



EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN TAMIL NADU

Dr. P. SRIDHAR

Guest Lecturer

Department of History

Government Arts College Autonomous

Salem - 7

Dr. M. PETCHIAMMAL

Assistant Professor

Department of History

Christopher Arts & Science College (Women)

Soorangudi, Nanguneri Taluk, Tirunelveli - 627 108

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to highlight the educational development of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu. Education is a valuable tool for economic and political change in a country. Education is not something that economic development can provide; Business development is the training provided, which is the knowledge of the old business. In Tamil Nadu, utmost importance is given to improving the education of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to attain the level of citizens of the state. Learning results become better due to the use of various programs.

INTRODUCTION

According to the 2011 census, the number of scheduled tribes was 8.6% of the country's total population. The Indian Constitution emphasizes the need for special efforts to improve the condition of the economically and socially backward sections of the society as a whole, including the Scheduled Tribes. Details of the number of Scheduled Tribes in India as per the 2011 Census are given in the table below.

Details of Scheduled Tribes Population in India as per 2011 census

| Year | STs population (incrores) | | Growth rate (in percent) | Percentage of STs to the total population |
|--------|---------------------------|-------|--------------------------|---|
| | 2001 | 2011 | | |
| Person | 8.43 | 10.43 | 23.70 | 8.6 |
| Male | 4.26 | 5.24 | 22.90 | 8.4 |
| Female | 4.17 | 5.19 | 24.40 | 8.8 |

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 2013

Looking at the table above, you can see that the total population of designated tribes showed a growth rate of 23.70% from 8.43 billion in 2001 to 10.43 billion in 2011. As of the 2011 census, they accounted for 8.6% of India's total population. The male population increased from 4.26 billion in 2001 to 5.24 billion in 2011. In 2001, the female population was 4.17 billion. In 2011, it increased to \$5.19 billion. Between 2001 and 2011, the tribe's population increased 23.7 percent. In the designated tribal categories, the male population was higher than the female population, but the growth rate was lower than that of the female population. Lack of motivation and awareness, social unrest, and bureaucratic red tape reduce school attendance. Irula Sangams Tribal Women Welfare Association spends a lot of time helping Irula students obtain caste certificates, which are mandatory after meeting six standard criteria. In addition to frequent migrations, children are valuable members of hunting, gathering, begging, and trading teams. In some areas, the administration opened boarding schools for tribal children. In Mandaparai, Jawadhi, Andipatti, and Nilgiri, five teachers are officially employed in the school but only one visiting teacher. The nearest source of drinking water in Kolly Hills is a few kilometers away. Students who come to school late must walk with a water bottle from morning to evening and miss school for one day. The mid-day meal scheme, which provides free lunch to all public-school students, has had limited impact on tribal children due to low school attendance.

To reward those who scored well in the government higher secondary examinations, a total of Rs 1,500 was initially given to each of 1,000 boys and 1,000 girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Scheduled Castes who converted to Christianity and received higher education. Since 1996, the award has been presented to each student annually for five years. During 1996-97, Rs 36.00 lakh was disbursed to 578 beneficiaries and during 2006-07, Rs 64.89 lakh was disbursed to 3370 beneficiaries. This system reduces the financial burden on parents and helps students purchase the books they need for college studies.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Computer education hitherto meant for the higher castes and affluent society was made available to the downtrodden in 1996 by Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha (1996-2001). For the first time, computer education, as one of the subjects in the Higher Secondary School was introduced in 51 Higher Secondary Schools and 9 High Schools at the cost of Rs. 180.00 lakhs during 1996.

In the Legislative Assembly Debate, Mrs.R.Sasikala, MLA of Krishnarayapuram Constituency said that during 2004-2005, in Computer Education 99.8 % of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students succeeded in the Higher Secondary Examination. During 2006-2007, 62 Higher Secondary Schools and 30 High Schools including 8 Government Tribal Residential Higher Secondary Schools and 3 Government Tribal Residential High Schools were provided with Computer facilities.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Under this scheme, cash prizes were awarded to students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Christian Converts who scored at least 60% in degree, postgraduate, and professional courses exams. 1988. Thus, during 1999-2000, cash rewards are ranging from Rs.2000 to Rs.5000 were distributed to 550 undergraduate and 590 undergraduate students.

