CHAPTER – TWO

POSITION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND WELFARE PROGRAMMES
In this chapter an attempt is made to examine the position of Scheduled Communities in India and Andhra Pradesh. It also reviews and discusses various welfare programmes taken up by the Government.

The India has declared itself as welfare State. The preamble and various provisions of the Indian constitution expresses clearly that, the Indian Government should strive for the welfare of the people.

The Scheduled Castes in India, who account for 15.75 per cent of India population, have long suffered from several social, economic, political and religious disabilities. For centuries they were treated as untouchables, assigned the lowest status in society and denied the right to own property, the freedom to choose and occupation, admission to educational institutions, permission to hold public posts, and access to all public plans. However for some time past several efforts have been made for their emancipation and uplift but it was only after achieving independence, serious and organized efforts on a national level have been made to improve their general conditions and absorb them in to the main strain of Indian Society.¹ In fact since then several social, economic, educational, political and religious safeguards besides numerous programmes have been provided by the Indian constitution.
CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR THE SCHEDULED CASTES

The various Articles of our constitution express as follows:

Article 38 provides that the state shall protect the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as effectively as, if may, a social order in which justice-social, economic and political – shall inform all institutions of national life. With this end in view, it has been laid down that the state shall direct its policy towards securing.

(i) Adequate means of livelihood for all citizens.
(ii) Distribution of wealth so as to sub serve the common good.
(iii) Equal pay for equal work for all.
(iv) Operation of the economic system not resulting in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.
(v) Protection of adult and child labour.
(vi) Opportunities to children to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.
(vii) Provision for work and education for all people, relief in the case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases undeserved want.
(viii) To provide for free and compulsory education for all children below the age of fourteen years within a period of ten years from the inauguration of the constitution.
To see protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of the forests and wild life of the country.

Article 39 of the Directive Principles of state policy. The right to properly in its original form had the following essential features.

1. No person could be deprived of his property save by the authority of law.

2. No property, movable or immovable, including any interest in, or any company owing any commercial or industrial undertaking could be taken possession of or acquired for public purpose under any law authorizing the making of such acquisition, unless law provided for the compensation for the property taken possession of or acquired and either fixed the amount of the compensation, or specified the principles on which and the manner in which the compensation was to be determined and given.

3. No law for compulsory acquisition of private property passed by the state legislature could have effect unless it had been reserved for the consideration of the President and had received his assent there to.

4. Any law of the state enacted not more than 18 months before the commencement of this constitution, could within three months form such commencement be submitted to the president for his certification, and there upon if the president by public notification so certified, it could not be called in question in any
court on the ground it contravened the provisions of the constitution.

Article 41 of the constitution provides that the Right to work, right to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and other cases of undeserved want.

India being a federal structure, the responsibility for implementation of welfare schemes rests with both the centre and the state Governments. The centre is also responsible for formulating the nations policy for social welfare services and co-ordinating, guiding, prompting and promoting the implementation of welfare services by the states. Department of social welfare was created on 14 June 1964 (Upgraded to the level of ministry in 1979, by pooling together different welfare programmes which were hitherto administered by different ministries in Government of India.

The Scheduled Castes (S.C.) and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) have been specified by fifteen presidential orders issued under the provisions of Article 341 and 342 of the constitution. While the constitution has prescribed certain protective measures and safeguards for these classes, the successive five-year plans have regarded their progress as a major objective of national policy.

The constitution prescribes protection and safe guards for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, either specially or by way of insisting on their general rights as citizens with the object of promoting their
educational and economic interests and of removing the social disabilities. The main safe guards are.

(i) The abolition of untouchability and the forbidding of its practice in any form (Art 17).

(ii) The promotion of their educational and economic interests and their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitations (Art 46).

(iii) The throwing open by law of Hindu Religious institutions of a public character to all classes and section of Hindus. (Article 25);

(iv) The removal of any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to shops, public restaurants hotels and places of public entertainment or the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of the general public (Art 15).

(v) The curtailment of law, in the interests of any Scheduled Tribe, of the general rights of all citizens to move freely, settle in, and acquire property (Art 19 (5)).

(vi) The forbidding or any denial of admission to educational institutions maintained by the state or receiving aid out of state funds (Art 29).

