CHAPTER - III

SCHEDULED CASTE'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND INFORMATION NEEDS OF SCHEDULED CASTES COMMUNITY

3.1 INTRODUCTION:

In the Hindu society several castes whose names vary in different parts of the country have been associated with unclean occupations, social restrictions, poverty and exploitation by the strong and advanced sections of the Hindus for centuries. Sudras, Panchamas, Antyajas, Chandalas and a few other names figure frequently in several documents.

In Karnataka during the regimes of the Maharajas, such castes were called by their names as Holeya, Madiga, Vadda, Koracha, Korama and so on. Even by 1909, the caste names were used very frequently though by this time the new term ‘Panchamas’ had just gained currency. Nanjundayya says that “the term Panchama is of recent coinage and is applied to these (meaning Madigas) and Holeyas as they are outside the four castes mentioned in the Sastras”.

Later on, the term ‘Depressed Classes’ was used freely for these low castes. The report of the Inspector General of Education for the year 1914-15 had a reference to the words ‘Panchama’ and ‘Depressed Classes’. Issac is of the opinion that the term, ‘Depressed Classes’ was introduced some time late in the last century in British official records. It was only in 1932 that this word was officially defined as only meaning the ‘untouchables’.
Ambedkar demanded inter-alia a change of nomenclature. He proposed the words 'Protestant Hindus' or 'Non-conformist Hindus'. Finally as recommended by the Simon Commission, the term, 'Scheduled Caste was adopted by the Government.

In 1933 Gandhiji coined the new term, 'Harijans', meaning 'Children of God'. The Constituent Assembly used the word 'Scheduled Caste' while drafting the Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar has earlier opposed the word, 'Harijan'.

The term 'Scheduled Caste' has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution. Article 341 of the Constitution reads follows:

"Scheduled Caste means such castes, races or tribes parts or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under Art.341 to be the Scheduled caste for the purpose of the Constitution of India." The President of India has powers to issue the list of the Scheduled Castes as has been published in the Scheduled Castes Order of 1950 after consultation with the Governor of any State.

The various terms used to denote the low castes from time to time give an impression that all these terms are synonymous. But this is not so, particularly in the case of the untouchables. Among the many scheduled castes, a few are untouchables. All the 'Depressed Classes' are not untouchables as pointed out by Blunt and Borale.
To sum up, it may be said that all the 'Depressed Classes' are Harijans. All the Harijans are Scheduled Castes. All the untouchables are 'Depressed Classes', Harijans or Scheduled Castes. But not all Depressed Classes, Harijans or Scheduled Castes are untouchables. However, in common usage, the term 'Harijan' denotes only the untouchables. Among the various Scheduled Castes in Karnataka, only the Adi Karnatakas and the Adi Dravidas call themselves, and are called by non-Scheduled Castes as Harijans. They are also called Balagai and Edagai and are the untouchables in Karnataka.

The most common factors used in identifying the disadvantaged are economic levels and education. Groups that suffer more deprivation in terms of education and economic resources than the rest of the society include the poor, the elderly, the uneducated, the unemployed and those who are treated as racial outcastes such as the American Africans and Eskimos. In India falling under this category are the Scheduled Castes.

The disadvantaged Scheduled Caste individual does not know which formal channel to tap in order to solve his problems or what specific problems exist to correspond his needs.

Free flow of information to the ultimate consumer, has been a subject of concern to librarians, documentalist, scientists and of late to government also. Right to education and right to information of honestly conferred and sincerely enforced could bring about major social changes among scheduled castes. Right to information is one of the emerging human right of the twenty
first century. If people are well informed, they will be more vigilant and therefore democracy is bound to become more vibrant. Right information to right time will naturally help the socio-economic development among scheduled castes.

3.2 Definition of scheduled castes:

Stratification of societies is a known phenomenon to all civilizations. This is due to the direct result of class struggle and class exploitation. The ancient Indian society was not only stratified but also fossilized into different Varnas and Jatis, the latter being determined by the accident called “birth”. The lowest in the social ladder, the Sudras, were further divided into indefinite number of mixed castes of varying status and finally a group of despised castes forming the lowest stratum of society in ancient India.

Now a days, when we try to find a definition of scheduled castes, it is exclusive. Article 341 of the constitution of India, needs “the President may, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups of within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purpose of constitution be deemed to be scheduled castes in relation to the States and Union Territories, as the case may be”. The list of scheduled castes is now contained in Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act. 1956. Thus Scheduled Castes (and Tribes as well) constitute a protected class, apart from any condition of backwardness. Therefore, Scheduled Caste is not a “Caste” with in the meaning of word “Caste”. It has special meaning namely, a caste as notified by the President
under the provisions of the constitutions, having regard to their abysmal backwardness\textsuperscript{12}.

