Chapter 3
Scheduled Castes in Kerala: Welfare Schemes in Habitats & Non-Habitats

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Chapter 3

SCHEDULED CASTES IN KERALA: WELFARE SCHEMES IN HABITATS & NON-HABITATS

The evolution of SCs in Kerala through a historical perspective and the causes for their deprivation are studied here. The various welfare schemes introduced by government agencies to alleviate their problems are also summarized particularly with respect to habitats and non-habitats.

Comparatively the SCs in Kerala are leading a better social life than the SCs in other parts of India. This may be due to the commendable achievements that Kerala has achieved in the fields of social, cultural, educational activities as well as in the areas of health and land reforms. Deprivation is also much less here. But to what extent these achievements have affected the SCs, the lowest rung of the social hierarchy, is to be studied in depth. It can be seen that in the matter of socio-economic development Kerala is ahead of all other States in India, but the pattern of distribution of social and economic opportunities within the State is highly inequitable among different social groups, particularly between the SCs and the rest of the population. The SCs generally face considerable disadvantage with respect to those aspects of income earning opportunities like land holding, employment and education as well as in housing. We have to examine carefully to find the reasons for it.

3.1 Evolution of Scheduled Castes in Kerala

Kerala had a casteless society at the beginning of its history. The Aryan settlers foisted the division of the people into four well-defined
castes on Kerala society by subtle methods. They assigned to the Dravidian chieftains and merchants comparatively high position in the hierarchy of chathur-varnya granting them class occupations and encouraging them to follow the way of life of the high castes. The chieftains and rulers were made to believe that it was their sacred duty to protect the Brahmins. Though this division had a semblance of division of labour in the economic sense, it resulted in due course in degradation and subjugation of a section of the population, later called the SCs. Afterwards the system took deep root in Kerala and became a means of oppression of the lower castes. Kerala was not at all behind other Indian States, in rigidly enforcing the laws of pollution and untouchability and keeping the castes away from each other. It was the Aryans who established the principle of treating each group following a particular occupation as a separate caste and prohibited inter-marriage.

Even though the majority of the SCs lived in the plains first, some of them had migrated into the forest for various reasons later. It is also believed that they were powerful people; some of them had even emerged as rulers of the land. Being land-oriented the SCs were agricultural serifs toiling from morning to night for earning a livelihood. Sometimes they were treated as his own cattle and other animals or movable or immovable properties. Most of them lived in huts or kutchas erected on bunds of waste paddy fields, wherein they worked day and night.

3.2 Lowest Status of the Scheduled Castes - Reasons

The study of the origin of private property and accumulations of wealth leads to the economical basis for slavery in Kerala. The class
division based on field-cultivation took the form of caste division nullifying the equality of primitive communal society. Those who accumulated the greatest wealth became the highest caste and those who accumulated no wealth at all, became the lowest caste. Politically this process of the division of society into caste was facilitated or even stimulated by the Chera Empire during AD 400-500. As a social consequence the Brahmins who succeeded in establishing their superiority extended special privileges to those who supported them. In due course this division of labour on economic base, made a section of the population degraded and subjugated. Later these sections became the so-called untouchables or SCs whose lives were doomed to work in the fields of their masters. This class was sold, mortgaged and rented out. Logan described in 1887 that the slave trade transactions were done in secret for fear of penalties of sections 370 and 371 of the Indian Penal Code, which had come into force in January 1862.

3.3 Untouchability in Kerala

It is said that “unapproachability” and “unseeability” were also part of untouchability. In Kerala, the roads near certain temples like Vaikom Temple, Guruvayoor Temple and Sucheendram Temple were prohibited areas for the untouchables to enter. Even correct measurements were in vogue instructing the untouchables to keep away from the caste-Hindus. The Temple Entry proclamation issued by the Maharajah of Travancore in 1936 was a pioneering effort in the field of reforms relating to eradication of untouchability. It was so significant that, even in Madras such a step was taken only in 1946. Through this proclamation it was ordered that there should be no restriction placed on any Hindu by birth or religion on entering or
worshipping at the temples controlled by the Maharajah or his government. This gave momentum to the much-needed reform and various other state governments enacted similar legislations in this field.

According to Article 17 part II of the Constitution, untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. But untouchability being an age-old institution has taken roots in the minds and social structure of certain castes and exists even now. Its eradication is incomplete so long as it receives a mental recognition and persists indirectly in some form or other in the social structure.

3.4 Social Movements of Scheduled Castes

The world of caste and the practice of untouchability have been subjects of serious thinking and research over the past few decades. They have also provided opportunity for reformists and revolutionary social movements historically. In post-independence India and also during the British regime, untouchability in particular has made the government to assume the role of social workers. In Kerala, the caste system split the people into horizontal and vertical divisions, thus forming a caste hierarchy in which Brahmins were at the top and the untouchables (SCs) at the bottom. There were often encounters and clashes among the lower strata and the conciliation efforts and final decisions were taken by the upper classes which inherited supremacy over the lower castes, where caste was considered hereditary and continued in the same way until death. The occupation field was in a static condition, as the lower caste people were not allowed to enjoy the higher caste occupations. Hence ascending occupational mobility and descending occupation mobility were not allowed in that caste-
ridden society. Caste determined the social, economical and political positions. The lower castes were not allowed the possession of property and hence there existed an economic stagnation. Constant dependence and obligation to higher castes for livelihood made inferiority complex in the minds of SCs, which in turn hindered their development. The social condition did not give them opportunity for developing even human values. Hence a society evolved which was static and introvert in nature.