(vii) Permitting the state to make reservation for the backward classes in public services in case of inadequate representation and requiring the state to consider the claims
of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the making of appointments to public services (Art 16 and 335).

(viii) Special representation in the Lok Sabha and the state Vidhan Sabhas to Scheduled Castes and Tribes till 25 January 2010 (Arts 330, 332, and 335).

(ix) There shall be a National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be appointed by the President (Art.338). It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under this constitution and to report to the President up on the working of those safeguards annually or at such intervals as it may deem fit, and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each house of Parliament.2

(x) The setting up of tribes’ advisory councils and separate departments in the states and the appointments of a special officer at the centre to promote their welfare and safeguard their interests (Arts 164 and 338 and Fifth Schedule).

(xi) Special provision for the administration and control of Scheduled and Tribal areas (Art. 244 and Fifth and Sixth Schedules) and

(xii) Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Art 23).

Social welfare as a profession is still in its infancy phase in India. It is true that the State has become responsible for the mental, moral
and the physical well-being of all citizens. It has incorporated in the constitution long range goals to establish a new social order in which social inequalities, economic and political disparities will be reduced to the minimum. But at present crushing poverty and low standards of living prevail for a large section of the population. Social welfare as a specialized activity as to improve the living conditions of the less privileged and the backward classes has been widely accepted. In order to promote programmes of social welfare, several types of strategies have been adopted, which have led to the establishment of both public and private social welfare agencies. The voluntary agencies seem to be ill-equipped both financially and administratively to carry out the task of implementing social welfare programmes in any effective manner. The need to recognize professional social work education on the cultural foundations of Indian society is advocated, if it has to play a significant role in meeting the challenge of modernization.¹

The work of the Union Ministry of Social Welfare is being now carried out through three Bureaus (1) Nutrition and Child Development, (2) the Central Social Welfare board, (3) the National Institute of Social Defence assist the ministry in its function.

Central Social Welfare Board

The Central Welfare Board (CSLB) was set up in 1953 to promote and accelerate voluntary action, throughout the country. The Chairman of the Board is appointed by the Government of India from
amongst prominent women social workers. Among its activities of their programmes; Co-ordination of the assistance given by various Central Ministers and State Governments and render financial assistance to voluntary welfare organizations in areas where they do not exist as well as social welfare activities for the welfare of the family, women, children, the handicapped and others.

The main programmes currently implemented by CSWB are condensed courses of education for adult women, socio-economic programmes of women in need of work and wages, crèches for children, general grants-in-aid etc.

Social welfare advisory boards have been set up in almost all the states and union territories. A sizeable portion of the financial assistance from CSLB is extended to voluntary institutions through the state boards.

The social welfare organisation both at central and state level is striving to accelerate expansion of education among the scheduled castes. The birth of Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) marked the first entry of the state in the field of social welfare. This took place in 1953. In the previous years social welfare work was entirely confined to voluntary action. The CSWB was assigned the tasks of making a survey of the needs and requirements of social welfare organization, evaluation of the projects and programmes of the aided agencies, coordination of assistance extended to social welfare activities by various ministries in Central and State Governments, promotion of
social welfare organizations on voluntary basis and sending financial aid to deserving institutions. The setting up of the Board was recommended in the 1st five-year plan itself. During the British rule, in the absence of any state policy on social welfare, the voluntary organization, no doubt did some admirable work. But they had their limitations and shortcomings. But the social welfare services provided by voluntary effort were inadequate.²

When the 'CSWB' was installed, it had three major tasks facing it. Firstly, the improvement of the output of voluntary organization, where this could be achieved by the infusion of monetary help. As a result the system of grants-in-aid came into effect and the task of promoting new social welfare programmes. The idea was that the Board should identify areas of poverty, disease and victims of social evil and design programmes of social service to meet these handicaps. The next task was that promotion of new voluntary organizations. Soon after it was launched into action the CSWB achieved signal success. A large number of projects which for the first time attempted in a systematic manner to promote the welfare of women and children received warm reception from the people, when a few years, the name of the Board became a by word and it seemed that it had definitely emerged to give a new dimension to social welfare work in the country. The CSWB was expected to provide proper supervision and coordination of various welfare activities to achieve maximum results and to avoid conflicts and waste of effort and material resources through unnecessary duplication. However, neither the velocity of its
work nor its volume maintained a uniform pace. Its programmes did not expand in time with the changing pattern of social needs. The Board could not provide training facilities to social welfare workers.  

