

PREFACE

The Indian economy, which has over the last six decades passed through various phases of growth. Since the attainment of independence, the government of India has been putting massive effort to eradicate poverty. The fruits of the development, achieved through planning process didn't trickle down to some sections of the society as it intended due to division of the Indian society into numerous castes and excluding some castes from the mainstream of the society. The excluded castes are known as Scheduled Castes and they are denied the basic human rights and economic opportunities for centuries. Recognising the centuries old exclusion and consequent poverty among these people, the independent India initiated exclusive policies and programmes.

Moreover, in addition to the due share given in the common poverty eradication programmes, the Special Channelising Agency (SCA) and Special Component Plans through which budgetary allocations are made from each department of the government in proportion to the population of SCs. Despite all the efforts the plight of these people remained more or less the same. So in 1974 the special agencies called Scheduled Castes Development and Finance Corporation (SCDFC) are found by the both Central and various State governments which have been formulating and implementing the programmes suitable for the SCs and filling the gaps of credit needs of these people. The term inclusive growth is finding its way increasingly in the lexicon of government, leader, economist, academicians and businessmen.

The globalization of markets is making inroads into remote corners of rural areas in Andhra Pradesh badly affecting their employment, income and consumption pattern. The disparities in income are growing up. In particular, the fruits of planned economic development and globalisation are not trickling down to the most deprived SCs. So their backwardness and dismal economic conditions must rightly be addressed in order to achieve the development with equity. For the expansion of employment opportunities and business activities and continuous process of investing, there should be growth in the incomes of the people and consequent growth in the consumption of goods and services. With majority of people having not accessibility to capital and income generating assets and moreover poverty ridden, one cannot assume of development with equity and compete with nations in the world

There is also a need to re-identifying the priorities of economic development towards rural areas instead of urban based service sector oriented approach. And more importantly there is a need to re-identifying the policies of economic development of disadvantaged sections of the society in order to enhance and effect the employment, income and consumption in tune with the demands of rapidly growing economy. In view of the above conditions, particularly in the post-liberalisation scenario an attempt is made to evaluate the poverty eradication being implemented by Scheduled Castes Development and Finance Corporation.