Defenses and struggles originated against these evil situations and continued for decades. The national renovation movements, teachings and integration works directly or indirectly fueled the social movements in Kerala also. In the social revolutionary process of the SCs, a remarkable dimension was attained with the entrance of the social reformer Srimath Ayyankali. Imbibing the spirit from Sree Narayana paripalana Yogam (1903), Ayyankali (1866-1941) started, Sadhu Paripalana Sangham in 1907, an organization for the uplift of SCs. This movement was successful in getting the right to travel through the public roads, entry in to the public schools for study and to use the public places. These attainments regained the self-dignity and self-confidence among the depressed. A year long strike in the agricultural field under the leadership of Ayyankali was a notable historic event. It was a unique resistance for the rights of the suppressed classes in the history of Kerala. Pulayas constructed temples of their own and idols of Gods of higher classes were installed, and rituals of the Brahmins were conducted. As a result of long struggle, and the Temple entry proclamation, there evolved a social
awareness among the Pulayas. They got opportunities to go a long way from the state of untouchables to the main stream of social ladder.

In the reform movements of Kerala SCs, the historians always hail the names of Bhammananda Sivayogy, Poikayil Yohannan, Pampady John Joseph and K.P. Karuppan. In the post-independent period the works of Samastha Kerala Pulayar Mahasabha led by T.T. Kesava Sasthri, Sedian, Kerala Harigan Federation are notable. In the 1980's SC movements in Kerala began to be reinforced by Harijan Federation led by Kallara Sukumaran and afterwards the Kerala Pulayar Maha Sabha (KPMS).

Afterwards due to the lack of proper and notable leadership and due to the proportionally smaller in number compared with the other castes, as well as due to the existence of small groups throughout Kerala, the SCs could not rise up as a power block. When some of them rose to the top the gap between the haves and the have-nots among themselves became wider and wider. It is also observed that the inequality among the land ownership in Kerala is increasing day by day. Hence social stratification has more or less the same effect as caste stratification. Even though great changes have occurred after political independence, caste continues to play an important and perhaps the dominant role even today. Even after years of various revolutionary movements, the SCs could not achieve the real aims; instead they are thrown out of their native land into the slough of the colonies.

3.5 Developmental efforts

According to Amartya Sen (2000), development can be seen as a process of expanding the real freedom that people enjoy. In viewing
development as freedom he also asserts “freedoms are not only the primary ends of developments, they are also among its principal means.” 9 In this context, while evaluating the deprivation of the SCs, we see that developments are not reaching them because they are not enjoying the social freedom due to so many constraints. By positive discrimination, freedom as envisaged by Sen can be given to them. The welfare schemes launched by various Government agencies are providing them this freedom in its spirit. These try to ensure a better life for the SCs mainly through policies in education, employment, health status and landholding.

Among this, education is the key instrument for social empowerment providing the essential base for all developmental pursuits. So it should be promoted with great earnestness for the benefit of the SCs. Universal primary education, awarding of scholarships, reservation of seats, providing hostel facilities, fee concessions and special coaching for students, adult-education and illiteracy-eradication programmes are all meant for promoting education among the SCs.

For promoting employment, the major policies are confined to reservation of jobs, relaxation of age in Central and State government services, special recruitments, exemption from departmental tests for promotion, self employment schemes, financial aid for starting and renovating small scale industries, formation of multipurpose and service co-operative societies, micro financing and State stipulation of minimum wages for industrial and agricultural labourers.

Kerala hails a high health status, which is measured in terms of indicators like death rate, infant mortality rate and life expectancy.
But now the people are facing the problem of high morbidity both from communicable and non-communicable diseases.\textsuperscript{10} Being poor and illiterate, the SCs record the lowest health status, particularly those who live in habitats.

Protection of the right of the SCs in possession of land, distribution of cultivable land available with the Government, distribution of housing plots for landless under various housing schemes known as colonization are some courageous steps undertaken. Due to these far reaching reforms some changes are seen in the social horizon.

\textbf{3.6 Habitats}

Majority of the SCs have no land of their own. They live in small thatched huts in other peoples’ land. With the enactment of the Kerala Land Reforms Act,\textsuperscript{11} there was a change in the ownership of the land in which their huts were constructed. The \textit{kudikidappukar},\textsuperscript{12} as they were called, became owners of their house sites. Before this legislation, the land owners permitted their agricultural labourers to put up huts for dwelling, mainly to watch their crops. The \textit{kudikidappukar} could be now evicted at the desire of the owner. To provide homes in their own plots governments started the scheme of providing house sites. Wherever government land was available it was allotted to the landless SC families. When Government land was not available, private land was acquired and distributed in different parts of the State. Among 450 colonies started in this manner; the extent of land allotted and the concessions given were different. There are other areas of SC/ST concentrations known as settlements. If more than 50% families in a cluster belong to SCs (at least 5) it is known as a habitat.\textsuperscript{13}
Besides the routine schemes that have been implemented for the uplift of the SCs by the Central and State Governments and executed through local self Governments and other Departments, attractive special packages were also launched in favour of the habitats. These steps have not improved their status much. But the occupants of the habitats happened to be segregated from the other sections of the population in many respects. This turned to be gettos\textsuperscript{14} inside another. Thus the habitats which are intended and formulated to ease out the burdens, have unfortunately turned out to be a confusion worse confounded as it made no positive social atmosphere, the showered special welfare schemes notwithstanding.

Many studies have already been made in investigating the SC welfare measures in India as a whole and the State in particular. But still there exits several aspects and dimensions, which need thorough investigation. Habitats are such places, which need special scrutiny.

3.7 Scheduled Castes in Kerala

It is estimated that there are about 3000 castes and sub-castes in India and 779 of these are SCs.\textsuperscript{15} In Kerala there are 53 sub-castes among SCs.

