

Assessment of SCSP and TSP Schemes of Central Ministries/Departments and Impact on Human Development indicators of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to suggest way forward.

I. Outline of the Study

Despite Constitutional directives and a number of legislative and executive measures taken by the Government since independence, there are large gaps between the living conditions of the general population and those of SCs and STs. Successive Five Year Plans have attempted to reduce these gaps and while there is some evidence of convergence, the gaps still remain at a level that is unacceptably high. The human development indicators of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remained almost two decades below the general HDI due to various reasons. Considering the inclusive backwardness of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes the strategies of Tribal Sub Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan were introduced during 1976 and 1979.

Planning Commission issued guidelines in the year 2006 to central Ministries/Departments to earmark funds in-proportion to the percentage of SC & ST population and formulate, implement and monitor the schemes for empowerment of SCs and STs. A Task Force was constituted to review the operational difficulties in implementing SCSP & TSP. Task Force recommended for various measures and revised guidelines were issued in the year 2010 to Central Ministries/Departments. Controller General of Accounts had issued instructions for opening of omnibus Minor Heads '789-Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes' and '796-Scheduled Tribe Sub Plans'. The process of earmarking funds under SCSP and TSP has already been initiated during 2011-12. Planning Commission and the Central Ministries/Departments have started indicating earmarked allocation under SCSP/TSP in the Statement of Budget Estimates jointly signed by the Planning Commission and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

II. Purpose of the Study

To understand the implementation and monitoring mechanism adopted by the Central Ministries/Departments and ensure that the benefits are reaching to the needy SC and ST individuals, households and their habitats.

III. The Scope and Extent of the Study

The study needs to undertake various activities of Central Ministries/Departments which are implementing schemes and programmes under SCSP & TSP and their social auditing on all human development indicators needs to be conducted. Further, study needs to make analysis of other schemes implemented by No-Obligation category Ministries/Departments where SC & ST Communities can also be benefitted.

IV. The socio-economic usefulness of the Study

The study would provide inputs to understand working of SCSP & TSP guidelines and existing schemes of Central Ministries/Departments, modifications required to be made in the existing guidelines and schemes to ensure inclusive empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

New Approach to mainstream vulnerable sections in education, employment & economic activities

I. Outline of the Study

Large number of programmes are being implemented under Central Sector & Centrally Sponsored Schemes for empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Beggars, Nomadic & De-notified Tribes, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and the Victims of Substance Abuse in the country, however, the desired result is yet to be achieved, contemporarily the poverty, backwardness, exploitation of these vulnerable sections are increasing day by day.

It is general understanding that the education plays significant role in changing the livelihood status of a person, family and society, education empowers to acquire knowledge and skills intern it enables to acquire decent livelihood and economically empowers, economic empowerment pave the way for recognition in the society and enables individual, family and society to lead life on-par with mainstream society.

II. Purpose of the Study

To understand the difficulties and constraints in implementation and monitoring mechanism adopted by the Central Ministries/Departments and to streamline the existing mechanism of delivery and ensure that the benefits would directly reach the needy persons of vulnerable sections of the society.

III. The Scope and Extent of the Study

The study needs to make in-depth analysis and social auditing of various activities of Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT programmes including CS and CSS schemes. Further study needs to make analysis of other schemes implemented by NGOs and VOs for the benefit of vulnerable sections of the society.

IV. The socio-economic usefulness of the study

The study would provide inputs to make needful changes in the existing policies and programmes meant for the vulnerable sections, especially in the field of education, employment and economic development.

New Strategy for Empowerment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and Marginal Communities among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs.

I. Outline of the Study

Government of India officially recognized certain castes / sub-castes and communities to extend benefits by giving reservation in education, employment, politics and economic development on the basis of population percentage of SC, ST, OBC (Including Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities) and Persons with Disabilities. There are nearly 1200 Scheduled Castes constitutes around 16.64%. Similarly 600 Communities as Scheduled Tribes including 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) constitutes around 8.62% of total population of India. The Mandal Commission covered more than 3000 castes under OBC category and stated that OBCs form around 52% of the Indian population. The National Sample Survey puts the figure at 32%. 749 Communities were recognized as Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and De-Notified Communities and many of these communities have found place in SC / ST / OBCs lists.

It is visible fact that the Government of India has recognized around 5549 castes and tribes as SCs, STs and OBCs out of which only certain percentage of dominant castes and tribes among SCs, STs and OBCs have secured most of the Government benefits. Approximately 80% of marginal SCs, STs and OBCs do not know what is reservation and what benefits they can get, many of the marginal groups are still in the primitive stage as Small farmers, Agricultural Labourers, daily wagers, construction workers, contract labourers etc., and many of Nomadic and Semi Nomadic and De-notified communities are leading their life as Rag Pickers, Road Side Vendors, Beggars and even some of them were forced to involve in anti-social activities for their survival. Hence necessary changes in the existing schemes to deliver the benefits to the last person of the society should be the prime objective.

II. Purpose of the Study

To know the extent of benefit secured by the marginal and vulnerable communities among SCs, STs and OBCs and analyze their human development indicators and streamline the existing mechanism of schemes formulation, implementation and delivery and in addition to ensure that the benefits would directly reach the needy persons of vulnerable sections of the society.

III. The Scope and Extent of the Study

The study needs to comparatively analyze existing benefit delivery system and assess the position of marginal & vulnerable communities in availing the economic, educational, employment and social safeguards provided under constitutional and other legal frame work.

IV. The socio-economic usefulness of the study

The study would provide inputs to make needful changes in the existing policies and programmes meant for the vulnerable sections, especially to achieve the objective more inclusive growth of last persons of the society and ensure egalitarian socio-economic, educational and employment status for all.