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WELFARE MEASURES FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES IN NAMAKKAL DISTRICT

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Abstract

The Welfare Measures for Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal District have been a topic of interest for Policy Makers, Researchers, and Development Practitioners alike. Namakkal is a district located in the Western Part of Tamil Nadu, India, which is home to a significant number of tribal communities. Historically, these communities have been Marginalized and Excluded from the mainstream development process, leading to their socio-economic backwardness. In recent years, the government has undertaken several welfare measures to address the needs of Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal district. These measures include Land Allotment, Education and Skill Development Program, Healthcare Services, Financial Assistance, and Housing Schemes. The aim of these measures is to improve the quality of life of Tribal Communities by providing them with the necessary Resources and Opportunities for their overall development. Despite the government's efforts, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. These Challenges include the lack of awareness among tribal communities about government schemes, inadequate infrastructure in tribal areas, and the need for greater participation of tribal communities in decision-making processes. In the welfare measures for Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal district have shown some positive outcomes, but there is Still a long way to go. The government needs to work in collaboration with Tribal Communities and other stakeholders to address the existing challenges and to ensure that these measures are Effective and Sustainable in the long run. the scheduled Tribes in Namakkal District.

Keywords: Education, Healthcare, Livelihood, Housing, Skill Development, Employment.

Introduction

Namakkal district is located in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and has a significant population of Scheduled Tribes (STs). The Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal District face numerous challenges, including poverty, lack of education, health problems, and social

discrimination. To address these issues, the government has implemented various welfare measures for Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal District. One of the primary welfare measures for STs in Namakkal district is the provision of educational facilities. The government provides free education to ST students up to the secondary level, and scholarships are provided for higher education. The government also provides residential schools and hostels for ST students to ensure that they have access to education. Another important welfare measure for STs in Namakkal district is the provision of health care facilities. The government provides free health care services and medicines to STs in government hospitals and dispensaries. The government also conducts health camps in ST areas to provide medical assistance to those who cannot access hospitals easily. To promote the economic development of STs in Namakkal district, the government has implemented various schemes and program. The government provides financial assistance to STs for starting small businesses and self-employment ventures. The government also provides training and skill development program to help STs acquire new skills and enhance their employability. Apart from these measures, the government has also implemented various social welfare measures for STs in Namakkal district. The government provides financial assistance to ST families for marriage and other family events. The government also provides housing facilities to ST families living in slums and other substandard housing. In conclusion, the government has implemented various welfare measures for Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal district to address the challenges faced by this marginalized community. These measures aim to provide access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, and improve their overall quality of life.

Welfare Measures for Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal District

A Welfare Measures or social welfare system is a Programme that offers financial assistance to people or families in need within a society. Social welfare Programmes are often fully or partially supported by the government and are intended to help people with expenses like food, housing, healthcare, and childcare. (Social Welfare System -Overview, How It Works, Examples, n.d.) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in India and the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu are principally in charge of carrying out Tribal Welfare Policies in their District. Other ministries administer a variety of benefit schemes through different channels within Tamil Nadu, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs offers a number of welfare schemes to state governments throughout the world. The two nodal agencies' primary

duties include the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act preventive measures Programmes, the social inclusion policy in public Employment and Education, and Plans for the educational, Economic, and Social development of the Scheduled Tribes. As a centrally funded programme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is in charge of most of these initiatives, which are mostly carried out by state governments, federal, provincial, and nonprofit organizations. Under each Five-Year Plan, it was envisioned that the tribal would benefit proportionately from various Programmes and projects. The concept of development was welcomed for the tribal territories, with a focus on the growth.