3.3 SCHEDULED CASTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES – AN OVERVIEW

The main objective of any Scheduled Caste Community Development Programme is to obtain overall development in raising the rural Scheduled Castes poor to higher levels of living through active involvement and participation of the people themselves; true initiative should come from the people for any such developmental activities.

The Community Development Programmes have been under implementation in our country since October 2, 1952 in one form or the other and the most of the villagers are well aware of these schemes. Some have exploited the programmes to the best advantage of their own groups and castes of people. The majority of the Scheduled castes, in rural areas comprise landless labourers, bonded labourers, small and marginal farmers, artisans etc., who are below the poverty line. These people have been hitherto subjected to economic discrimination, exploitation and oppression of all types. The fundamental concept of people’s participation in the Community Development Programmes so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned is ruled out due to the prevailing social ills such as casteism, untouchability and oppression of all types.
3.4 Aim and Objectives of the Social Welfare programmes in India

The Indian Government has implemented several welfare programmes for the people. These programmes are very useful to the people. The following programmes are provided by the Indian Government.

3.4.1 Integrated Rural Development Programme

The integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is a centrally sponsored scheme shared by the Centre and the States on 50:50 bases.

Basic Concepts

Objectives: The objective of the Programme is to assist the families below the poverty line in rural areas to cross this line by taking up self-employment ventures.

Strategy: The Programme aims to achieve by providing income-generating assets including working capital, where necessary to the target group families through package of assistance comprising subsidy and institutional credit.
3.4.2 Training of Rural Youth for self-employment

A centrally sponsored scheme “Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment” (TRYSEM) was launched by the Government of India in the Department of Rural Development on 15th August, 1979. TRYSEM is a facilitating component of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

Objective and Approach

The objective of TRYSEM is to provide technical skills to rural youth from families below poverty line to enable them to take up self-employment in the broad fields of agriculture and allied activities, industries, services and business activities. The target group comprises rural youth between the ages of 18-35 from families living below the poverty line. A minimum of 30 per cent of the trained youths should belong to the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) communities and a minimum of 33\(\frac{1}{3}\) per cent of youth trained should be women.

The process of skill endowment under TRYSEM to members of the target is an integral part of the IRDP. The training under TRYSEM would, therefore, be provided on the basis of actual need and requirement, and hence forth there will be no separate targets at a macro level for TRYSEM. The cost of training in the form of stipend, etc., is to be met out of the funds set out for infrastructure etc., under IRDP\(^{13}\).
3.4.3 Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)

A mid term review of the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) revealed that flow of assistance to women members of target group households or even women headed households had been very marginal. To observe the overall objective of improving the quality of life of rural families living below the poverty line, a sharper focus on providing assistance to work men as part of the IRDP strategy was considered essential. Development of Women and Children in Rural areas (DWCRA) was formulated as a sub scheme of the IRDP within this framework.

Rationale

Women’s income is known to have a positive correlation with the nutritional and educational status of the family and in the building up of a positive attitude towards the status of women. Hence the necessity of ensuring more income earning avenues for women.

Objective

While, on the one hand, DWCRA seeks to provide income generating activities which will have a positive impact on the economic and nutritional status of the family, on the other part also attempts to provide an organizational support in terms of a delivery system for the assisted women, so that they can become effective recipients of goods and services available in that area.
**Strategy**

While the target group of DWCRA is the same as IRDP, i.e. families having an annual income of less than Rs.4,800/- the methodology of reaching it, is through a group rather than individual beneficiaries. The financial provisions under DWCRA are available only for the group; individual income generation projects will be financed on IRDP pattern from IRDP budget.

**Coverage**

DWCRA was started as a pilot project in 50 selected districts in all 22 states, in 1982-83. It has been extended to the union Territories in the Seventh Plan.

**3.4.4 NSAP: National Social Assistance Programme**

**Objectives**

To give financial assistance to old persons having little or no regular means of subsistence, assistance to households living below the poverty line in case they lose the primary bread winner and to pregnant women of households below the poverty line up to two live births.
3.4.5 Improved Tool kits for Rural Artisans

Objectives
To enables the rural artisans to enhance the quality of the product with use of modern tools, increase production level and their income and lead a better quality of life. This will also reduce their migration to urban areas.

Aims
The Programme is under implementation in all districts in all States/UTs as a part of the IRDP. Any suitable improved hand tool is to be provided to the selected beneficiary. Prototypes of modern tools in pottery, black smithy, leatherwork, etc., have been designed. The average cost of a tool kit is Rs.2,000/- and unit cost is fixed by the District Rural Development Agency concerned.