The SC population of Kerala is 31.24 lakhs constituting 9.81\% of the total population\textsuperscript{16}. In Kerala SC people are living along with other communities in various parts and in particular habitats. The number of SCs is largest in the Palakkad District and smallest in Idukki.\textsuperscript{17}

The following is the latest list of Scheduled Castes in Kerala\textsuperscript{18}

1. Adi Andhra
2. Adi Dravida
3. Adi Karnataka
4. Ajila
5. Arunthathiyar
6. Ayyanavar
7. Baira
8. Bakuda
9. Bathada
10. Bharather (other than Parathar, Paravan)
11. Chakkiliyan
12. Chamar, Munchi
13. Chandala
14. Cheruman
15. Domban
16. Gosangi
17. Hasla
18. Holeya
19. Kadaiyan
20. Kakkalan, Kakkan
21. Kalladi
22. Kanakkan, Padanna, Padannan
23. Kavara (Other than telugu speaker or Tamil speaking Balija, Kavarai, Gavara, Gavarai Naidu, Balija Naidu, Gajalu Balija or Valai chetty)
24. Koosa
25. Kottan, Koodan
26. Kudumban
27. Kuravan, Sidhanar, Kuravar, Kurava, Sidhana
28. Maila
29. Malayan [In the areas comprising in Malabar district as specified by sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the state recognition act 1956(37 of 1956)
30. Mannan, Pathiyan, Perumannan, Vannan, Velan
31. Moger (other than Mogeyar)
32. Mundala
33. Nalakeyava
34. Nalkadaya
35. Nayadi
36. Pallan
37. Palluvan
38. Pambada
39. Panan
40. Paraiyan, parayan, Sambavar, Sambavan, Sambava, Paraya, Parayar
41. Pulayan, Cheramar, Pulaya, Pulayar, Cherama, Cheraman, Wayanad Pulayan, Wayanadan-Pulayan, Matha, Matha-Pulayan]
42. Puthari Vannan
43. Raneyar
44. Samagara
45. Samban
46. Semman, Chemman, Chemmar
47. Thandan
48. Thoti
49. Vallon
50. Valluvan
51. Vetan
52. Vettuvan, Pulaya Vettuvan (in the areas of erstwhile Cochin State only)
53. Nerian

The following table gives the population of SCs in India and Kerala during 1981-2001.

**Table 3.1**

**Scheduled Caste Population of India & Kerala 1981 -2001**

(*Population in lakhs*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population of India</th>
<th>Population of Kerala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>6834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>8463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>10264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Census Reports 2001*

The following is the Table showing the SC population and the percentage of SCs district-wise in Kerala.
Table 3.2
District-wise distribution of Scheduled Caste population in Kerala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% to total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Thiruvanathapuram</td>
<td>178718</td>
<td>192139</td>
<td>370857</td>
<td>11.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Kollam</td>
<td>156880</td>
<td>166007</td>
<td>322887</td>
<td>12.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>78731</td>
<td>83271</td>
<td>162002</td>
<td>13.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Alappuzha</td>
<td>96900</td>
<td>102331</td>
<td>199231</td>
<td>9.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Kottayam</td>
<td>73885</td>
<td>76397</td>
<td>150282</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Idukki</td>
<td>79389</td>
<td>79973</td>
<td>159362</td>
<td>14.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Ernakulam</td>
<td>129706</td>
<td>133812</td>
<td>263518</td>
<td>8.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Thrissur</td>
<td>171443</td>
<td>182783</td>
<td>354228</td>
<td>11.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Palakkadu</td>
<td>210624</td>
<td>221954</td>
<td>432578</td>
<td>16.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Malappuram</td>
<td>140535</td>
<td>144907</td>
<td>285442</td>
<td>7.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Kozhikode</td>
<td>98386</td>
<td>102597</td>
<td>200983</td>
<td>6.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Wayanand</td>
<td>16738</td>
<td>16626</td>
<td>33364</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Kannoor</td>
<td>48275</td>
<td>50716</td>
<td>98991</td>
<td>4.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Kasargod</td>
<td>44904</td>
<td>45314</td>
<td>90218</td>
<td>7.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1525114</td>
<td>1598827</td>
<td>123943</td>
<td>9.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports 2001
The following table gives the percentage decadal growth rate of SCs in Kerala.

Table 3.3
Growth Rates of Scheduled Caste population in Kerala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Decadal Growth Rate(%)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>18.02</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>13.26</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>8.14</td>
<td>9.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports 2001

The Census Reports 2001 reveals that population growth rate of the SCs in Kerala is 8.14% whereas their growth rate in India is 20.55% during 1991-2001. Also it is noted that a small decrease is seen in the percentage growth rates of SCs for the last 10 years.

Table 3.4
Literacy Rates of Scheduled Castes in India and Kerala during 1981-2001 (in percentages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Total</td>
<td>SCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>36.03</td>
<td>21.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>52.21</td>
<td>37.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>64.36</td>
<td>54.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports 2001
Table 3.4 reveals that, in Kerala, the literacy rate of the general population is 90.86% while that of SCs is 82.66% which indicates that much progress is yet to be achieved by the SCs in the field of education.

3.8 Poverty

In the eradication of poverty Kerala has marched a long way ahead. Due to various welfare schemes implemented by the state and central governments, the SCs attained better income and economic growth which helped them to reduce the intensity of poverty by half during the last years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSSO Rounds</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Total</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 38th Round (1983)</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>58.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 50th Round (1993-94)</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>48.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 55th Round (1999-2000)</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSSO Reports.

It is remarkable that the percentage of SCs below the poverty line in 1983 was 62.3 and this has been reduced to 14.6 during 1999-2000.
Table 3.6
Category-wise percentage of Families Below Poverty Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. No</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Share of BPL</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Scheduled Caste</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scheduled Tribes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>89.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports 2001

But as per the above reports 19 percent of the BPL population in Kerala is SCs, though SCs constitute only 9.81 per cent of the total population of the state. It shows that the incidence of poverty among the SCs is increased and is about double that of the population of the state. The following table shows the percentage of population below poverty line.

The following table shows a comparative picture of some of the features of SCs in Kerala and India.