Education Measures

The Tamil Nadu government, along with the Central Government of India, offers financial assistance to Scheduled Tribe students through scholarship schemes. These schemes aim to bridge the financial gap and encourage ST students to pursue education at all levels. This scholarship is provided to the children of people engaged in unsanitary occupations and professions that are prone to health hazards like cleaners, tanners, waste collectors, irrespective of their religion, caste and income. Students studying from 1st to 10th standard in recognized educational institutes are eligible for this scholarship. Children of Indian nationals engaged in manual scavenging or cleaning work (including sweeping and cleaning of septic tanks) are eligible. Children of parents involved in animal tanning and skinning are also covered.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools. The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are fully-funded schools for ST students. The schools provide free education, accommodation, and food to students from class 6 to class 12. EMRS are strategically located in areas with a high concentration of tribal populations. To ensure wider access, the government aims to have an EMRS in every block with over 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal people. EMRS covers all educational expenses, including tuition, books, uniforms, and hostel fees. Schools provide well-equipped classrooms, libraries, science labs, and computer facilities. Students receive regular medical checkups and access to healthcare facilities. EMRS students are eligible for various scholarships to support their education beyond Class XII. The EMRS program continues to grow, aiming to bridge the educational divide and empower tribal youth in India. By providing quality education and a supportive environment, EMRS is paving the way for a brighter future for generations of tribal students.

Hostels

The hostels provide subsidized accommodation and sometimes meals, significantly reducing the financial burden on tribal families. Students from remote villages can access educational institutions located in urban or developed areas. Hostels provide a safe and secure living environment, especially for girls. Students can interact with peers from similar backgrounds, fostering a sense of community and reducing feelings of isolation. Some hostels might offer additional facilities like libraries, computer labs, or study areas, aiding academic success.

National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe Students: The National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe Students is a centrally sponsored scheme that provides financial assistance to ST Students who are pursuing M.Phil. or Ph.D. in any recognized university or institute in India. Ashram Schools, the government has established Ashram Schools in remote and tribal areas to provide education to ST children. These schools provide free education, accommodation, and food to students.

Economic Measures

In the Namakkal district or any region, economic measures for scheduled tribes typically involve a range of interventions to improve their economic well-being and opportunities. Here are some common economic measures:

Livelihood Support Programs: Initiatives that provide training, resources, and support for traditional livelihoods such as agriculture, animal husbandry, and handicrafts. **Skill Development:** Programs focused on enhancing skills relevant to local industries and markets, including vocational training and apprenticeships. **Financial Inclusion:** Access to microfinance, credit facilities, and banking services to empower tribal communities economically. **Infrastructure Development:** Investments in infrastructure such as roads, irrigation facilities, and marketplaces to facilitate economic activities. **Entrepreneurship Development:** Support for tribal entrepreneurs through business incubation, mentorship, and access to markets. **Employment Opportunities:** Reservation in government jobs and schemes aimed at promoting employment among tribal youth. **Social Security Measures:** Programs providing social security nets like health insurance, pension schemes, and safety nets during economic downturns. Don't share sensitive info. Chats may be reviewed and used to train.

Housing Measures

Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India face various socio-economic challenges, including inadequate housing. To solve this problem, the government is implementing many welfare schemes. Some of them are: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY): This scheme provides financial assistance to eligible ST families to build a Pakka house. The scheme has two components – Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural). Indira Awas Yojana (IAY): This scheme provides financial assistance to ST families living below the poverty line to build a Pakka house. This scheme is linked to PMAY. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to DSP): This scheme provides financial assistance to the State Governments for construction of houses for ST families living below the poverty line. Tribal Development Fund (TDF): TDF provides financial assistance for construction of houses to eligible ST families

Healthcare Measures

There are several welfare measures that have been implemented for the healthcare of Scheduled Tribes in India. Some of these measures are.

National Rural Health Mission

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A) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM): The NRHM is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to the rural population, including Scheduled Tribes. Under this scheme, the government has established various healthcare facilities such as sub-centers, primary health centers, and community health centers in the remote and tribal areas.

B) Tribal Health Program (THP): The Tribal Health Program is a centrally sponsored scheme that focuses on improving the health status of the tribal population by providing comprehensive healthcare services. This program includes various activities such as health education, immunization, nutrition, and maternal and child health services.

Supply of Beehives

Beekeeping is an ancient tradition in India but in most areas it is considered a profitable venture with no investment. It is recognized as having the potential to develop into a primary

agro-Horticultural and Forestry based industry. Honey production is a profitable business that generates employment. Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu is involved in honey production and beekeepers depend only on flow season to improve their economic status. Under this scheme 10 Beehives are provided free of cost to the tribal people living in Hilly and Wild areas to increase their income through beekeeping.