All traditional rural artisans living below the poverty line except weavers, tailors, needle workers and bidi workers come under this.

3.4.6 Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

Objective
To generate gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed men and women in rural areas and create community and social assets particularly in favour of rural poor for their direct and continued benefit.

Scope: Being implemented in three streams.
First stream: General JRY with its sub components of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Million wells Scheme (MWS) which is being implemented throughout the country.

Second stream: Intensified Programme in 120 most backward districts of the country where there is concentration of unemployment and underemployment.

Third stream: Innovative projects aimed at prevention of migration of labour, enhancing women’s employment and programmes of watershed development.

The JRY Programme is open to all persons whose family income is less than Rs.11,000/- per annum. Preference is given to the members of SCs, STs and freed bonded labourers for employment. 35 per cent of the employment opportunities are earmarked for women.

3.4.8 Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Objective: To provide dwelling units free of cost to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and the others who are below poverty line.

Aims: IAY is a beneficiary oriented Programme aimed at SC/STs households who are victims of atrocities, households traded by widows/unmarried women, SC/ST house holds who are below poverty line.

All persons who have an annual income less than Rs.11,000/-. This is a specific scheme earmarked for disadvantaged categories of the rural poor, SCs, STs freed bonded labourers, households below poverty line headed
by women, particularly those who are widows, unmarried victims of atrocities.

The allotment of house is made in the name of the female member of the beneficiary household. Alternatively, it may be in the joint name of both husband and wife. The beneficiaries are to be involved from the very beginning in construction work and have to make their own arrangements for construction to suit their requirements. As far as possible houses are built in clusters so as to facilitate provision of common facilities. The permissible expenditure per house is Rs. 14,000/- in plain areas and Rs. 15,800/- in hilly or difficult areas.

3.4.9 Million Wells Scheme (MWS)

**Objective:** To provide open irrigation wells free of cost to poor, small and marginal farmers below poverty line especially persons belonging to SC, ST and freed bonded labourers.

**Aims:** MWS allocation is primarily intended for open wells only. Tube wells and bore wells are not taken up, where wells are not feasible due to geological factors other works of minor irrigation are taken up. The State Governments are permitted to take larger programmes within the allocation. Construction has to be taken up by the beneficiaries themselves through their own labour and local labour for which they are paid. Preference given to MWS beneficiaries for installation of listing devices under other programmes such as integrated Rural Development Programme.
3.4.10. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) reintroduced in 1977-78. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission was launched in August 1986.

Objective: To provide safe drinking water, free from chemical and bacteriological contamination, at 40 litres per captia per day (ZLPCD) in Desert areas to cover requirement of cattle to uncovered and partially covered villages/habitations identified through various surveys (latest survey validated in 1994) within 1.6 kilometers in plains and 100 metres elevation difference in hills.

Aims: ARWSP, submissions on eradication of guinea a worm, control of fluorosis removal of excess iron and brackishness, removal of arsenic, water conservation and recharge aquifers, water quality surveillance. Human resource development, research and development, information, education and communication/ health education and awareness. Implementation is done thorough State Government.

Hundred percent grant-in-aid is given to the states for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, subject to matching provision by them under their Minimum Needs Program. However, assistance for Desert Development Programme areas is given without condition of matching provision. Seventy five per cent assistance for projects under the submissions
minimum of 25 per cent of annual allocation for SCs, minimum of 10 per cent of annual allocation for STs and 10 percent operation and maintenance.

3.4.11 Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)

**Objective:** To encourage, promote and support projects/schemes aimed at all round development, creation of employment opportunities, promotion of self-reliance, and generation of awareness. Organization and improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas through voluntary action. To promote, develop and disseminate technology appropriate for areas.

**Aims:** While Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) seeks to associate the voluntary sector in several schemes that are part of the planned development and are being implemented on national basis, it also supports several innovative projects keeping the needs of specific areas in view. Assistance to voluntary agencies is provided by CAPART.

Voluntary agencies having at least three years experience after registration as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or under the corresponding state Act, or as a Trust registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the charitable and religious Trusts Act, 1920 for undertaking rural development projects.
3.4.12 Integrated Waste Lands Development Project Scheme National Perspective

Launched in 1989-90 for:
1. Wastelands development.
2. Checking and degradation.
3. Employment generation.

Activities covered development:
1. A forestation and pasture.
2. Horticulture/Agro-forestry.
3. Soil and moisture conservation.

3.4.13 Status of Continuing Education Programmes in India

The National Policy of Education (NPE) as modified in 1992 envisages that comprehensive programmes of post literacy and continuing education which will be provided for neo-literates and youth, who have received primary education with a view to a enabling them to retain and upgrade their literacy skills, and to harness it for the improvement of their living and working conditions.