Table 3.7
Status of Scheduled Castes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. No</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>SCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Population (in lakhs)</td>
<td>31.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Percentage to total Population</td>
<td>9.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Decadal Growth Rate (%)</td>
<td>8.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Child Population to the total population</td>
<td>11.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>1048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Literacy rate -General</td>
<td>82.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Literacy Rate-Female</td>
<td>77.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Poverty (as per 55th Round)</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Percentage of Population in Slum Areas</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports 2001
From the above table it is clear that decadal growth rates, child population and poverty figures are much less in the State than anywhere else in India. But the table does not give a comparative picture regarding the parameters, among the non-SCs and the SCs. But it reveals that the percentage of population in slum areas is considerably small in Kerala. It is true that the SCs could improve their state of life through continued struggles and legal measures. The fact remains that the social as well as economic gap between the SCs and other section of the society has been widening. In the fields of literacy\textsuperscript{21}, life span, sex-ratio\textsuperscript{22}, birth and death rates their status is improving. But the fact that, in other parts of India SCs are evolving themselves as one of the major factors in controlling the political as well as the social life of the society must not be ignored. But the Kerala scenario is much different. We can perceive the imbalance when compared with other sections of the society. The measuring yard of complete literacy, life span etc. cannot reveal the real causes of their deprivation. Even the much-acclaimed land reforms could not bring about the anticipated social progress in the case of the SCs. Careful analysis showed that the non-SCs were more benefited by the land reforms.

The Kerala Government earmarks funds for Special Component Programme (SCP) from State plan outlay in proportion of SC population to the total population of the State for the upliftment of SCs. Nearly two thirds of the special component plan budget is earmarked to local self Government institutions. The balance amount is set apart to SC/ST development Department and other development Departments.
Table 3.8
The details of fund allotted by the Central Government from 1997 to 2007 under Special Component Programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Opening Balance</th>
<th>Fund allotted</th>
<th>Total Assistance</th>
<th>Fund utilized</th>
<th>Balance due to non expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>645.94</td>
<td>645.94</td>
<td>576.94</td>
<td>69.89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>69.89</td>
<td>724.54</td>
<td>794.43</td>
<td>561.23</td>
<td>233.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1999-00</td>
<td>233.20</td>
<td>813.24</td>
<td>1046.44</td>
<td>753.88</td>
<td>292.56</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>292.56</td>
<td>1251.07</td>
<td>1543.63</td>
<td>45.97</td>
<td>1497.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>1497.66</td>
<td>533.44</td>
<td>2031.10</td>
<td>71.22</td>
<td>1959.88</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>1959.88</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1959.88</td>
<td>1195.76</td>
<td>764.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>764.12</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>764.12</td>
<td>231.30</td>
<td>532.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>532.82</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>532.82</td>
<td>198.69</td>
<td>334.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>334.13</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>334.13</td>
<td>170.33</td>
<td>163.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>163.80</td>
<td>109.32</td>
<td>273.12</td>
<td>128.96</td>
<td>144.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports 2001

The above table reveals that local self Governments and the departments concerned do not utilize these funds properly and completely. An overall analysis of the above tables reveals that even though the SCs are in a better position in Kerala than in other States, they are not safer. Moreover the socio-economic conditions of those residing in habitats are not looked into. But it is also remembered that in Kerala, 47% of the agricultural labourers and 95% of the total labourers are from SCs. Even though the state budget sets apart 10% of its fund for development of SCs, the local self governments do
not utilize these funds properly and completely. Not only this, avenues for new possibilities for developmental projects are not at all opened and as a result the set target is never met. Meanwhile, the majority of the SCs in Kerala are landless or meager land-owners and hence they are compelled to live in habitats. Moreover, they are denied of living in a hygienic and peaceful atmosphere.

To achieve social mobility, status and control over the political power, economic power is vital. But the history of the SCs shows that neither they had economic power nor political control. In Kerala we cannot find a landlord among SCs even though they have attained considerable progress in several fields. Not only this, even in the distribution of the traditional and natural resources they have no control. This pushed them to the backward rungs of the society further. In the social formation of a society, the role of various resources is most important as seen in the history of the developed nations. The possession of land as well as production imparts power. The excess of income is usually diverted to the fields of industry, education and culture and thereby power is reinforced. Resources such as land, education, political power, finance, culture, scientific knowledge, modern technology etc. should be enhanced and made available to the SCs, if they are to be brought up to the level of the mainstream of society. To achieve these aims various SC welfare schemes are formulated and implemented by the central and the state governments. This study focuses only on the schemes, which are implemented through the state government or its agencies. The following table gives the amount (plan fund) allotted for SCs as in budget provision and the actual expenditure during 2003-04 to 2006-07.
Table 3.9
Allotment and expenditure statement of Scheduled Castes
State Plan fund
(Rs. in lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Plan Budget Provision</th>
<th>Actual Expenditure</th>
<th>Percentage of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>19101.49</td>
<td>12042.64</td>
<td>63.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>18180.89</td>
<td>11849.72</td>
<td>65.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>18211.70</td>
<td>12905.66</td>
<td>70.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>200089.49</td>
<td>17273.38</td>
<td>85.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The table reveals that the welfare funds due to the SCs are not fully utilized by the authorities.

It is true that certain other communities misappropriate the welfare schemes for the SCs by producing false community certificates. For preventing these attempts and for safeguarding their privileges KIRTADS plays a very prominent role.

3.9 Welfare Schemes under SC Development Department

State schemes and centrally sponsored schemes as well as the projects taken up under corpus fund are the programmes implemented by the Scheduled Caste Development Department for the welfare of SCs. The Department also provides enough funds as grant-in-aid to local bodies.

The schemes implemented by the Scheduled Caste development department cover a wide area comprising education, health, housing and so many other schemes, which promote the economic and social welfare of SCs and other backward classes. After the establishment of Panchayati Raj and Nagarapalika system, Housing schemes, Adult
education programme and Pre-metric hostels are transferred to Local bodies.

3.9.1 Educational Schemes

1. Pre-Primary Education

Under this Department 102 nursery schools are working. A nursery school kid gets Rs.5/- per day for meals, Rs.200/- for uniform and Rs.50/- as lump sum grant. Rs.2200/- is given to send a kid to a private nursery school where government schools are not reachable. Financial assistance is given through LSGs.

