.91 per cent were aware about Financial Support to the Economically Backward Students of the University. Majority of the respondents i.e. 90.00 per cent had senior as source of awareness. Though the level of awareness for two scholarships was good, the awareness for the remaining scholarships was not good among the students. It is important on the part of the University authority to increase the awareness among students regarding different scholarships by various different ways.

**Mona Sedwal (2023)<sup>4</sup>, The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are among the most socially and educationally disadvantaged groups in India.** This paper examines issues concerning school access and equity. The first two sections introduce the reader to the nature of exclusion and discrimination faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The third section explains the socio-economic conditions within which Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live and their marginalized status in contemporary India. The fourth section provides a discussion of literacy advancement. Suggests research and policy options that may help to address underlying structural and ideological issues. The concluding section highlights a few critical areas for further research in the area.

**Lalitha Bhagavatheeswaran (2023)<sup>5</sup>, This qualitative study explored the barriers and enablers to scheduled caste/scheduled tribe (SC/ST) adolescent girls** entering into, and completing secondary education in northern Karnataka, South India. In-depth interviews were conducted with 22 adolescent girls, their respective parent/guardian (n = 22) and 11 teachers. Multiple barriers were identified to disadvantaged caste adolescent girls' entry into and retention in education in this setting, and these operated at the individual, family, community and school levels. In addition, some enablers to education were also described. The study highlights the importance of involving multiple stakeholders to overcome the barriers to education for SC/ST girls, and of working to change beliefs and expectations around gender norms as well as improving the quality of education in this setting.



## ANALYSIS OF STUDY

### PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

FACTORS	NO.OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Male	161	64.4%
Age –Below 20 years	115	46.0%
Annul income Rs.50,001 to 1,00,000	92	36.8%
College notification	101	40.4%
Educational Institutions	76	30.4%

### FINDINGS

- The 64.4% of the respondents are male.
- And the 46.0% of the respondents are in the age group of below 20 years.
- The 36.8% of the respondents have Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000 as their family income per annum.
- The 40.4% of respondents said that college notifications as the aware of the national scholarship scheme.
- And 34.4% of the respondents are disagree towards the government agencies effectively communicate information about the national scholarship scheme.

### CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS

FACTORS	CALCULATED VALUE	TABLE VALUE	RESULT
GENDER OF THE STUDENT	0.652	25.886	ACCEPTED
GOVERNMENT INITATIVES	0.661	21.026	ACCEPTED
LIKLELIHOOD RATIO	0.270	16.919	ACCEPTED
SCHOLORSHIP SCHEME	0.910	24.996	ACCEPTED
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	0.919	23.995	ACCEPTED

## ANOVA ANALYSIS

FACTORS	CALCULATED VALUE	RESULT
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES	0.545	ACCEPTED
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	0.151	ACCEPTED
SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM	0.025	ACCEPTED
DECISION TO CONTINUE HIGHER EDUCATION	0.229	ACCEPTED
IMPACT ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE	0.691	ACCEPTED

### SUGGESTIONS

- Government initiatives should prioritize community engagement and partnerships to enhance awareness of educational schemes like the National Scholarship Scheme.
- Government agencies need to employ diverse communication channels and language accessibility to effectively disseminate information about the National Scholarship Scheme.
- The government should invest in targeted outreach efforts and mobile information Centres to ensure equitable access to information about the National Scholarship Scheme in remote or disadvantaged areas.
- Simplifying the application process for the National Scholarship Scheme can enhance accessibility and encourage more SC students to apply.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is evident from the findings of this study that while the National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Scheduled Caste (SC) students plays a significant role in promoting access to higher education, there are several areas for improvement to enhance its effectiveness. Through the examination of various stakeholders' perspectives, including government agencies, educational institutions, and beneficiaries, it is concluded that the awareness and dissemination of information about the scheme require concerted efforts. Government initiatives must prioritize community engagement and targeted outreach to ensure equitable access to information, particularly in remote or disadvantaged areas. Simplifying the application process and enhancing collaboration between government agencies and educational institutions can streamline the implementation of the scheme and improve support services for SC students. Furthermore, continuous evaluation and adjustments to the scholarship coverage and disbursement processes are necessary to address evolving financial barriers and ensure the scheme adequately meets the needs of SC students. Overall, while



the National Scholarship Scheme represents a crucial step towards promoting inclusivity in higher education, ongoing efforts and collaboration across stakeholders are essential to maximize its impact and facilitate meaningful opportunities for SC students.

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