

**STUDY OF POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR  
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1982**

**REPEAT SURVEY**

1. **The Study**

The special scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students, instituted by the Government of India in 1944, gathered momentum with the extension of the Scheme in 1948-49 to Scheduled Tribes as well. The scheme was intended to provide financial assistance to the SC and ST students at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage so as to enable them to complete their education. The scheme, administered by the Centre till 1958-59, was entrusted with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in 1959-60 due to the increasing number of applicants for scholarships. Still, the Ministry of Education retained its control over the scheme by framing general rules and regulations and by financing it.

During the study period, scholarships were awarded to the eligible students merely on the basis of passing the last University/Board examination irrespective of the class /division obtained. Those SC and ST students whose parents/guardians were falling within the income limit prescribed (Rs.1000 per month w.e.f. July 1981) were eligible for scholarships generally for pursuing recognised post-matriculation or post-secondary courses offered by recognised institutions in the country. Students pursuing part-time or correspondence courses were not eligible. The value of scholarships included maintenance charges, compulsory non-refundable fees and expenses of approved study tours and typing/printing of thesis. Scholarships were generally awarded till the completion of the course subject to good conduct and regular attendance.

In 1974, the Ministry of Home Affairs rationalised the scheme by enhancing the rates of scholarships. The scheme was again revised in 1978 and amendments were made thereafter. At the instance of the Planning Commission, the Programme Evaluation Organisation undertook a study of the scheme in 1972 and brought out a Draft Report of the Study in 1974. A Repeat Survey was undertaken by the PEO in 1980 with a view to update the institutional level data corresponding to the reference period of the earlier study (1968-71) for the period 1976-79. The Study Report was published in 1982 in a comparative framework of both the surveys with greater stress on the 1980 findings.

## 2. Objectives

The 1972 study was organised with the following objectives:

- i) To evaluate the organisational aspects of the Scheme;
- ii) To assess its impact on the educational advancement of SC and ST Students;
- iii) To indicate how the scheme could be made more effective, properly selective and better integrated generally with the opportunities for higher education and employment.

The objectives of the Repeat Evaluation (1980) were limited to enable meaningful comparison and to identify changes, if any, in the basic parameters between the two periods.

## 3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

The sample selected for the 1972 study comprised of 175 institutions and 839 beneficiaries therefrom (569 Scheduled Caste students and 270 Scheduled Tribe students) scattered over 31 districts in 18 States. Districts were selected on the basis of the number of scholarships awarded per lakh, proportion of SCs\STs in the population and the availability of the PEO teams. Institutions were selected according to the largest number of scholarship holders for each of the courses.

The sample of institutions for the Repeat Survey was almost the same as that for the earlier round. In all, 167 institutions were surveyed during the Repeat Survey.

## 4. Reference Period

The reference period for the 1972 Study ranged between the years 1968 and 1971 and its field work was undertaken during April-October, 1972. The Repeat Study referred to the three year period, 1976-79 and its field work was conducted during the period July-August, 1980.

## 5. **Main Findings**

1. As per the 1980 study, in the selected institutions, the SC and ST students constituted about 15.5% of the total students. This figure was clearly higher than what it had been 8 years ago. The SC students were more than double the number of ST Students at the time of the repeat survey.

2. The percentage of SC and ST students pursuing post-graduate studies stood at 9.4 and 6.9 respectively in 1978-79. Though these figures were higher in comparison with their base level (1968-71 level), these were lower than the corresponding figure (12.1%) for the general category students.

3. The earlier study had shown that 9 out of 10 SC and ST students had been securing scholarships. However, the 1980 study showed that the proportion remained the same for the SC students, but it went down to 8 out of 10 in the case of ST students. Girls continued to constitute only a small proportion of the total scholarship holders. Again, arts students continued to be the major recipients of scholarships. However, the proportion of those receiving scholarships in professional courses was very low at both the points of time.

4. The percentages of failure for the selected SC and ST students were 39.7 and 31.1 respectively in the Repeat Study. Percentage failure went up by 2.6% in the case of SCs and came down by 5.7% in the case of STs during the interregnum. The figures in the case of SC students varied from 51.3% for medicine to 3.3% for agriculture during 1978-79.

5. Both the studies (the 1972 and 1980 studies) showed that stagnation was more serious a problem than drop-out of students. However, the magnitude of stagnation varied among different courses. The main factor which was reported in both the studies to be causing drop-out was that the students were discontinuing the studies as soon as they were able to secure jobs to supplement their family income. Other reported reasons for drop-outs were financial difficulties, family circumstances, lack of interest in studies and the students' inability to cope with the courses.

6. Hostel facilities were available in 77.7% of the sample institutions having SC students on roll and in 84.4% of the institutions having ST students. There was no significant change in the percentage of institutions having hostel facilities during the interval period.

While the percentage of SC students availing hostel facilities increased from 28% to 37.3% during 1976-79, the corresponding figure for ST students showed a decline of about 10%. The figures varied among different courses for both categories of students. Very few (i.e. 9 out of 130) sample institutions subsidised boarding/lodging costs. Most of the subsidised hostels (7 out of 9) were run by the government.

7. Facilities for guidance in career planning did not show any perceptible improvement during the interval period. Out of 167 sample institutions, only 11 institutions in the case of SC students and 9 in the case of ST students reported some efforts in the direction of career planning. The efforts were in the form of special coaching and provision of information on employment.

8. Regarding the criteria applied for the award of scholarships, only about two fifth of the heads of institutions expressed their satisfaction and there had been only marginal improvement in the position between the two periods.

9. The average amount of scholarship received by the hostelers (about Rs 94 to Rs.96) fell discernibly short of the average amount recommended for them by the heads of the institutions (Rs. 132 to Rs. 135). The average amount of scholarship received by the day-schoolers was Rs 52. The rates of scholarship differed widely among different courses. Delay in the sanction and disbursement of scholarship persisted during the later period as well. These were attributed to the administrative procedures involved in the processing of applications and in the release of funds.

#### 6. **Major Suggestions**

1. Guidance and assistance for career planning should be provided along with the award of scholarships.

2. Further streamlining of the scheme by the implementing Ministry is required so as to bring down procedural delays in the disbursement of scholarships.