2. Pre-Matric Education

SC Students studying in aided schools from Std. I to X are given complete free education along with study materials, dress etc. Even at the beginning of the academic year lump sum grant is given to them for this purpose. The more backward sections of the SCs viz: Nayady, Vedan and Vettuvan are given special incentives like monthly stipends. For meeting school expenses lump sum grant is issued in the following scale:

From standard 1 to 3 Rs. 70/-
Standard 4 Rs. 75/-
Standard 5 Rs. 110/-
Standard 6 & 7 Rs. 125/-
Standard 8, 9 & 10 Rs. 175/-

(Failed students can avail themselves of 50% of the above amounts. Monthly stipend is available to more disadvantaged candidates.)

The facility to study in private boarding schools is
provided to the pupils who stand out in their standard IV exams. They are eligible for getting all the costs for this facility. This scheme is implemented through district Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations.

3. Fee concession in recognized unaided schools
   SC students studying from Std. 1 to 7 are given Rs.1000/- per year as tuition fees and students studying from 8 to 10th Std. are given Rs.1500/- as tuition fees.

4. Fee concession, lump sum grant and monthly stipend for higher education
   This assistance is available for post-SSLC studies. Lumpsum grant ranging from Rs.245/- to Rs.1100/- is given to the students in accordance with the nature of the course. The monthly stipend is Rs.215/- or Rs.250/-. The hostlers will get money for food and stay along with pocket money.

5. Reservation
   Government recognized Art& Science Colleges offer 20% reserved seats for SC students. The technical and professional institutions earmark 10% of the seats for them. Annually about 50,000 students avail themselves of this reservation facility.

6. Pre-Matric Hostels
   97 hostels (57 for male and 40 for female) including 2 sports hostels come under the Department. Now they are controlled by Block Panchayats/ Municipalities/ Corporations. 10% of the accommodation is open for students belonging to other communities.
7. Subsidised hostels

Those students who sought accommodation in the approved hostels run by voluntary organisations are eligible to get a boarding grant of Rs.250/- per mensem apart from uniform clothes.

8. Post-Matric Hostels

18 Hostels (5 for female and 13 for male) are run by the department. An occupant will get a monthly hostel expense of Rs.600/- along with a pocket-money of Rs.50-65/-

The norm for accommodation is - 68% for SC, 17% for ST, 5% for Converted Christians, 10% for Other Forward Castes.

9. Encouragement for performance in studies

10. The students who register good performance in their examinations are eligible to get a cash award specified as below:

SSLC Rs.750/-

Plus Two, TTC, Polytechnic Rs.1000/-

Degree Rs.1500/-

PG/ Professional Course Rs.2000/-

11. Promotion & Training for Sportsmen

The SC students who show unrelenting enthusiasm in sports are roped into Thiruvananthapuram schools. They are given accommodation in Ayyankali memorial model residential sports school in the compound of Vellayani Karshika College in Thiruvananthapuram. They are given special coaching with the assistance of the sports council of Kerala.
12. Pre-Examination Training Centres
The centres Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode impart short-term training to job aspirants for appearing for various competitive examinations. The job aspirants will get a stipend of Rs.400/- per month. Entrance coaching classes are also offered by these centres.

13. Special Coaching for Civil Service Examinations
Institute for Civil Service Examination Training Society, an autonomous institute, imparts special coaching for civil service examinations. The trainees get Rs.500/- as monthly stipend whereas hostellers get Rs.250/- as monthly pocket money. Those who get through preliminary exam will get a free stay and coaching in a Delhi Institute.

14. Pre Examination Practice Centres
To attend in the various P.S.C. competitive examinations special short-term coaching is given to SC job seekers. For this, pre-examination centres are established in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

15. Book Bank Scheme
Financial assistance is given to students in medical, engineering, law, agricultural, veterinary, polytechnic and business management institutions for purchasing books and almarahas using central assistance. This scheme is known as book bank.

16. Ayyankali talent research scholarship
The best students are selected from the 4th and 7th standards through competitive examinations and higher education is given
to them using the said scholarship. The fund can be utilized for text books, uniform, special tuition, health, hostel facilities, personality development programme, counseling for parents etc. Also an amount varying from Rs.750/- to Rs.2000/- is given to all talented students who pass these competitive examinations and go for higher studies. The amount will be doubled for those who get distinction.

17. Money help for failed students
To those who failed in their SSLC, Plus Two, Degree Courses financial help is given to try their chances in tutorials.

18. Temple-entry Proclamation Memorial Scholarship
Scholarship is given to those students who stand out in their SSLC, Plus two, Degree, Engineering, Medicine examinations.

19. Chief Minister’s Scholarship
Four SSLC toppers from SC students are given scholarship of Rs.1000/- each by the chief minister of Kerala.

20. Awards to Rank-Winners
The SC students who emerge first in the Medical/Engg. entrance list get a cash award of Rs. 2501/- each.

21. Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Medal & Cash Award
Those who come first in SC and ST category in the LLB examinations get this medal along with a cash award of Rs.5001/-

22. Model Residential Schools
Brilliant students are admitted in these schools (in Palakkad and Aluva) based on an entrance test.
23. Assistance for Parallel College Students
   The SC students in parallel colleges will also get all the financial assistance given in regular colleges.

24. Self-financing/ Autonomous institutions
   The SC students in these institutions get all high-rated fee concessions and other assistance as well.

25. To study abroad
   The SC students who opt to study abroad get Rs.1.5 lakh as interest free loan.

26. ITCs & Production Training Centres
   SC students are given training in 41 ITCs and in 3 production training centres.

27. Kerala Kalamandalam
   The SC students in this deemed university get all educational assistance as given in other educational institutions

28. Tourism & Travel Studies
   The candidates aspiring to the course conducted by Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies are eligible to get all financial assistance.

29. Tutorial help
   A scheme is being implemented to extend tutorial help to SC students in selected centres aiming at improved academic performance.

30. Vocational Training in Private Institutes
   The SC youths who undergo training in private institutes are given all kinds of assistance.
31. Courses in other states

SC students who obtain admission in much-sought after courses in other states are given educational assistance.

32. Assistance for D. Pharm, MFSc and the Courses conducted by Hyderabad National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management:

All educational assistances are given to SC students opting for the above courses.