Chief Minister J.Jayalalitha (2001-2006) who was very much concerned about the educational development of girl students, especially in rural areas, announced the laudable scheme of supply of free bicycles to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste Convert to Christianity Scheduled Tribe girl students studying in XI and XII Standards. On 25th July 2001 and distributed on 15th September 2001, the 93rd birth anniversary day of Anna. It reduces the dropouts of +1 and +2 level, who traveled a long distance to attend the school and also village and slum poor girls were immensely benefited by this scheme. The State level and District level Awards given to the Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribes students encouraged them in their studies and paved the way for getting a place in Higher Educational institutions and jobs after the completion of their studies. Merit-cum-Means award based on Gandhi Memorial Award was sanctioned to one boy, and one girl belonging to Scheduled

Tribe and Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity students from each community in each district from 1970. Two Boys and Two Girls from among each group viz. the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity, and Scheduled Tribe, who secured the highest marks in the S.S.L.C (Standard X) examination in each district were selected under this scheme to pursue their higher studies since 1971.

SCHEMES

TEXTBOOK AND UNIFORMS

To encourage education, students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were given textbooks, notebooks, slates, and uniforms free of cost from 1934. For Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students, studying in schools run by School Education Department, free textbooks were supplied to students studying IX and X Standards, and free notebooks were supplied to students studying in Standards IV to X. During 1996-1997, textbooks and notebooks were supplied to the students in Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools and Government Tribal Residential Schools at the cost of Rs.800 lakhs while during 2006-2007 a sum of Rs.1440 lakhs was spent for this scheme. Two sets of free uniforms were given annually to all students studying in Standards I to XII in Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools and all students residing in Adi Dravidar Welfare Hostels. Since 2003, uniforms blended with cotton and polyester were supplied to all Scheduled Caste \ Scheduled Tribes students. From the year 2004, unstitched uniform cloth, along with stitching charges was given to the students, to enable them to stitch it according to their size. A sum of Rs. 11.00 crores was provided during 2006-2007 for this purpose.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Government of India introduced an overseas scholarship scheme for the educational upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students during 1954-55. State Level Awards were given to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe Students from 1968 to 1969. District Level Awards were given to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe Students from 1968 to 1969.

FEEES CONCESSIONS

The Government of India introduced certain educational concessions to the Scheduled Caste Students for their betterment. According to No.92 of the Madras Educational Rules 1946, the Scheduled Caste students studying from IStd. to V Std, were provided with half-fee concessions. In a modification of these provisions, the Government of India granted full fee concession to all the Scheduled Caste students for ten years from 1948 without any income limit. Further free education was provided up to degree level to students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities from 1989. Concession of exemption from the payment of tuition fees was extended to Scheduled Caste students and scheduled tribes up to the Post Graduate level from the academic year 2001-2002. The pre-Matric Scholarship (Government of India Scheme) scheme was introduced in 1949 to encourage Scheduled Caste students to gain a free education in Government Schools. As such the Scheduled Caste\Scheduled Tribe\Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity students studying in standards VI to X were exempted from the payment of special fees.

HOSTEL FACILITIES

The low literacy level of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe was the inability of the students to continue their education in places other than their hometown. This was because of the absence of inexpensive hostels. The hostel facilities were, therefore, provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who came from remote villages. Every year, new hostels were opened based on the needs of the students and the financial resources available. The first hostel for the Scheduled Caste was started on 1st December 1923 with 34 students in Madras by the British Government.

During 1996 there were 1045 hostels for SC with a total strength of 73130 borders. In 2001, Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha (2001-2006) announced the policy decision of housing for all the Adi Dravidar Welfare

Hostels functioning in rented buildings to function only at Government buildings. Accordingly, sanction was accorded for the construction of 493 hostels at the cost of Rs. 155.30 crores, and 264 hostel works were completed by 200573. The number of hostels and beneficiaries increased subsequently, and during 2006-2007 there were 1178 hostels with a strength of 80336.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

Recognizing that education provides opportunities for a permanent change in the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Caste and Tribal people, the Government of Tamil Nadu gave top priority to education. Hence the sum of Rs.267.39 crores provided in the Budget during 1996-1997 was increased to a sum of Rs.565.05 crores in the Budget for 2006-2007. More than 70% of fund allocation was earmarked for schemes related to the education of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes students of residential schools. The Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department were running 1048 Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools and 283 Tribal Residential Schools during 2006-07. Regarding Tribal Residential Schools, five primary schools were upgraded to middle schools, one middle school to a high school, and one high school to a higher secondary school. Further, 13 Government Tribal Residential Primary Schools were upgraded to middle schools under the Education for All scheme during 2004-2005.

CONCLUSION

The welfare measures introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes people had improved their socio-economic status in Tamil Nadu. In the field of education, the establishment of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes schools, up-gradation of the schools to a higher level, merit scholarship awards to the rank holder, the establishment of free hostels, reservation policy in the educational institutions and employment opportunities encouraged the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes people to raise their standard of living.

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