CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Education, constitutes a major component of Economic development coupled with social welfare triggered off by social disequilibrium. The expenditure on higher education and its impact on employment and socioeconomic development have assumed gigantic proportions and are highly pronounced in developing countries. Therefore, education is considered to be one of the key instruments with which the political, social and economic improvement are optimally expected to be developed. It also seeks to fulfil the manpower needs and thereby promote economic growth.

The pressing need of the hour for developing countries is the achievement of rapid economic and social progress. They are aware of the increasing role and real value of education in the process of economic development.

The present study on the impact of expenditure on higher education and employment pertaining to the weaker sections, namely the Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes in the metropolitan city of Madras, is mainly concerned with its implications to educational improvement in general and employment opportunities and economic status in particular.

The level of expenditure incurred on increasing educational facilities and employment opportunities by developing countries is evidently as well as
implicitly implied in the need for rapid and wide spread changes in their structure of socio-economic system.

India is one of the most important countries of the Third World in which the majority of the population particularly among the weaker sections is lagging far behind in all aspects of human life.

The weaker sections in India are those who are educationally, economically and socially backward among the people. The social backwardness of any social group is the end result of its educational and economic political backwardness. A social group which is relatively poor or under-represented in the public service and the legislature is socially backward. It should be entitled to protective discrimination. The present study deals with selected samples of scheduled castes and tribe communities among the weaker sections in Tamilnadu.

According to Article 46 of the constitution of India and the Directive Principles of the State Policy, "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation".

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It is also pertinent to point out that the increasing trend of the growth of expenditure on higher education in the context of the multi-dimensional requirements of human resource development in India is quite relevant.

The launching of welfare schemes of the Union and State Governments as per the Directive Principles of State Policy of Constitution of India has given a great fillip to aspire for higher education and employment opportunities among the weaker sections in India.

The present study deals with the impact of expenditure on higher education through welfare schemes of the government and gained employment opportunities by the weaker sections of the society in Madras, the metropolitan capital city of Tamilnadu state. It also bears ample testimony to the fact that education is the hallmark of progress.

The present study seeks to examine this aspect as to how those people belonging to scheduled castes and tribes have been able to take advantage of these welfare schemes and utilise various governmental concessions for their socio-economic development. One of the most important objectives of the Union government after Independence was to bring about a desired level of change in the socio-economic conditions of the schedule castes and tribes.

The section of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in India Constitutes more than 23.51 percent of the total population. According to 1981 census, they

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are socially, educationally and economically backward compared to the other sections of the population in India. Since 1950, Union and State Governments have been allocating huge amount of outlay through budget on higher education and employment in order to improve the standard living of the weaker sections. In the meantime, several contradictory views have been expressed, while some of the experts assert that government's efforts have been largely successful, on the other hand, some other have opined that the facilities meant for scheduled castes and tribes have not reached them. Since the governmental programmes designed to uplift the scheduled castes and tribes have involved large outlays of expenditure, it is essential to have a factual assessment of these investment meant for this deprived section namely the weaker sections. It is in this background the present study is proposed.

The Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, while referring to this aspect, in the Annual Report of the Commission for the year 1970-71, he observed, "A cursory look at the balance sheet of our socio-economic achievements will show that we are far behind our goal before, we can claim to have uplifted the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the right sense. There is no doubt, all those years government have adopted various measures for amelioration of living and working conditions of these people. The fact, however, remained that, these communities have not generally able to derive benefits of socio-economic progress in the country to any appreciable extent, with the result of the gap between Scheduled and non-scheduled classes, which was already fairly wide at the time of securing political freedom wider and wider during all
these years. Due to these facts, improving the life of the weaker sections achieving social, economic and cultural integration".3

In all countries of the world, education and employment are closely related and influenced the economic order. Lower classes in the society not to be exploited, to provide equal opportunities not only in educational attainment, but also in total economic order. Education is to improve economic prospects through better job opportunities among the weaker sections.

Historically, there have been the period of general economic improvement with the increasing of higher education and employment opportunities that seemed to have provided some sort an avenue to the under privileged section of the society. But the general progress have not been appreciably improved. The socio-economic and political imbalances remained to be intact as before. Inspite of all these efforts the inequalities in the society could not be reduced particularly in the case of weaker sections.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The long neglect of the weaker sections of Indian population by the British Government in India and later the developmental programmes of the Independent India created the awareness, the urgent need for the provision of higher education and generation of employment opportunities which are instrumental for economic and social improvement and thereby social justice.

When India attained political freedom in 1947, it was fully realised by the leaders and founding fathers of Indian constitution, the political freedom without socio-economic advancement would be meaningless. The basic goal and objective of the Indian constitution is to establish social and economic democracy in India. Efforts therefore have to be made to narrow down the various disparities that existed between the socio-economic condition of the scheduled castes and tribes and the other section of the population. The founding fathers therefore have realised that a special provision was necessary for the weaker sections to protect their rights and to secure employment in proportion to their population. For achieving the constitutional goal, the first step is to provide them education and employment.

Even after 48 years of planned developmental schemes, the basic objective of egalitarian society is nowhere near to goal. One fourth of the country have lived for a millennium and more isolation, abject poverty, ignorance and serfdom. It is evidently seen that they continue to live in the same condition even after the eighth five year plan with the developmental schemes making substantive efforts to help change the situation and assist them to realise their socio-economic conditions. Still majority of the people belonging to scheduled castes and tribes are in the clutches of poverty and misery and continue to lead a low status. Therefore, the present study makes an attempt to assess how for the governmental expenditure incurred through welfare scheme on education and enabled the weaker section to secure employment opportunities and subsequently improve their level of living during the study period in the case of Madras.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

It is enough if the government sincerely implement the constitutional directions for achieving the goal. But, in practical life the weaker sections are not able to achieve the level of education and employment without the meaningful assistance of the Government. Education being the subject under the State List, it is the duty of the State Government to provide education and employment opportunities to the weaker sections. The present study deals with the impact of expenditure on higher education and employment of the weaker sections in the city of Madras the capital of Tamilnadu State for the selected period of this study from 1971-1991.

