

# A Study on the Effectiveness of Landless Rehabilitation Scheme among Scheduled Caste

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**Abstract :** Scheduled Castes are an officially recognised group of historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities in India who were once known as ‘untouchables’. Social welfare schemes are designed to uplift Scheduled Castes by providing financial assistance, promoting entrepreneurship, and ensuring access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and housing. In India, as per Census 2011, the population of SC is 16.6 per cent. The Scheduled Caste population of Kerala is 3,039,573 persons constituting 9.10 per cent of the total population of the State. This study seeks to investigate the effectiveness of the Landless Rehabilitation Scheme in Alangad Gramapanchayat. The study also takes into account problems faced by the respondents in accessing the scheme..

Key words- Landless Rehabilitation Scheme, Scheduled Caste, Effectiveness, Challenges.

## INTRODUCTION

Scheduled caste face deep-rooted social,economic and political marginalisation in Kerala. Likewise scheduled castes in Alangad Panchayat face social and economic disadvantages despite government welfare schemes aimed at their upliftment. The Landless Rehabilitation Scheme is defined as a government initiative aimed at providing land to landless Scheduled Caste families for housing and livelihood purposes. The scheme seeks to improve their living conditions and enhance economic security by enabling them to own land. This study seeks to investigate the socio-economic changes brought about by the Landless Rehabilitation Scheme among the Scheduled Castes in Alangad Panchayat.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To evaluate the effectiveness of Landless Rehabilitation Scheme among Scheduled Caste in Alangad Panchayat.
- To understand problems faced by the respondents in accessing Landless Rehabilitation Scheme.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study is based on primary data, the data was collected from Alangad Gramapanchayat through a structured interview schedule. From the study area, 50 samples are taken. Data is analysed by using descriptive statistics.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Singh (2018)** examined the impact of welfare schemes on the educational status of Scheduled Castes in rural Punjab. The study found that although governments have introduced numerous welfare programmes and allocated significant funds to improve the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes, the actual transformation in their social and educational status remains limited.

**Chandra (2018)** in his study aims to assess the functioning of major welfare schemes such as IAY, PDS, and pension programmes and their role in improving the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste households in Uttar Pradesh. However, the findings reveal significant gaps between policy objectives and actual implementation, mainly due to administrative inefficiencies, leakages, and corruption at the grassroots level.

**Singh (2022)** examines the socio-economic impact of initiatives aimed at reducing disparities between SCs and the broader population, particularly in a state with the highest proportion of Dalits in India. The study point out that the role of Dalit political assertion and participation is recognized as a factor in shaping the design and effectiveness of welfare schemes in the state.

**Kumar (2022)** in his study conducted research on the structure and implementation of welfare and development schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in India. His study examines the allocation of central assistance funds and the classification of welfare schemes into four major sectors like Educational Development, Economic Development, Social Empowerment, and Rehabilitation. The research highlights that these schemes are designed to improve the socio-economic status and living conditions of the SC community.

**Kumar and Kumar(2025)** in his study highlight that government welfare schemes play a significant role in promoting the socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste (SC) women in India. This study indicates that educational scholarships, reservation policies, and skill development programmes have improved literacy levels, higher education access, and employment opportunities among SC women.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

**Table 1- AWARENESS ABOUT THE SCHEME**

| Awareness level | Highly aware | Partially aware | Not aware |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Frequency       | 15           | 29              | 6         |
| Percentage      | 30           | 58              | 12        |

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows awareness of respondents about the Landless Rehabilitation Scheme. 30 percent of respondents are highly aware about Landless Rehabilitation Scheme. More than half of respondents that is 58 percent, are partially aware about the scheme. This indicates that many respondents have a low level of awareness about the scheme.

