CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Prologue

Information flow occurs through various channels of communication such as Inter-personal communication, traditional media, modern mass media and new communication technologies. Modern society is known as information society. Exchange of information between the information haves and information have-nots is the need of the hour especially in a developing country and pluralistic society like India. Organizational communication networks and activities are required to popularize the beneficial effects of organizational policies and programs and to enrich the human resources of the modern organizations in letter and spirit. The cultivation of media habits and information acquisition are inter-related activities which have a bearing on the development of human resources. Information acquisition among the personnel becomes even clearer as the world entered the new millennium which is dominated by information power.

The builders of Indian Republic and founding fathers of our Constitution had considered it necessary to provide specific safeguards in the constitution for the uplift of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes(ST) who are weak, vulnerable and oppressed communities in India mainly due to existing caste system, social order, economic order, political order and a combination of various circumstances. The Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes relate to the removal of the disabilities as well as positive measures to enable them to acquire a dignified position in the national life. It is distressing to note that the gains of development have not yet reached the intended classes to the desired extent. Despite various measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities, they remain weak and vulnerable in all spheres of human life in India.
Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state of Indian Republic and that it has the fifth biggest population in the country. The Ranga Reddy district was formed on August 15, 1978 in the name of doyen freedom fighter and former Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh K. V. Ranga Reddy. There are large number of research, training and developmental organizations in this district which have recruited the SC/ST personnel in accordance with the government norms and guidelines. These organizations have also developed their own communication networks and management information system with a view to increase the professional status of the personnel including SC/ST personnel. The flow of information, acquisition of information and utilization of information among the SC/ST personnel and the role of information in human resources development and human rights protection of the SC/ST personnel need to be evaluated scientifically and systematically.

The present study evaluated the media habits and information acquisition among SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental institutions at Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh state. The constitutional safeguards for SC/ST communities, reservation benefits for SC/ST communities, welfare of SC/ST communities in India, welfare of SC/ST communities in Andhra Pradesh, social significance of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study and scope of the study are furnished in this chapter.

1.2 Constitutional Safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes in India

1.2.1 Specification of Scheduled Castes

The term Scheduled Caste has a long historical origin. Prior to the year 1935, when the Government of India Act was enacted, the communities suffering from the stigma of untouchability were being referred to as ‘untouchables’ or exterior castes or depressed classes or by various caste names most of which were derogatory. As a part of social and political changes sought to be introduced in the year 1935, the various castes
which suffered social disabilities were listed in a ‘Schedule’ and from that time onwards, they came to be described as Scheduled Castes. Due to several traditions and a combination of circumstances, the Scheduled Castes were the most deprived, weak and vulnerable amongst the various sections of Indian Society.

The founding fathers of Indian Constitution decided to secure social, economic and political justice for all citizens. They also considered it necessary to provide specific safeguards in the Indian Constitution for the Scheduled Castes who have remained in the last rung of the social order. Out of Article 46 flow all safeguards for weaker sections including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The constitutional safeguards for the members of the Scheduled Castes relate to the removal of the disabilities as well as positive measures to enable them to acquire a dignified position in the national life.

The list of Scheduled Castes was notified by the President of India in accordance with the provisions in Articles 341 of the Indian Constitution in 1950. The parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe, or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe but serve a notification. In order to belong to a Scheduled Caste, a person must profess either a Hindu or a Sikh or a Buddhist religion.

1.2.2 Specification of Scheduled Tribes

The connotation ‘tribe’ which is attributed to certain ethnic groups in India is the legacy of the British colonial rule. The term continues to be used in dealing with the exotic indigenous people of India who lived outside cities and townships. In the present times, tribes are found to live in forests, hills and terrains which are the repository of natural resources with their exotic culture which is peculiar to modern day people. The Scheduled Tribes were identified on the basis of certain well defined criteria including the traditional home land of a definite geographical area, distinctive culture including shyness of contact, occupational traits such as pre-agricultural modes of cultivation and general lack of development.
The list of Scheduled Tribes was notified by the President of India in accordance with the provisions in Articles 342 of the Indian Constitution. The parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes any tribe or tribal community or group within any tribe or tribal community by serving a notification according to clause (1). Religion is not a bar in the case of Scheduled Tribes.

1.2.3 Salient Features of Indian Constitution

The Constituent Assembly was chaired by Babu Rajendra Prasad, the first President of independent India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. India became an independent country on August 15, 1947. The Constitution of India came into effect on January 26, 1950. The Constitution of India is the basic and supreme law of our country. It, however, governs almost all the aspects of our national life. It constitutes India into a sovereign socialist secular Democratic Republic and pledges to secure for all the citizen, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes justice, liberty and equality.

The Preamble to the Constitution of India reveals the philosophy of the Constitution. It reads: “We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens - justice: social, economic and political; liberty of thoughts, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and integrity of the nation.

An important part of the Constitution and of great significance to the women and weaker sections is the Directive Principles of State Policy which are fundamental in the governance of the country. In India, we have accepted parliamentary form of democracy as a way of life. We have also adopted Center – State relationship to facilitate sound governance of Indian Republic. Our Constitution is a written and flexible Constitution. There is provision for amending the Constitution in accordance with the changing needs, circumstances and environment. The legislature, executive, judiciary and media are the
basic foundations of Indian democracy. There is also provision for review of Indian Constitution.