33. Audio Visual Education and Bharath Darsan Programme

This programme is meant for SC students coming from BPL families and having good academic records for plus two, Degree, P.G., professional courses and diploma courses. On the basis of the marks, students are selected for picnic and study tour with financial help. They are sent to places of historical and cultural importance throughout India.

34. Financial help for failed students

Help is given to students who have failed in the S.S.L.C. exam but have obtained at least 20%, and at least 25% for Plus Two or Degree at the first chance for continuing their studies.

35. Programme for the improvement of standards

The students who are coming from families with annual income of less than Rs. 24,000/- and have passed the 8th standard with high marks are given special financial assistance for higher studies. Price of the text books, learning materials, hostel fees, tuition fees, pocket money etc. are met by the Central government.
36. Centre of excellence
The government has instituted a centre of excellence under the governance of the Indian Institute of Management at Kozhikode. It gives opportunities for management studies, Biotechnology, Life Science and allied subjects.

37. Apprenticeship for technical diploma holders
Students who have passed technical education course are given special allowance for apprenticeship.

38. Special Training Programme and allied Schemes
This is meant to give special training to SC students who are competing in the Kerala public service commission examination, staff selection commission examination etc;

39. Old age Education
This fund is allotted to the Kerala Library Council to give incentives including pension to the employees who worked in the libraries of SC Development Department.

40. TA is given to SC candidates
TA is given to SC candidates for attending tests or interviews conducted by government/quasi government institutions.

3.9.2 Economic Development Programmes
53.78% of the SCs depend on agriculture for livelihood. Only 2.83% of them are connected with trade and commerce. So the achievements in the field of industry have not reached the SCs. Therefore they should be given all help to explore the employment opportunities in industry. With this aim the following schemes in the field of employment are implemented.
1. Self employment Scheme

For promoting self-employment, special financial assistance is given based on self-employment projects. Bank loans are given for projects related to production, service and distribution sectors. Loans to the tune of 3 to 10 lakhs are given under various schemes.

2. Industrial Loan

For starting small-scale industries an amount subject to a maximum of Rs.25,000/- is given without any interest. Special grant is also given by the Central Government to SCs for their financial improvements. This is for implementing schemes in production and labour sector. This includes special programmes for increasing the income opportunities and for training programmes.

3. Vocational training programmes

There are 41 industrial training centres in Kerala for the SCs. It gives all the finance for office expenses, rent, tax etc. Also it distributes fund for the employee’s salary, TA and expenses towards raw materials.

Lump sum grants are given monthly to students whose parents are working in unhygienic conditions. Stipends are also provided to dependents of those who were working in unhygienic conditions.

4. National Trades and Arts Festival

This is meant for developing traditional skills and affinity towards Arts, which help to produce articles and commodities related to handicrafts. Special schemes for cluster development
through cooperative societies (This will enable the SCs to earn additional income and excess employment through SC Cooperative Societies) are also conducted.

5. Coaching in Electronics, Computer Information Technology and in other high-tech courses.
   To study various high-tech courses the entire expenses-course fee, hostel fee, study material, traveling expenses are given. Along with these privileges and financial aid to SCs, coaching to get better jobs for SC students passing ITI, ITC etc. is also provided. Programmes for rehabilitating the educated-unemployed are also being launched.

6. Exhibition- cum- Sale Melas
   For popularising products from SC units exhibition-cum-sale melas are organised.

7. Training for Better Job
   The SC candidates who get the All India Apprenticeship Trade Test are eligible to get Rs.770/- per month for undergoing additional apprenticeship for a year. Similarly the candidates who get the ITC/ITI will get Rs. 500/- monthly for undergoing a one year apprenticeship.

8. Rehabilitation of the Unemployed
   Colonization Scheme is implemented in Thonnakkal in Thiruvananthapuram, Jawahar Colony in Malappuram, Karikattoor Colony in Kottayam, Kadakkamon Colony in Kollam, Maniannadam Colony in Ernakulam. In the scheme the rehabilitated families got 1 acre to 2.5 acres of land for
cultivation and for living as well as for various steps for the economic betterment.

3.9.3 Social upliftment schemes

1. Social Security Programmes

   Along with economic progress, social security is also important for the SCs. For that special laws are implemented to secure civil rights under the Constitution of India. Practicing and spreading untouchability are punishable under the law. Special laws are also in force to prevent attacks and atrocities against the SCs.

   There are so many other programmes under this scheme. Conducting seminars and social awareness camps are some among them. Financial aid up to Rs.20000/- is extended to inter-caste marriages. Programmes to rehabilitate the landless SCs are also in force. Rs.70,000/- is issued for house construction and Rs.32,500/- (or the price of the land, which is less) for the purchase of 5 cents of land. The amount can also be utilized for electricity, water facilities or for education or hospital expenses. To publish the books of SC Writers, the Department provides financial aid. Conducting literary workshops, awareness classes about various branches of literature etc. are also included in the scheme.

2. Samoohika Iykya Darttya Pakshacharanam

   Every year starting from October 2nd, which is Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday, two weeks are celebrated as Samoohika Iykya Darttya Pakshacharanam.
Under the auspices of SC/ST development Department, plenty of development programmes are declared and implemented during this period. The slogans of religious harmony and social equality for the nation’s welfare are raised and the concepts of equality and social harmony are planted in the minds of the people.

3. Temple- Entry Proclamation Day Celebrations
   On the 27th day of Thulam in Malayalam Calendar the celebration is being organized. The chosen social workers, excellent students, journalist, selected teachers and hostel wardens are given cash awards on that day. Arts competitions for SC students are also conducted and prizes given on the day.

4. Special training for the government employees
   Government has been giving special training for its employees for understanding the problems and specialties of the SCs, to find solutions and to work among them as one. Special amount has been included in the plan fund for this every year.

