

Departmental educational schemes and their reach to the Scheduled Castes of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract-

In 1935, with the recognition of Scheduled Castes as an oppressed community, various efforts were initiated to bring them into the mainstream of society. Providing communal elections in the Legislative Assemblies was the first important step in these efforts. After 1947, due to the efforts to end caste discrimination, untouchability prevention law, promotion of social justice and implementation of reservation system, their situation changed a lot. 16 percent of the country's population is of Scheduled Castes¹. Their backwardness has a direct impact on the development of the country. Therefore, the Central and State Governments start many schemes from time to time for the development of Scheduled Castes. Like all the states, the Chhattisgarh Government also runs many schemes through the Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department, in which educational schemes are prominent. In this study, we will study how many people of Scheduled Castes have access or informed about these schemes.

Keywords- Scheduled Caste, Development Schemes, Backwardness, Society etc.

Introduction-

Education is very important for helping India grow and become better, especially for groups called the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the past, these groups didn't get many of the rights that others had, and education was hard for them to access. When the British ruled India, the Industrial Revolution started in the West, bringing new technologies and ways of communicating quickly. These changes, along with social movements, started to change Indian society's old ways. Later, India fought for independence and became an independent country. The new government promised to take care of all people equally and fairly, especially those who had been treated unfairly before, like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women. The Constitution of India created special programs to help these groups, especially in three areas: education, employment, and politics. After India has been independent for 50 years and tried different programs to help these groups, it's important to see what has been achieved. Since education can bring about big positive changes, it's useful to look at how much progress has been made in educating these groups. In this analysis, we focus on the Scheduled Castes. Education has helped bring change.

Major Educational Schemes for SCs in Chhattisgarh-

The population of scheduled castes in Chhattisgarh is around 16 percent of the total population. Like other states, in Chhattisgarh too the scheduled castes are socially,

economically and politically backward. Like other states of the country, in Chhattisgarh too, the Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department was formed for the development of Scheduled Castes with the establishment of the state. The department runs development programs for Scheduled Castes through various schemes. Most of these schemes are educational, the main ones among which are-

1. Mukhyamantri Bal Bhavishya Suraksha Yojana-

Those districts of the state which are affected by severe Naxalite problem. In those districts affected by Naxalite problem where children are living in adverse conditions, this scheme was started in the year 2010 for the all-round development of children. Under this scheme, children are provided education, housing, sports and entertainment facilities at one place. This scheme is being operated mainly in the scheduled areas of Chhattisgarh. In the financial year 2010-11, a budget of Rs 2 crore was provisioned for this scheme. In the year 2020-21, a provision of Rs 34.20 crore was made for this scheme. There are four components of this scheme 1. Aastha, 2. Nishtha, 3. Prayas, 4. Sahayog²

2. Late Rajiv Gandhi Bal Bhavishya Suraksha Prayas Residential School –

Efforts are made to enable the students of all scheduled areas of the state as well as Naxal-affected districts situated in general areas and tribal sub-plan areas to succeed on the basis of their talent by providing them coaching for engineering, medical, CA, CLAT and NTSC etc. along with studies from class 9th to 12th level.³

3. Scheme for Free Study in B.Sc. Nursing Course-

This program was started in 2009. It helps to bear the cost of boarding and lodging in school for 400 students studying nursing. This includes 155 students from the Scheduled Caste group and 245 students from the Scheduled Tribe group. Every year, students are selected by the Director of Medical Education on the basis of their grades. In 2020-21, the program had a budget of Rs 8.78 crore to assist these students.⁴

4. Hospitality and Hotel Management Training-

In 2006, the state government created a special program to help students from certain groups learn about jobs like becoming air hostesses, working in aviation, or managing hotels. In 2013, they renamed this program to “Hospitality and Hotel Management.” Now, students in this program can receive training to help them prepare themselves for these jobs. Every year, their goal is to train 100 students. In the past five years, 300 students from the SC group and 155 students from the ST group have completed their training through this program.⁵

5. Hostel Ashram Scheme-

The department has established 341 hostels for pre-matric and 90 hostels for post-matric for scheduled castes along with 51 ashrams in which a total of 25707 seats have been approved. Students admitted in these hostels and ashrams are being paid a scholarship of Rs 1000 per month. A provision of Rs 17.42 crore has been made for this scholarship in the year 2020-21. And many more.⁶

Research Methodology & Result-

Under this research paper, the ground reach of the schemes run by the Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department of Chhattisgarh state for the development of Scheduled Castes in Bilaspur district has been studied. Schemes run by other departments in the district for the development of Scheduled Castes such as the Chief Minister Shramik 'Auzaar Sahayata Yojana' run by the Labor Department, in which workers working in the unorganized sector are provided tools for free according to their work. Swavalambhi Yojana run by the Women and Child Development Department in which assistance grant is provided for starting one's own business. Yuva Protsahan Yojana and Basic Yojana run by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department. Scheduled Caste development programs run by other departments will not be included in this study.