The revised Programme of Action (POA), which was formulated to give effect to the NPE, also clearly stipulates that the adult education Programme should include.

"Self direct continuing education in the perspective of the life long learning through literary device, newspapers for near-literates, characha mandal and such other activities. This may include the skill development Programme for personal social and occupational development".
The National Literacy Mission was launched in May 1988 with the specific objective of eradicating illiteracy from amongst the adult, no-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time bound manner, so for 526 districts have been covered under total literacy campaigns\textsuperscript{14}.

The Indian constitution has provided several safeguards and facilities for the Scheduled Caste welfare and development. (The Ministries at the union level dealing the subject of Scheduled Caste welfare). There is a Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who studies the condition of Scheduled Castes and make necessary remedial measures for their welfare. There are various Programmes of the Government, under which the Scheduled Castes are provided necessary facilities for their development. The objectives of the programmes are revealed that the Scheduled Castes have to reap benefits from those programmes for their development.

3.4.14 Land Purchase Scheme

The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Corporation has been implementing the scheme of purchase of Agricultural land since 1982 for the benefit of landless agricultural labourers belonging to SC community. It provides an asset, which will not only give income on sustained basis but also a status in the society\textsuperscript{15}.
3.4.15 Horticulture

i. The unit cost during the first year plantation and subsequent maintenance related to Mango, Guava, Citrus, Coconut, Cashew, Sapota etc., are as per NABARD norms.

ii. Though the average cost of Rs. 5,000/- per acre in first year plantation is indicated, the species-wise unit cost shall be followed as per NABARD norms.

iii. Funding Pattern

- Unit Cost - Rs. 5,000/-
- SGSY/Corporation Subsidy - 50%
- NSFDC Loan - 50%

3.4.16 Land Development

Govt. assigned and wasted lands are to be developed under this program. The unit cost is @Rs. 5,000/- shall be sanctioned for 2 acres per beneficiary.

Funds from corporation subsidy shall be utilized for this purpose. The corporation subsidy shall be utilized only after exhausting erstwhile JRY funds available with the District Society. The works may be entrusted to farmers committees. Joint account has to be operated by a representative of the farmers committee and a representative of the Executing Agency. Soil and water conservation works are to be taken-up under this program16.
3.4.17 NSFDC Self-Employment Schemes

With a view to encourage S.C. educated youth, APSC Finance Corporation has been implementing Self-employment programs since 1995 with term loan assistance from NSFDC. The broad objective is to enable easy access to credit for poor educated unemployed S.C. Youth at cheaper rate of interest for self-employment units and to identify entrepreneurial capabilities among S.C. youth and facilitate to emerge as successful entrepreneurs in the society. So far the Corporation has implemented the scheme as follows.

3.4.18 Bank - Linked Self Employment Schemes

The unit cost of bank linked self-employment scheme is Rs. 50,000/-. The candidates studied up to 10\textsuperscript{th} class shall be encouraged to establish industry, service and business sector schemes under the bank-linked program. For this program, the Executive Directors shall place the Action Plan before District Consultative Committee and see that the Bankers assist the beneficiaries as per the targets\textsuperscript{17}. 

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3.4.19 Micro Credit (for SHG members)

The scheme is meant for exclusive Scheduled Castes Women Groups formed under DWCRA/DWAWA.

The Micro Credit assistance scheme is to provide timely and effective micro credit to the poorest of the poor of the target group for low investment oriented, income generating economic activities. Micro credit helps in earning additional income by way of petty business/activities and quick rotation of revolving fund. This also facilitates the liberation of poor people from the clutches of money-lenders who charge exorbitant interests on small borrowings apart from improving the standard of living of the poor SC family.

3.4.20 Rehabilitation of Jogins

The prevalence of the system of Jogins/Basivis/Parvathis (which is a part of devadasi system) has been observed in the Districts of Adilabad, Nizambad, Medak, Ranga Reddy, Karimnagar, Nellore, Kurnool, Anantapur and Chittoor.

In the Action Plan, it is proposed to assist with land based schemes or economic support programs so as to enable them to come out of the age-old system\(^1\).
3.4.21 Bonded Labour

The scheme of rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers is being implemented based on the guidelines issued by Government of India and State Government from time to time.

Since bonded labourers are basically agricultural labourers, the only skill they possess is farming. Hence efforts should be made to rehabilitate them on land-based schemes. Here also, availability of Government land for assignment should be ascertained and the land should be assigned in favour of the released bonded labourers. Thereafter, irrigation facilities should be developed on the land. If the government land is not available, it should be purchased for them under Land Purchase scheme.