5. Information cum - guidance centre & Padavukal –Magazine
   The centre is imparting awareness programmes to help students, unemployed youths and the aged belonging to the SCs. The centre gives all the information about the various welfare schemes and programmes for SCs. Computer and electronic equipments for the smooth functioning of the center are provided. It distributes posters and application forms for various competitive examinations. It also publishes a magazine called Padavukal, which highlights all the welfare programmes implemented, by the Centre, State and local Governments.
6. Folklore Mela

Folklore melas are conducted annually with a view to preserving the ancient art forms with their original beauty and colour. The SC/ST art forums participate in these melas with great enthusiasm.

7. People Planning

Several Welfare measures are being implemented as Special Component Plans in people's planning. For implementing Special Component Plans the Local Self Governments will constitute a working committee consisting mostly of SC members.

8. Special help for SCs who are suffering from critical diseases

Rs.25,000/- is given for BPL SC patients who are suffering from critical diseases like Cancer, Heart & Brain diseases and urological diseases.

9. Scheme for preventing attack

This gives special financial assistance for those SCs undergoing physical and mental tortures.

10. Special Scheme for Marriage of SC women

Rs.5000/- is given for the marriage of those women who are daughters of widows, unmarried mothers, and financially poor parents.

11. Special assistance

It is given for children depending on parents who are employed in unhygienic jobs.
12. Rehabilitation of Puramboke dwellers

The Puramboke dwellers belonging to SC are being rehabilitated by giving Rs.50,000/- each.

13. Minister’s Relief Fund

When the breadwinner of a SC family dies, or a member of the family requires prolonged treatment for acute illness or the family falls prey to fire accidents or natural calamities, the family can seek urgent financial help from this relief fund. The assistance ranges from Rs.1000/- to Rs.25,000/-.  

During the Eleventh Five year plan, the Department undertakes new schemes viz; Assistance to Co-operatives through Local Governments, Women enterprises through SHGs, financial assistance to Co-operatives for promoting cluster developments and land for agricultural labourers.

3.9.4 Housing schemes

An intensive drive for providing houses to the houseless people was taken up recently. In accordance with this during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to October 31st) the Department constructed 4617, 2154 and 1136 houses respectively. In addition to this Local bodies, KSHB, State Nirmiti Kendra, Rural Development Department etc. are constructing houses for SCs periodically.

The homeless but land owning people belonging to SC are being given Rs.35,000/- for putting up a home. During 99-2000 this scheme was implemented throughout the state. This is known as Comprehensive housing scheme. For maintenance work of houses existing for 5 years Rs.10,000/- will be given on submission of
application accompanied by maintenance estimate prepared by civil engineers.

3.10 Kerala State Development Corporation for SCs and STs

From its inception in 1972 the Corporation has been giving great concentration to solve the housing problem. It gives interest-free loans subject to a maximum of Rs.10000/. The Corporation, with its registered office at Thrissur, functions through 12 regional offices covering all the districts, is implementing various schemes to enable the SC/ST people to become self-reliant in all respects. The sources of finance for implementing various schemes are Corporation's own share capital and assistance from other national refinancing agencies like NSFDC, NSTFDC, NSKFDC and HUDCO. The Corporation is now concentrating more on self-employment schemes to enable the target people to engage in some creative and most viable income generating activities and earn their livelihood and thereby improve their socio-economic status in society.

The major schemes implemented by the Corporation include agricultural land purchase, micro-credit finance, mini-venture loans, small enterprise loans, housing loan, educational loan, marriage assistance etc.

The Corporation also conducts a few training programmes for improving the workmanship, efficiency and vocational skills among SC/ST people. The refinancing agencies like NSFDC and NSTFDC are sponsoring the entire training cost.

3.11 Rural Development Department

The following programmes are implemented through Rural Development Department (Panchayati Raj Institutions). Since these
are the major poverty alleviation programmes and as the majority of the destitute families are concentrated in habitats, the benefits of these schemes are much useful to the inmates of habitats.

3.11.1 Swarnajayanthy Gram Swarosegar Yojana (SGSY)

The objective of the programme is to provide self-employment to the poor establishing a large number of micro enterprises in the rural areas building upon the potential of the rural poor. Emphasis will be given to group approach in this programme.

1. The objective of SGSY is to assist families below poverty line and to bring them above poverty line within three years time. SGSY is conceived as a holistic programme of micro enterprises covering all aspects of self employment viz. formation of self help groups, capacity building, planning activity, clusters, infrastructure buildup, technology, credit and marketing.

2. This Programme will adopt a project approach in each key activity. SGSY is a credit cum subsidy programme where credit forms the critical component. This programme lays emphasis on skill development through training courses. It also proposes to ensure technology upgradation in identified activity clusters.

3. Subsidy under SGSY will be uniform at 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.7500/-. In respect of SC/STs this will be 50% and Rs.10,000/- respectively.

3.11.2 Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

The objective of Indira Awas Yojana is to help in the construction of dwelling units for SC/ST freed bonded labourers and also non-SC/ST rural poor below poverty line by providing them with grant-in-aid @ Rs.27,500/- per house. This is sponsored by the
Center and the cost is shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25.

The beneficiaries of the Scheme are selected by Grama Sabhas. The beneficiaries should have at least two cents of land for house construction. They should not have dwelling in the joint name of husband and wife. The house constructed under the Scheme should have not less than 20 sq. mts of plinth area but no plan of design is prescribed.

Out of the total allocations for Indira Awas Yojana, upto 20% of the total funds can be utilized for upgradation of existing kutcha houses and towards subsidy for construction of houses with credit from Banks/ Financial Institutions. The maximum assistance available is Rs.12,500/- per household.

### 3.11.3 Sampoorna Gramin Rosegar Yojana (SGRY)

This Programme is also sponsored by the Central government the cost being shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government in addition provides food grain having cost equivalent to the cash component, free of cost. The cost of transportation of the food grains from the FCI godown to the work site/ PDS and distribution is the responsibility of the State Government.

The objective of the scheme is to provide additional employment in the rural areas as well as food security together with infrastructure development in the area. The works to be taken up would assist in drought control such as soil and moisture conservation works, watershed development, promotion of traditional water resources, afforestation and construction of village infrastructure and link roads,
primary school building, dispensaries, veterinary hospitals, marketing infrastructure and Panchayat ghars.