Welfare and Advisory Agencies

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for the formulation and implementation of schemes for welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and maintains liaison with the States.

A Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes consisting of a Chairman and four members, including the special officer appointed under Article 338 of the constitution known as the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, was set up in August 1978. The commission is to investigate all matters relating to constitutional safeguards, reservation in public services, to study the implementation of the protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, with particular reference to the objective of removal of untouchability and invidious discrimination arising there form, and to ascertain the socio-economic and other relevant circumstances responsible for the commission of offences against persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes with a view to recommend appropriate remedial measures.

S.C. Development Programmes

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 are 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 of landless labours, 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 concerned is ruled out due to the prevailing social ills such as casteism, untouchability and oppression of all types.

**Aims and Objectives of the Social Welfare programmes in India**

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

**Integrated Rural Development Programme**

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is a centrally sponsored scheme landed by the Centre and the States on 50:50 basis.
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 the stated objective by providing income-generating assets including working capital, where necessary to the target group families through package of assistance comprising subsidy and institutional credit.

Poverty Line

(i) Definition: Poverty line has been defined in terms of annual income of a family. A family having an annual income of Rs.6400/- or less is considered to be a family the poverty line.

(ii) Under this programme the family will be assisted to reach an annual income level of Rs.6400/-

(iii) The "cut off" line for identification of the families for assistance would be Rs.4800/- annual income per family. However, in order to ensure that the poorest of the poor get the assistance first, it would be ensured that families with an annual income level upto Rs.3500 are assisted first. After all such families have been assisted in a block, the block level officer would report to the DRDA that all the families with annual income upto Rs.3500 have been assisted. The DRDA
would then verify the situation by issuing public notices and
give sanction to the block to assist the families in 3501-4800
income bracket.

Target Group

The target group of the programme consists of small farmers,
marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and others
whose annual family income is below the cut off line. The small and
marginal farmers and agricultural labourers have been defined as
under.

Small Farmer

Cultivation with a land holding of 5 acres or below is a small
farmer. Where a farmer has Class I Irrigated land, as defined in the
State Land Ceilings Legislation, with 25 acres or less he will also be
considered as small farmer. Where the land is irrigated but not of the
Class I variety, a suitable conversion ratio may be adopted by the State
Government with a ceiling of 5 acres.

Marginal Farmer

A person with a land holding of 25 acres or below is a
marginal farmer. In the case of class I irrigated land, the ceiling will be
1.25 acres.
Agricultural Labourers

A person without any land other than homestead and deriving more than 50% of his income from agricultural wages is an agricultural labourer.4

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 331/3 per cent of youth trained should be women.

The process of skill endowment under TRYSEM to members of the target group is an integral part of the IRDP. The training under TRYSEM would, therefore, be provided on the basis of actual need and
requirement, and henceforth 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.

The objective of TRYSEM scheme has been enlarged to include wage employment in case of project linkages. Such projects, to be cleared by the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC), should fulfill the following conditions:

i. The entire project should be an integrated one;

ii. All the beneficiaries should be from IRD target group;

iii. At least 50% of youth should be trained for self-employment either for secondary or tertiary sector activity;

iv. The training of all beneficiaries would be funded out of the TRYSEM funds;

v. While the self-employed trainees would receive subsidy for took kits and for setting up their units, only training cost of the wage employed trainees would be met; and

vi. The wage employment training should be in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

Strategy

The identified youth are to be put through a period of training, either with a training institution a master craftsman to provide
necessary technical and entrepreneurial skills. On the successful completion of training, he has to receive a combination of subsidy and institutional credit under IRDP, the acquisition of an income generating asset.\textsuperscript{5}

**Scope**

Training is imparted both through formal training institutions including industrial and servicing units, commercial and business establishment etc., and non-institutionalized modes like master craftsmen. The duration of training is flexible and the trainees receive stipend during training. Suitable tool kits are also provided to them free of cost. Moreover, payment is made for purchase of raw material. A maximum of 50 per cent of selected youths should belong to the SCs and STs and minimum 40 per cent should be women. Further, at least 3\% of the benefits are earmarked for physically handicapped persons.