Employment Measures

Self – Employment Programme

Under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) implements schemes for self-employment of Scheduled Tribes by providing concessional financial assistance to individuals or groups of STs to undertake Income Generation Activities. This financial assistance is provided to eligible STs through channeling agencies throughout India. NSTFDC's schemes are detailed below:(*Schemes for Self-Employment of Scheduled Tribes*, n.d.)

Term Loan scheme: The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) offers Term Loans for any income generation scheme that costs up to Rs.25.00 lakhs per unit. Financial assistance is provided up to 90% of the scheme's cost, with the remainder covered by a subsidy/contribution/margin promoter's money. The interest rate chargeable is 6% per annum for loan up to Rs.5 lakhs, 8% per annum for loans ranging between Rs.5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% per annum for loan exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs on the entire amount of loan.

Industrial Training Institutes

The Government of India has been implementing various welfare schemes to provide equal opportunities in education and employment to Scheduled Tribes (ST). Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are vocational training institutions that provide technical education and skill development to students. Here are some of the welfare measures for Scheduled Tribes.

Special Reservation: The government has reserved a certain percentage of seats for Schedule Tribes in ITIs. It ensures that ST candidates get admission in ITIs based on their merit.

Financial Assistance: Government provides financial assistance to scheduled tribe students to pursue technical education in ITIs. Assistance is provided in the form of scholarships, grants and loans.

Hostel Facilities: Government provides hostel facilities to tribal students in ITIs. It helps you focus on your studies and complete vocational training without worrying about accommodation.

Counseling and Guidance: Many Schedule Tribe students come from rural areas and face various

challenges adjusting to urban life. The government provides counseling and guidance to these students to help them adapt to their new environment and succeed in their studies.

Reservation

Scheduled Tribes reservation in India 7.5% per cent seats are also reserved for ST students in centrally funded higher education institutions. The same criteria are used in the case of public employment. Scheduled Tribes reservation in Tamil Nadu 1% per cent seats are also reserved for ST students in State government funded higher education institutions. The same criteria are used in the case of public employment.

Suggestion

1. Establishing and improving schools in tribal areas with adequate infrastructure and facilities.
2. Providing scholarships, grants, and financial aid to support tribal students in pursuing higher education.
3. Organizing vocational training programs to develop skills relevant to local job markets.
4. Encouraging and promoting enrollment of tribal students in schools through awareness campaigns and incentives.
5. Setting up primary healthcare centers in tribal areas, ensuring easy access to healthcare services.
6. Conducting regular health camps and check-ups for tribal communities, focusing on preventive healthcare.
7. Providing specialized healthcare services for addressing tribal-specific health issues.
8. Promoting awareness about hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition through targeted campaigns.
9. Establishing skill development centers and providing vocational training to enhance employability among tribal youth.
10. Facilitating access to micro-credit and financial support for starting small businesses.

Conclusion

Welfare measures for Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal district are crucial to ensure their socio-economic development and up lift ment. The Government and Various organizations have implemented several initiatives to promote Education, Healthcare, Employment, and other basic amenities among the Scheduled Tribes in the district. Comprehensive improvement is an idea which progresses equitable opportunities for economic participants during the course of

financial development with benefits caused by each segment of society. The welfare measures for Scheduled Tribes should create equitable opportunities to equal empowerment. We came to know the Impact of Such welfare measures through the indication of low level of poverty, health status, worldwide tribal educational development of tribal children, The welfare measures includes Integrated Tribal Development Programme Areas (ITDP), Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP), Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), The Comprehensive Rural Tribal Development Programme (CRTDP) and Self-Employment Programme of Scheduled Tribes with this all the programmes will create the great impact of tribal people. The efforts have resulted in significant progress, including increased literacy rates, improved healthcare facilities, and better livelihood opportunities. However, more needs to be done to address the challenges faced by the Scheduled Tribes, such as poverty, Discrimination, and Lack of infrastructure. Therefore, it is necessary to Continue and Strengthen the welfare measures to promote inclusive Growth and Ensure the well-being of the Scheduled Tribes in Namakkal district.

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