For this research, data was collected through a questionnaire using stratified random sampling. In which 120 respondents were selected from four development blocks Bilha, Kota, Takhatpur and Masturi of Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state and they were asked to fill the questionnaire and the answers were shown through percentage.

In this survey, we asked them a total of twelve different questions, closed ended and open-ended questions. The first question was whether you know about the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme? In which 46.16 percent people said that they are aware of this scheme. While 53.84 percent people said that they have no information about this scheme. The second question asked whether anyone in your family gets this? In which 30.77 percent people said that at least one member in their family is getting the benefit of this scheme. While 69.23 percent people said that no one in their family gets the benefit of this scheme (Graph 1). The third question was, do you know about the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme? In which 53.85 percent people accepted that they are aware of this scheme while 46.15 percent people said that they have no information about it. When the fourth question was asked, does anyone in your family get this? Then 38.46 percent people said that some member of their family gets the benefit of this scheme. Whereas 61.54 percent people said that no one in their family is getting the benefit of this scheme (Graph 2). The fifth question was asked, do you know about the Hospitality and Hotel Management Training Scheme? In which 15.38 percent people said that they are aware of this scheme while 84.62 percent people said that they have no information about this scheme. The next question related to this was asked, has anyone in your family received training from the Hospitality and Hotel Management Training Scheme? In response to which 100 percent people said that no one in their family is taking advantage of this scheme (Graph 3). The seventh question was asked whether you are aware of the free study facility scheme in nursing course? In which 100 percent people answered that they are not aware of this scheme. The next question related to this question was asked whether anyone in your family has received training in nursing course through free study facility scheme? In which no person gave a positive answer. The ninth question was asked whether you are aware of the student welfare scheme? In the answer to this question, it was found that no respondent has any information about this scheme and in the tenth question related to this, it was asked whether anyone in your family is taking advantage of the student welfare scheme? In this also, 100 percent of the respondents are not getting the benefit of this scheme in their family. The eleventh question was asked whether you are aware of the pre-examination training center? In response to this question, 84.62 percent of the respondents said that they are not aware of

this scheme. Whereas 15.38 percent people said that they are aware of this scheme. But to the other question related to this, which asked whether anybody in your family is taking advantage of the Pre-Examination Training Centre Scheme, no respondent gave a positive answer.

Conclusion-

Although the sample size of this research was small, we conducted this research despite limited resources. In this research, we found that not more than 50 percent of the Scheduled Caste members are aware of any major scheme of the department, except the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. For example, if we take the Hospitality and Hotel Management Training Scheme, only 15 percent of the Scheduled Caste people are aware of it, 85 percent have no information. In such circumstances, the people of Scheduled Castes will not be able to take full advantage of the schemes being run for the development of Scheduled Castes. The administration should widely publicize the schemes being run for the development of Scheduled Castes so that information about these schemes can be easily accessible to all people. Extensive provisions should be made for this in schools, colleges and panchayats

Table 1

Do you know about the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
whether anyone in your family gets this

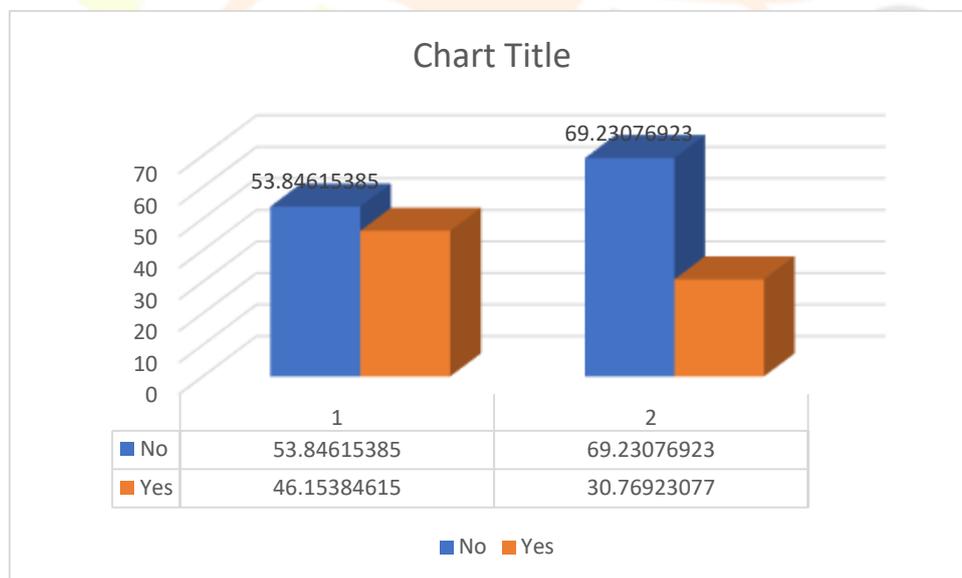


Table 2

Do you know about the Pro-Matric Scholarship Scheme
whether anyone in your family gets this