After 46 years of the introduction of the Job Reservation Policy of the Union Government, it is yet to consider seriously the matter of their recruitment to the central services in class I, II which is not justifiable.

If Union Government is periodically and categorically watch and check the State Government in the case of implementation of Job Reservation policy, the present status of educated unemployed of scheduled castes and tribes with existing miserable condition could be minimised.

It is a fact that both Union and State Government have been increasing expenditure on various welfare schemes through budgetary allocation annually but without any corresponding remarkable changes on the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections particularly scheduled castes and tribes. Therefore in the present study an attempt has been made to examine the level
of expenditure incurred through welfare schemes on education and the subsequent level of employment of the weaker sections in Madras. Hence it is a pioneer venture.

HYPOTHESIS

The hypothesis of the present study is that the launching of welfare schemes of the government brings out socio-economic development of the weaker sections along with the Economy of the Madras Metropolitan.

STUDY AREA

An attempt has been made in the present study to analyse the extent of the socio-economic development achieved by the weaker sections of the society belonging to scheduled castes and tribes after their higher education through welfare schemes and their attainment of employment level and economic status in the metropolis of Madras.

PERIOD OF STUDY

As the data relating to the impact on education and employment of the weaker sections of the population are available only from 1970, the period of the present study has been confined to the two decades 1971-91.
OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the welfare schemes formulated and implemented by government for the socio-economic upliftment of the scheduled castes and tribes.

2. To find out as to what extent the welfare schemes have achieved its objectives.

3. To assess the level of socio-economic conditions of the weaker section through the welfare schemes.

4. To evaluate the impact of expenditure incurred by governments on education and employment of the weaker sections.

An attempt has also been made to examine the attitude and opinions of the sample respondents collected by direct contact whether or not they are better off after receiving educational facilities through welfare schemes and thereafter by securing employment in the present socio-economic set up in Madras.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the present study is based mainly on the primary data collected through adhoc - scheduled and questionnaire for the sample survey conducted in Madras. The sample consists of 400 scheduled castes and tribes who are employees of Class I, II and III cadre who employed in different departments of both the Union and the State Government offices located in Madras area.
The choice of the study area was made only after considering several factors. Madras was chosen for the study because the educational facilities and employment opportunities were plenty in Madras district compared to other districts in Tamilnadu State.

The study has selected only 400 sample respondents of the weaker sections employed in the offices. They were identified for the collection of primary data. The secondary data on higher education and employment available in the official records and census reports were also collected and analysed.

SAMPLE DESIGN

For the purpose of the present study, out of the total sample of 400 respondents, 300 from the offices of the Union Government and 100 from the State Government offices located in Madras have been selected by the random sampling methods.

Out of the total universe, only twenty offices from both Union and State Governments were selected for this study. It is again classified as fifteen from the Union Government and five from the State Government. Twenty employees were chosen from each of the selected offices. The respondents were classified into Class I, Class II and Class III on the basis of their Income and the position in their respective offices.

Direct contact was made to all offices with ad-hoc schedule and questionnaire for collecting personal informations from the respondents. The major items of the data were collected such as educational schemes for the scheduled castes and tribes, their opinions about the various welfare schemes, the problems faced by them in utilising the educational facilities and employment
benefits, the suggestions for improving the educational schemes. The necessary information through questionnaire were collected from the employees after six weeks. Besides, some personal interviews were also conducted with the respondents.

In order to analyse the data the percentage analysis systems were used. After the collection of the data, it was classified and processed, and for the purpose of conveniences, the analysis was made through suitable tables and diagrams.

PLAN OF THE THESIS

The first chapter explains the objectives and methodology of the study. It also explains the background and the need for higher education and the importance of employment to the overall economic development of the country. It discusses the circumstances under which the welfare schemes were launched for the social and economic advancement of weaker section of the Indian society.

The second chapter deals with the review of literature on education and its link with development. It emphasises the need for educational facilities to promote human resource development of India. Of all the capitals the most valuable is that invested in human beings. The need for and the role of education and its linkage with the socio-economic life of the modern world is also discussed in this chapter.

The third chapter discusses the significance of various factors and the current prevailing trends of investments on educational facilities and man power planning in less developed countries in general and its existing process in India
The need for the study of education and development with historical background in India, the illustration of this with reference to other modern towns and urban centers particularly to the metropolitan city of Madras in Tamilnadu State are also discussed in this chapter.

The fourth chapter expresses various educational facilities provided by the welfare schemes of the government in the metropolitan city of Madras which is a strategic capital of Tamilnadu State. It also explains the employment opportunities generated by the Union and State Governments through the welfare schemes for the weaker sections.

The socio-economic traits of the sample respondents after their education and employment in Madras such as the original habitat, the age, religion, the mode of concessions and scholarship availed, the level of education, the employment position, level of income, level of saving and investment, level of expenditure and indebtedness and overall economic improvement and level of living and relevant data collected have been analysed in chapter five.

This sixth chapter deals with the extent to which the educated and employed respondents of the present study are better off in their respective places of settlement in Madras City. The information and data collected from the respondents at the time of personal contact in the form of their own opinion and views about their present life conditions, relationship with their neighbours, their recognition with equal status irrespective of caste and community, their awareness of educational concessions, constitutional provision, social justice and the assessment of welfare schemes are all discussed and analysed.

Chapter seven presents a summary of the findings and general conclusion.