3.5 Policies and programmes of government of India

A State committed to planned development by minimizing inequality in income, status and opportunities between the advantaged and disadvantaged groups in considered as a Welfare State. The strategy and programmes of the Government should be directed to promote socio-economic and educational interests of weaker sections in general and those of scheduled castes, scheduled tribe, backward classes and minorities, in particular, to avoid exploitation.
3.5.1 Development

A three-pronged strategy has been identified by the Government of the Scheduled Castes, which comprises (A) Socio-economic and Education Development measures (B) Procreative measures through the protection measures and the protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and (C) Positive Discrimination measures.

A) Socio-economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes has been entrusted to the Scheduled Castes Development Bureau (SCD) in the Ministry. This Bureau is responsible for implementation of various schemes having an impact on the Social, educational and economic development of SCs.

3.5.2 Social

To safeguard the interest of this group the Government has to set up:

1. A National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Article 338 of the constitution. The main objective of this commission is to look into the various plans, policies, programmes and measures undertaken by the Government for development of SCs.

2. A National Commission for Safai Karmacharis has also been recently set up to specifically look into the interest of Safai Karmacharis (mostly comprising SCs) and to monitor the implementation of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers.
3. Special Component Plan (SCP): The objective of this special plan is to provide funds for various scheduled caste development schemes. This was introduced by the Government in 1979 to channelise the flow of funds/outlays and benefits for specific schemes which are development and welfare oriented for scheduled castes. The State Governments/Union Territories/Union Ministries have to earmark funds and such schemes at least in proportion of population of scheduled castes to the total population of State/UT and the Country.

3.5.3 Economic:

For economic development of the scheduled castes, the Government has taken several measures like:

1. Special Central Assistance (SCA), which can be used to give added thrust to the development programmes for scheduled castes with reference to their occupational pattern and the need for increasing the productivity of income from their limited assets by taking up family oriented scheme for them.

2. National Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) were established in 1989, the main objective of the corporation is to accelerate economic growth and development of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It promotes business and entrepreneurial abilities of the SCS and STs, extends term loan, seed capital etc. at concession rates whose annual income is below the poverty income per annum in urban areas. NSFDC takes schemes in the following
sectors: 1) Agriculture and Allied 2) Horticulture 3) Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development 4) Minor Irrigation 5) Small Industries 6) Trades and Services and 7) Transport etc. Since its inception, the foundation has been able to extend tangible help to the vulnerable sections.

3. Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDC): The Scheme for assistance to scheduled castes Development Corporation was introduced in the year 1978 – 79 as Centrally sponsored scheme in the States/ UTs having seizable scheduled caste population. At present, SCDCs are functioning in 19 states and UTs. Their role is to mobilize finances for economic development of the scheduled castes living below the poverty line. The objectives and types of schemes of SCDC are as follows:

3.5.4 Objectives

1. Identification of eligible SC/ST families and motivating them to undertake suitable economic development.

2. Ensuring these schemes to financial institution for credit supports.

3. Providing financial assistance in the form of margin money at low rate of interests and subsidy in order to reduce their payment liability: and

4. Providing necessary link/tie up with other poverty alleviation programmes.

3.5.5 Schemes

1. Agriculture and Allied


3. Trades and Services.

4. Skilled development

5. Self-employment etc.
3.5.6 Educational

For educational development of the scheduled caste students, the following facilities are provided by the State/Central Government.

**Post – Matric Scholarship:** It provides financial assistance to SC and ST students to pursue post matriculation and higher education through payment of all tuition and compulsory fees as well as maintenance allowance. The scheme also provides for study tour, thesis typing/ printing charges, reader allowance for blind students etc. Government also finances the SC/ST students to enter vocational training such as flying in the form of Awards.

**Pre – Matric Scholarship** The objective of the scheme introduced in 1977–78 was to provide financial assistance to enable the children of scavengers of dry latrines, sweepers who have traditional links with scavenging, flayers and tanners to pursue pre-matric education. The scheme is implemented through the State/UT administrations and covers both day – scholars and hostellers.

1. **Book Banks For Sc/St Students** This scheme is intended to provide SC/ST students post-matric scholarships with access to textbooks through the establishment of Book Banks in Medical, Engineering, Veterinary, Agriculture College and polytechnics. Indian systems of Medicine and Homeopathy are also covered under the scheme.
2. **National Overseas Scholarship** Scholarships are provided for advanced degree and post-doctoral studies abroad. Preference is given to students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine, and Agriculture etc. At the graduate and post-graduate level a few courses have been approved for award of scholarships. Selected candidates are allowed three years after the year of selection within which they are required to obtain admissions in foreign institutions, for which assistance is provided by the Indian Missions to the students during their stay abroad and cover the payment to Tuition fees, maintenance and contingency allowances and travel expenses.