The benefit of the SGRY is made available to all the rural poor who are in need of employment and are willing to take up manual or unskilled work in and around their village and habitations. Preference is given to the poorest among the poor, SC & ST and parents of child labour withdrawn form hazardous occupation.

The following are the various urban poverty alleviation programmes partially sponsored by the Central Government and implemented through the State Government machineries which are found to be much beneficial to the SCs.

3.11.4 Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in December 1997. The objective of this integrated poverty alleviation programme is to provide gainful employment for the urban unemployed and under employed poor by setting up self employment ventures and taking up wage employment in public works. The programme is being implemented by the urban local bodies through community based organization (CBOs) of the poor.

SJSRY has the following 3 components
1. Urban Self-Employment Programme. (USEP)
   Assistance for setting up individual enterprises
   Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas. (DWCUA)- Assistance to Urban Poor Women for setting up group enterprises
2. Urban Wage Employment Programme.
   - Revolving fund for Women Self Help Groups and Group Enterprises.
   - Skill up gradation training, General training, Management of Community Development Societies.
   - Conducting Urban household surveys

3. Community structure.

3.11.5 National Slum Development Programme (NSDP)

NSDP, also a continuing scheme started implementation during 1997-98. It is a 100% centrally sponsored programme formulated to tackle the problems of urban slum dwellers. Under this scheme there is provision for physical amenities such as water supply, storm water drainage, community bathroom, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street light community infrastructure, community health centres, primary care, social amenities etc.

3.11.6 Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)

Under the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) slum development activities are taken up, particularly provision of minimum needs infrastructure and housing. During the first year of the X Plan Government of India launched another housing scheme for reclamation of the slums in the urban namely Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY). Though it was started in 2001-02, the State has already constructed 16812 houses against a target of 19454. The construction of the remaining houses is progressing. VAMBAY was discontinued from 2008 march.
3.11.7 **Integrated Housing and slum Development Programme (IHSDP)**

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is a newly launched centrally sponsored programme, for housing and infrastructure development in Urban Slums. Government of India launched this programme in December 2005. IHSDP was evolved by merging the ongoing two centrally sponsored programmes for slum development viz. National slum Development Programme (NSDP) and Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY).

The basic objective of the scheme is to strive for holistic slum development and to enable urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers of the identified urban areas.

A minimum of 12% beneficiary contribution should be stipulated, which in the case of SC/ST/BC/OBC/PH and other weaker sections shall be 10%. Minimum floor area of dwelling unit is not less than 25 sq.mtrs.

### 3.12 Special schemes for habitats

The State Government executes a two-way strategy for the development of SCs. A locality where more than 50% of the total population belongs to SC is named as a habitat, subject to a minimum of five SC households. Special schemes are designed for the marginalized. They are:-

#### 3.12.1 Constructing road to the habitats

Special schemes are available for constructing new roads, renewal, construction of retaining walls, tarring or any such allied works, provided the beneficiaries are more than 50% SCs.
3.12.2 **Providing electricity facilities**

Schemes are available for providing electric lighting to the households in habitats, provided the beneficiaries are more than 50% SCs. Free charge scheme and different rate tariffs are available according to the consumption.

3.12.3 **Arranging water supply facilities**

For implementing water supply schemes more than 50% of the land area must belong to SC/ST. This scheme is implemented through Kerala Water Authority and LSGs.

3.12.4 **Special Drinking Water Supply Scheme**

This is for (SCA) for habitats affected by drought. An amount of Rs.15/- crores is sanctioned by the Central Government under this scheme for the year 2006-2007.

3.12.5 **Special Scheme for Women Self Help Groups (SC Help Groups)**

By forming self-helping groups of SC Women in habitats (with 20 families) different projects can be implemented for their overall development. A grant of Rs.1.25 lakhs for a SHG or Rs. 10,000/- (for a member) whichever is less is given as subsidy. The members must belong to BPL.

3.12.6 **Digging Wells in habitats**

A special scheme is implemented through local bodies for digging well in habitats to make drinking water available.

3.12.7 **Scheme for roofing**

Schemes are also available for roofing the houses of SCs using coconuts leaves or sheets.
3.12.8 Schemes to tackle natural calamities

Schemes are available to tackle natural calamities.

3.12.9 Schemes to help patients

Special schemes are implemented to help patients who are suffering from chronic diseases.

3.13 Conclusion

From the various welfare measures explained above it is clear that these schemes are meant for all the SCs irrespective of their dwelling place. But additional welfare schemes are given for those who live in habitats, which mean that they deserve more as they suffer much due to the place in which they are living. In the following chapters the focus of study is on the impact of important schemes in the habitats and other places of their abode and as a comparison.
Notes and References


3. Suchendram Temple is now in Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu State, as a result of the reunion of States in India on a linguistic basis in 1956.


5. SNP Yogam: Sree Nanaryana Paripalana Yogam was started by Sree Narayana Guru in 1903 and later its leadership was taken by Ezhava echelons and they renamed and registered it as Sree Nanaryana Dharama Paripalana Yogam (SNDP Yogam) in 1928.


7. From the paper presented by Prabath Pat Naik, (Vice Chairman, Kerala State Planning Board) in the Three day National Seminar on the topic “Land reforms – a review” on 26.4.08. Report, Janayugam daily on 27.4.08.


12. Ibid page44

13. Ibid


15. INDIA 2008, Research, Reference And Training Division Publications Division Ministry of Information And Broadcasting Government of India


17. Ibid


20. Ibid. page 355.

21. For the purpose of census 2001, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated a literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate. (India 2008, Publications division Ministry of information and Broadcasting Government of India, New Delhi, 2008.)

22. Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousands males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time. (India 2008, Publications division Ministry of information and Broadcasting Government of India, New Delhi, 2008).


24. Kirtads (Kerala Institute for Research Training And Development Studies of SC/ST) is an Institute that conducts research and intensive study on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of the state. It has head office at Kozhikodu.