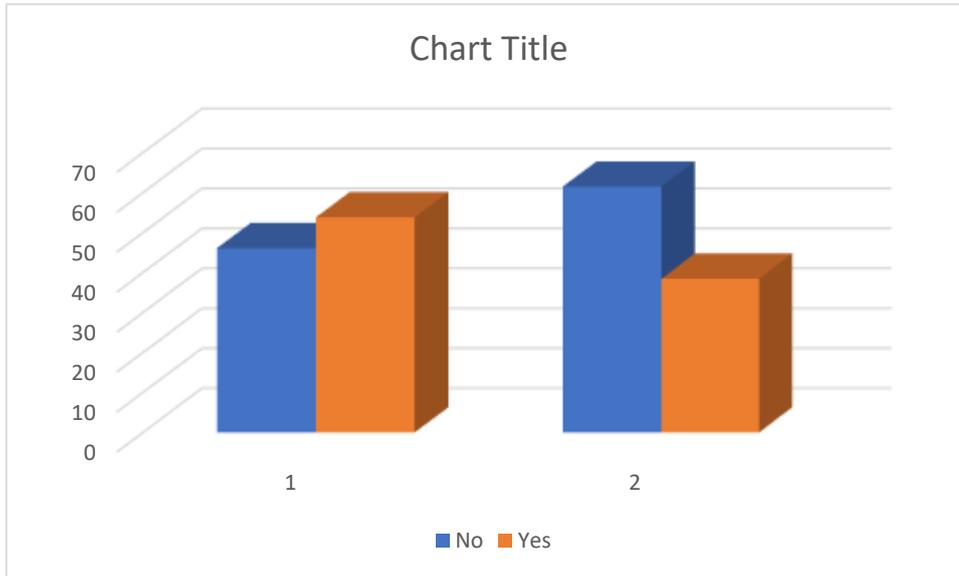
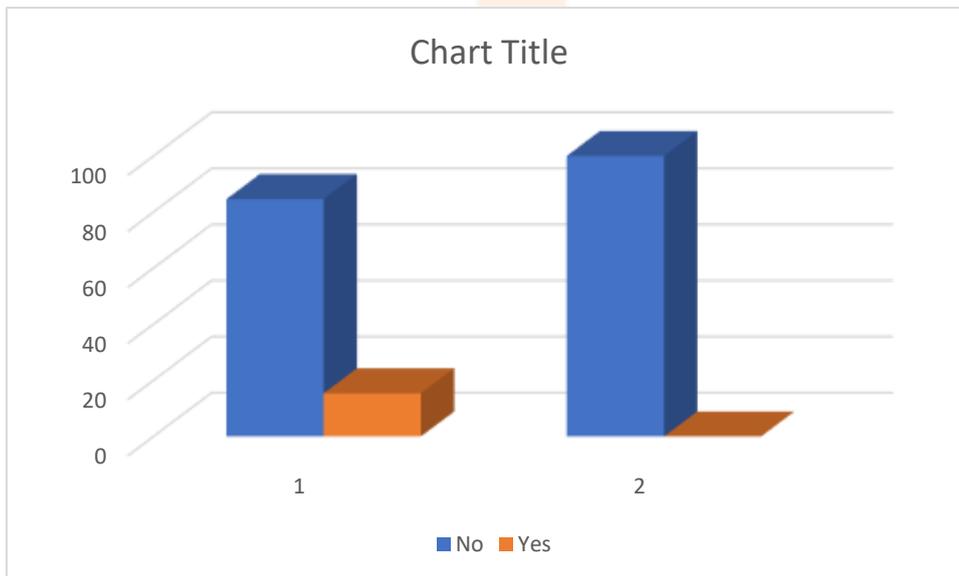


Table 3

Do you know about the Hotel Management Training Scheme
whether anyone in your family gets this



Reference

1. Census 2011. See it- <https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/>
2. Departmental Administrative report 2024-25, Scheduled tribe and Scheduled caste development Department Chhattisgarh.
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