   Passage grants are also provided to students who are in receipt of a merit scholarship from a foreign Government or Institution, in case such scholarship does not include the costs of passage.

3. **Other Centrally Sponsored Schemes:**
   
i) Ministry of welfare made a provision to help SC/ST students studying IX, X, XI and XII Classes by providing them extra coaching both remedial and special with a view to removing their social and educational deficiencies and facilitate their admission to professional course such as medical and Engineering etc.
   
   ii) Establishment of coaching centers for pre-examination coaching for competition examinations held by recruiting bodies such as UPSC, State Public Service Commission, PSUs, Banking Service Recruitment Boards etc. pre-examination coaching is provided to SC/ST students in three board areas
   
   a) Civil Services  
   b) Medical and Engineering Services  
   c) Other State Civil Services.
iii) Girls hostels/Boys Hostels: construction of Girls and boys Hostels were started during the III Fives Year Plan with the assistance of State and Central Governments. In one Hostel 100 inmates can be accommodated of which 10% of the seats may be reserved for non-SC/ST Students.

iv) Research and Training: The Ministry is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Research and Training under which grant-in-aid is provided to the Universities, Voluntary Organizations and Research Institution which have proven expertise in the field of scheduled castes development.

B) Protective Measures

1) Administration of protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 (PCR Act, 1995) was enacted and renamed from its original name called “The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955” and made it incumbent upon the State Government to ensure that the rights accruing from the abolition of Untouchability are made available to and are availed of by any person subjected to any disability arising out of Untouchability.

2) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled tribes (Prevention Atrocities) Act, 1989: In view of the increasing trend of atrocities on the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, the existing provisions under the protection of Civil Rights Act had been found inadequate and an additional legislation called “The Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989” to check and deter crimes against them by non-scheduled caste and non-scheduled tribes was passed and brought in to force
with effect from 30.1.90. Special courts are set up by the State Governments for speedy trial of offences under the Act.

3.6 DR. AMBEDKAR FOUNDATION

The foundation was established by Government of India under the Ministry of Welfare on 24th March 1992 as Registered Society under Societies of Registration Act, 1860. The foundation is to manage, administer and carry on with the important and long-term schemes and programmes identified by the Sub-Committee, Standing Committee and the National Government for Baba Saheb. Dr.Ambedkar Centenary Celebrations.

3.6.1 PROGRAMMES

The important schemes and programmes taken up by the foundation are:

1. Establishment of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library in Delhi

2. Instituting Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in different Universities in the country, to push the frontiers of his works and achievements further, and bring them to the people for their benefit and for the well being of the society – State and Nation.

3. Awarding Dr. Ambedkar National Award overseas Fellowship to further the knowledge in the spheres in which Dr. Ambedkar had worked or was interested in.

4. Administering Dr. Ambedkar National Award for social understanding and upliftment of the weaker sections.

5. Translating, printing and publications of collected works of Baba Saheb Dr.Ambedkar (CWBSA) in Hindi and other regional languages.
6. Organising National/State and regional level seminars, conferences, workshops, exhibitions and Meals on Dr. Ambedkar.

7. Administering Dr. Ambedkar International Award for social change. Harmony, Equity, Justice and Human Dignity for the exploited and the under-privileged.

3.7 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCs & STs:

A National Commission for SCs & STs was constituted in 12.3.1992 with wide functions and powers. The main functions of the commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for SCs and STs, participate and advise in the planning process of socio-economic development of SCs and STs, discharge such other functions in relation to the protections, welfare, Development and advancement of the SCs and STs and to make such reports/recommendations and steps that should be taken by the Union or the States (s) for effective implementation of the safeguards. It has been made obligatory on the Union and State Governments to consult the commission in respect of any policy measures affecting the SCs and STs. The Commission has also been vested with the powers of a Civil Court trying a suit and in particular in respect of a) Summoning and enforcing attendance of any person from any part of India and examine him on oath, b) requiring the discovery and production of any documents; c) Receiving evidence on affidavits; d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.
Besides various plans, schemes and programmes of Government of India, Planning Commission also intensifies its efforts to bridge the gap in the levels of SCs & STs, other Backward classes of the population so that by the turn of the century these disadvantaged section of the population are brought on par with the rest of the society in all spheres of national endeavor. Problems of access for SC to programmes and services have to be identified and removed. Elimination of exploitation of SCs must receive high priority. Untouchbility, suppression of rights, unscrupulous lending, land alienation, non-payment of minimum wages and restrictions on right to collect minor forest produce have to be removed to enable these people to avail of the benefits of developmental efforts.