The Rural youth in the age group of 18-33 years from families having an income less than Rs.11,000/- per annum. The minimum age for providing training under TRYSEM is relaxed to 16 years for inmates of orphanages in rural areas. The upper age limit is relaxed to 45 years in the case widows, freed bonded labourers, freed convicts, persons placed due to large development projects and cured leprosy patents.

**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 in 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.

**Scope**

It is implemented in all the districts of the country. Groups of 10-15 women members each from poor households are formed at the village level for delivery of services like credit, skill training, cash and infrastructural support for self-employment. To facilitate the implementation of the scheme one post of Assistant Project Officer (W) and one Additional Gram Sevika have been provided in the District Rural Development Agencies and block level, respectively. Any viable activity can be taken up taking care of backward and forward linkages. A pilot project of community based convergent services has been introduced in 89 districts of the country.

**Funding**

Groups of 10-15 members are formed. Each group is given a lump sum grant of Rs.25,000 as 'Revolving Fund' which is shared by the Central Government, State Government and the UNICEF in the ratio of 40:40:20. The groups can start viable income generating
activities to augment the income earning capacity of the group members. All women who are living below poverty line in rural areas are eligible to get this programme.

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 upto two live births.

The eligibility criteria under the three schemes are as under

1. National old age pension scheme: Rs.75 per month to person of 65 years old and above who are destitute.

2. National Family Benefit Scheme: Lumpsum benefit of Rs.5,000/- in case of natural death and Rs.10,000/- in the case of death due to accident to households below the poverty line on the death of the primary breadwinner. Persons in the age group of 18-64 years are covered under the scheme.

3. National Maternity Benefit Scheme: Lumpsum assistance of Rs.300/- per pregnancy upto the first two live births to women above the age of 19 years belonging to households below the poverty line NSAP payment to be made to the account of the
beneficiary in the post office Saving Bank or in a Commercial Bank or through postal money order.

4. Improved Tool kits for Rural Artisans

Objects

To enable 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, carpentry, blacksmithy, leather work, 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.

5. 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 under-employment.

**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 members of SCs, STs and freed bounded labourers for employment. 35 per cent of the employment opportunities are earmarked for women.

**Wages**

The wages paid to workers are the minimum wages prescribed by the respective state Governments. All workers under JRY have 60% wage and 40% non-wage component. Wages can be paid partially in the form of food grains at public distribution system.
rates on optional basis. Equal wages to male and female workers for similar work.

6. Indira Awaas Yojana

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 windows/unmarried women, SC/ST households affected by floods and other SC/ST and non SC/ST households 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 windows, unmarried of 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.

7. Million Wells Scheme

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 programes within the
allocation. Construction 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.

8. Rajivi Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme 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 capita per day (ZLPCD in
Desert areas to cover requirement of cattle) to uncovered and partially
covered villages/habitations identified through various surveys (the
latest survey was 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 through State Government.

Hundred percent grant-in-aid to the states for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, subject to matching provision by them under their Minimum Needs Programe. 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 per cent operation and maintenance.

9. **Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology**

**Objective:** To encourage, promote and support projects/schemes aimed at all round development, creation of employment opportunities, promotion of self-reliance, 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 rural areas.

Aims: While 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 provide by CAPART.

Voluntary agencies having atleast 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.

10. 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:
1. Afforestation and pasture development.
2. Horticulture/Agro-forestry.
3. Soil and moisture conservation.

11. Status of Continuing Education Programmes in India

The National Policy on Education (NPE) as modified in 1992 envisages that comprehensive programmes of post literacy and continuing education will be provided for neo-literates and youth, who
have received primary education with a view to 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 mandals 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 far 526 districts have been covered under total literacy campaigns.

The Indian constitution has provided several safeguards and facilities for the Scheduled Caste welfare and development. The Ministries at the union level are dealing the subject of Scheduled Caste welfare. There is a Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which 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.
References


4. Ibid., p.16.

5. Ibid., p.220.

6. Information Brochure on programmes of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, NIRD, Hyderabad.