**Table 2- TIMELINES OF BENEFITS DELIVERY**

| Satisfaction level | Highly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Highly Dissatisfied |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|---------------------|
| Frequency          | 4                | 12        | 30      | 4            | 0                   |
| Percentage         | 8                | 24        | 60      | 8            | 0                   |

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows timeliness of benefit delivery. Majority of respondents have neutral level satisfaction about Landless Rehabilitation Scheme. Only 8 percent of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in receiving benefits under the scheme.

**Table 3- SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES OF LANDLESS REHABILITATION SCHEME**

| Socio-economic changes                  | Very low | Low    | Moderate | High   | Very High |
|---|----------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Asset creation & economic activity      | 0        | 0      | 25(50)   | 15(30) | 10(20)    |
| Poverty alleviation & income generation | 0        | 5(10)  | 10(20)   | 35(70) | 0         |
| Improved quality of life                | 5(10)    | 25(60) | 15(30)   | 5(10)  | 0         |

|                                |       |        |        |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
|                                |       |        |        |       |       |
| Social empowerment & inclusion | 0     | 30(60) | 10(20) | 5(10) | 5(10) |
| Sustainable livelihood         | 5(10) | 20(40) | 25(50) | 0     | 0     |

Source: Primary Data

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage)

Table 3 shows the Landless Rehabilitation Scheme and its impact on socio-economic changes among the respondents. Half of the respondents opined a moderate level improvement in asset creation and economic activity. The data indicates that 70 percent of the respondents reported a high level of improvement in poverty alleviation and income generation, while 10 percent of the respondents stated that the improvement in quality of life is very low.

**Table 4- SOURCE OF AWARENESS ABOUT SCHEMES**

| Sources of Awareness | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Panchayat            | 43                    | 86         |
| Friends/ Relatives   | 5                     | 10         |
| Social Media         | 0                     | 0          |
| Officials            | 2                     | 4          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>50</b>             | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows the classification based on the source of awareness about the scheme. From the data, 86 percent of the respondents opined that the Panchayat is the main source of awareness about Landless Rehabilitation Scheme. 10 percent of the respondents became aware of the schemes through friends and relatives. Only 4 percent of the respondents are aware of the schemes through officials. No respondents reported social media as a source of awareness.

**Table 5- MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS**

| Major Challenges     | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Lack of Information  | 17                    | 34         |
| Complex Procedure    | 16                    | 32         |
| Delays in Processing | 11                    | 22         |
| Corruption           | 6                     | 12         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>50</b>             | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 shows the major challenges faced by the respondents in accessing the scheme. The data indicates that 34 percent of the respondents reported lack of information as the major challenge. Complex procedure, delays in processing and corruption are reported by 32 percent, 22 percent and 12 percent of respondents respectively.

**Table 6- SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LANDLESS REHABILITATION SCHEME**

| Socio-economic Impact | Number of Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Yes                   | 33                    | 66         |
| No                    | 8                     | 16         |
| To some extent        | 9                     | 18         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>50</b>             | <b>100</b> |

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 shows the socio-economic impact of the Landless Rehabilitation Scheme. The data shows that 66 percent of the respondents stated that the scheme has a positive socio-economic impact, while 18 percent of the respondents reported that the schemes have an impact only to some extent. Meanwhile, 16 percent of the respondents stated that there is no socio-economic benefit from the scheme.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study examined the socio-economic changes of Scheduled Caste households in Alangad Panchayat. The study found out that awareness about the scheme is relatively low among the respondents. As a result, the benefits of these schemes do not fully reach all eligible beneficiaries. The study also identifies several problems such as lack of awareness, procedural difficulties, corruption and processing delay. These factors act as hindrances to avail the scheme and it also limits the effective implementation of welfare programmes at the grassroots level. Welfare schemes have played an important role in improving the socio-economic status of Scheduled Caste households in Kerala, however, greater efforts are needed to increase awareness, improve service delivery, and ensure that the benefits reach all eligible individuals. Strengthening outreach programmes and simplifying administrative procedures can further enhance the effectiveness of these welfare initiatives.

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