An appropriate forum should be identified by the Central Government to share all its resources and services for the benefit of this disadvantaged class\textsuperscript{19}.

3.8. Information needs of a community

Information need may be known through the appraisal of the community. The profile of the community – Its people and their role and characteristic features, its economic activity and occupational pattern, nature of social and cultural life are indicators from which the nature and contents of information need could be derived. It is a sound procedure to draw information needs from an analysis and identification of the basic features of the community.
3.9 Types Of Information

Public information work is a general reference service, which makes "no discrimination in favour of specific groups". Local information service is "building up detailed local information files and publishing directories and generally acting as a signposting agency to other services", and a community information service is "a positive decision to concentrate on enabling people, particularly those in lower socio-economic groups, to act either individually or collectively on their problems in the fields of housing, employment, family and personal matters, consumer affairs, household finance, education, welfare rights and civil rights". The various programmes described in this chapter provide community information related to scheduled castes.

Joseph Donohue terms this community information as 'Crises in the lives of individuals and communities'. Another classification divides community information into two types: 1. Survival information 2. Citizen action information.

1. Survival information such as that related to health, housing, income, legal protection, economic opportunity, political rights etc; 2. Citizen action information, needed for effective participation as individual or as member of a group in the social, political, legal, economic processes.

Community information services should be seen as a rediscovery of its roots by the public library. Drawing together the threads of our definition, it
can be seen that the term community information has two aspects. One is concerned with the nature of the information provided, that is, information in the community to help people with daily problem solving or in raising the quality of their lives; the other is concerned with the nature of the clientele served, namely those who belong to the lower socio-economic groups are disadvantaged through an inability to obtain, understand, or act on information that affects their lives.

3.10 Information Needs Of Scheduled Castes:

SC/ST farmers and labourers need information in those matters that contribute for increase in agricultural productivity and related issues. They should have abiding interest in matters like the sanction of grants, subsides, provision of credit, supply of fertilizers and agricultural implements. Poverty and social inequality are the striking features of the community. Anti-poverty programmes, and legislative measures to mitigate the burden of social inequality may be of interest to them. Facilities for housing, health and hygiene are poor. They need information on these aspects. They need information on nutrition, childcare, and family welfare which are neglected aspects of this community. They need legal and medical advice and services. This need for information may be stated as basic for the meaningful life of an individual. Survival information is the first kind of information needed by this community.
Since majority of them are illiterates, they need educational information comprising of literacy programmes for adults; educational facilities provided for children by the government in the form of reservations, scholarships, hostel facilities, etc. They need information that keeps them informed of the latest developments that are taking place in modern society. They need information to spend their leisure time in a rewarding manner. They need information that promotes their culture development.

3.11 Sources of Information:

The above mentioned information is available with different government agencies, voluntary organizations, and educational institutions.25

3.12 Problems Of Scheduled Castes

A. Problems of economic development

1. Poverty
2. Ill-Health
3. Ignorance

B. Problems of industrialization and urbanization

1. Bad housing, overcrowding and slums
2. Family change, family breakdown, old age etc,
3. Juvenile delinquency, crime and social defence
4. Psychological strains and breakdown.
C. Problems of value change and readjustment of interests

2. The traditionally under privileged groups and communities.

3. The lower status of women

D. Problems of political reorganization and strife

1. Political minorities

2. Refugees

E. Problems of individual handicaps

1. The physically handicapped, blind, deaf, victim of accidents etc.

2. The mentally handicapped, the backward and retarded.

3. The mentally ill

3.13 Public libraries and community information

The reasons given by librarians for the introduction of community information services into public libraries are not necessarily the right ones or carry equal weight. Rarely have the decisions been taken on any prior evidence that the public would use a community information service in the library. Although from one sample survey of 300 households in the Piedmont area of North Carolina, it was tentatively inferred ‘that a sizeable portion, although not a majority of the public, believes it would ask for up-to-date information about community services and activities, if available at the public library’. By and large, the introduction of such services has been an act of faith by librarians committed to the idea.

Some of the reasons given have as much to do with the survival of the library service as they have with a concern for the survival of their users and
potential users. One most frequently cited reason has been the need to rejuvenate declining branches or central libraries in older towns and particularly inner-city areas. With the movement of traditional library users away from the older inner-city areas to the suburbs and their replacement by the poor, less educated groups with little or no background of library usage, often possessing, as well, language and cultural differences, there has followed a decline in the use of traditional library services. Tom Shaughnessy makes the point 'One cannot help emphasis on accountability and the need to justify expenditures have not also been somewhat instrumental in the implementation and expansion of I and R services'.

'Unless we can develop national delivery system that can provide knowledge to citizens, we will perpetuate and probably dangerously increase the already serious imbalance and injustices which exist in our society today between individuals and institutions as well as between rich and Poor'.

**Community Information** - Local events, activities, and educational opportunists, Social & Welfare Information, Employment rights, Housing, Civil rights, Disability information, Information on Charities etc.

**Consumer Information** - Websites where consumer information is available, Consumer Associations, Government bodies, financial advice, Homes, law, Cars, Holidays (Travel), Buying & Selling, etc.

**Government Information** - Health & welfare Services, Governor, Chief Minister, MPs, MLAs, Government Orders, Public Utility Forms, Tender Notices & Display, High Court Case List, Judgments, Employment Exchange,
Corporation, Municipalities, Educational Institutions, Tourism, Transport Organizations etc.

**Health Information**- For Women, Children; Health Institutions / Association; on Specific Diseases-Alzheimer’s disease, Diabetes, Cancer, Etc; Public Health; Reference Source Documents; Physician/Surgeons/Specialists, etc.

**Education and Training**- Educational programmes / Institutions, Government Organizations, Career Information etc.

**Travel Information**- Travel Companies, Travel-related products, such as tickets, accommodation, Holiday packages, Maps, Places of Interest.

**Business & Finance Information**- Share Prices, Taxation regulations, Governmental information, Government Utility Forms, Associations, Companies, Employment & Training.

**Local History Information**- Historical buildings & Archaeological landscapes, National monuments, Local Photographs, Local archives, History magazines, etc.

**Children’s Information**- Homework resources, Geographical magazines, Volcanoes, Mountains Children stories, Fun & Games, etc.

Public library system shall be considered as a focal point in information transfer to rural and backward areas. A public library
must respond to the social needs. It should be involved in social issues. Illiteracy is recognized as a major social evil.

The public library can promote service to illiterates in the following manner:

1. To give their required information by word of mouth: In a society where illiteracy looms large, oral communication of information is the best way,
2. To produce wall pictures or charts representing the required information.
3. To arrange for culture activities like drawing where illiterates and neo-literates participate.
4. The poor should be allowed to read popular magazines, watch T.V. and other Audio visual aids. The illiterate masses who will never be attracted by the libraries can easily by impressed by methods of this kind. The Audio Visual Media not only provides them the required information but it also gives them fun and enjoyment. But our libraries lack such communication media. Public libraries need to preserve and make use of audiovisual communications, particularly in rural areas. But our public libraries could not afford to have equipment like radio television. The government organisation and voluntary bodies should come forward to install such equipment in the public libraries., and
5. The public library should arrange exhibitions, displays, film shows, lectures and adult classes, thus contributing directly to the economic, social and cultural development of scheduled castes.

It is suggested that the public library system should consist of 3 tiers.

1. District centre
2. Taluka center
3. Local units.
The local units should be localized in certain areas depending upon the size of the population. Although public library system is considered to be the focal centre of information transfer, the co-operation of various agencies such as welfare, co-operative, voluntary and local bodies etc. need to be sought.

3.14 Mobile libraries

Mobile libraries carrying books to the doors of the adults would help to keep literacy alive and induce literates to continue their interest in reading and knowing new development in the society.

Workshops:

It is suggested that a traveling workshop may be conducted comprising tape-slide programmes, audiotapes and posters. The aim of this workshop may be to make the scheduled castes living in rural areas aware of the legal information and how to use this information when needed.

Training of information personnel

Training of information personnel is essential in order to identify legal information needs of scheduled castes, analyze problems and design appropriate library information service to meet these needs.

The public library system should pay special attention to SCP libraries. The grants accorded to them must be spent for the welfare of these SC communities only. The SCP libraries must be redesigned to address the information needs of SC community.
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   Mysore Government Press, p.382

   Publishing House, p.36.

5. Government of India Act, 1935, para 26, Schedule I.


8. The Scheduled Castes Order of 1950 was amended by the Scheduled
   Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act (LXIII of 1956),
   Section 41 of the States reorganization Act of 1966.

   Chand and Co., pp.333-335.

    Manaktalas, P.33.

11. Balagai means 'Right hand' and Edagai means 'Left hand'. Since the
    right hand is supposed to be superior to the left hand, the Adi
    Karnatakas who are Balagai's are considered to be superior to the Adi
    dravidas who are Edagai's.

    Access to Information: A study in perspective". In: *Information needs*


16. Ibid., p.17

17. Ibid., p.18

18. Ibid., p.19


22. Ibid, 11-12.


24. Ibid. Fiche 9, frame B12.