1.2.4 History of Constitutional Safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

The vast Indian sub-continent has nourished the growth of great civilization, by the diversities of many cultural and racial groups, castes, religions and languages, and vitalized through cross-cultural contacts during its 5000 years of history. The hierarchical social order in other words caste system was created over the centuries with a view to preserve the monopoly of social status, property and education by the higher caste Hindus. Resultantly, property, education, freedom, justice, progress, prosperity and so on were denied to the women and weaker sections of the Indian society. The caste system bestowed hierarchical graded privileges on some sections of the population and inflicted a series of disabilities on others which continued from generation to generation.

Opportunities of growth and development were controlled and usurped by the high castes with the result that the down-trodden were deprived and discriminated, symbolizing a powerful institutionalized pattern of exploitation and suppression of the weak by the strong. Unfortunately, Indian social system has for centuries perpetrated social and economic injustices by the so called high castes on the low castes who have been systematically denied equal opportunities and facilities in the mainstream of national life. The weaker sections have always been set apart from the mainstream of the national life and remained socially oppressed, educationally backward, economically exploited and politically disorganized. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have remained as marginalized sections of Indian society.

Although, the terms marginalized or disadvantaged is often used there is not accepted general definition of the words. 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. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are the worst victims of several circumstances which have made them under-privileged sections of Indian society. Several reformers and organizers have waged series of struggles against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the history of India. Buddha, Basava, Jyothi Bhapule, Ambedkar, Periyar, Narayana Guru and others are the foremost champions of social justice in Indian sub-continent.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar actively organized Dalits, backwards, minorities and women against the system. He was mainly responsible for organizing a nation-wide social movement for the emancipation and empowerment of weaker sections in 20th Century. He participated in the Round Table Conferences as the prominent advocate of social justice. He also persuaded the British Government to protect the interest of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of India. The then British Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald announced the Communal Award on August 17, 1932 and declared the depressed classes as minority community and granted assured representation with separate electorate for a period of twenty years in order to empower them socially, economically and politically.

Mahatma Gandhi resolved to fast unto death against this communal award stating that it was a severe blow to the unity of the Independence movement. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to retain the existing social order in India. Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona Pact unwillingly even though it was detrimental to the interest of SC/ST people in order to save the life of Gandhi and prevent communal clashes in India. He insisted, however, that each side had to give in before an agreement could be reached. Gandhiji was opposed to separate electorate but was agreeable to reservation of seats. Dr. Ambedkar asked for adequate representation to SC/ST people politically. In the end, both sides agreed to the principle of proportional representation which could give the depressed classes 147 seats; more than twice as many as originally granted. In addition to the 147 seats in the Provincial Legislatures, 18 per cent of the general electorate seats in the Central Legislature were to be reserved for these classes. The agreement known as the Poona
Pact was reached on 24\textsuperscript{th} September, 1932. The crises were over and Gandhiji broke his fast. It was thus under the able stewardship of Dr. Ambedkar the various safeguards to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were incorporated in the Constitution of India.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru moved a resolution which was passed by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947 before independence with respect to special Constitutional safeguards for the weaker sections of the Indian society. The Constituent Assembly resolved to proclaim India as an independent sovereign republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution wherein shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India justice – social, economic and political, equality of status and of opportunities and before the law, freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation and action subject to law and public morality wherein adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas and depressed and other backward classes.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar strongly advocated thus: “We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life. Liberty cannot be divorced from equality; equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality can be divorced from fraternity. Without equality, liberty will produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Equality without liberty will kill the individual initiative. Without fraternity, liberty and equality could not become a natural course of things…. We must begin by acknowledging the fact that there is complete absence of two things in Indian society. One of these is equality. The second thing we are wanting in is recognition of fraternity. Fraternity means a sense of common brotherhood of all Indians being one people. It is the principles which give unity and solidarity to social life. Without fraternity, equality and liberty will be no deeper than a coat of paint”.
The founding fathers of Indian Constitution decided to secure social, educational, economic and political justice for all citizens. They also analysed that the inequitable forces embedded in the socio-economic system and also political organizations which had resulted in deprivation and disadvantages for the poor and weaker sections of the society. It was, therefore, considered necessary to provide specific safeguards in the Constitution for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who, due to various factors, circumstances and forces were the most vulnerable amongst the various sections of Indian society. The new democratic republic was made aware of its responsibility towards the welfare of the weaker sections of society thanks to the revolutionary struggle launched by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who waged a relentless war against injustice, inequality, discrimination and exploitation.

1.2.5 Availability of Constitutional Safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

"The Indian Constitution is a unique document which provides for a comprehensive framework for the socio-economic advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in particular and creation of a just and humane society in general. The Constitution of India incorporated a number of commands for the elimination of the inequities and inequalities prevalent in the Indian society and for promoting equality and social justice" according to S.R. Sankaran (2000). The safeguards have apparently helped these communities in protecting their legitimate interests and accelerated their socio-economic development. The credit for incorporating these safeguards in the Constitution of India goes to Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. To Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, nothing was dearer than the welfare of the downtrodden communities.

The main objective of these safeguards was to level up, socially and economically backward classes, particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within a reasonable time frame. Article 14 of the Constitution guaranteed equality before the law and equal protection of laws. Article 15 prohibited discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, sex or place of birth as well as disabilities in regard to access to public
places and also specifically laid down that nothing shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Article 16 provided for equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment with specific provision for reservation of appointments or posts in respect of any backward class of citizens. Article 17 abolished untouchability forbidding its practice in any form and making the enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability a punishable offence. Article 23 prohibited traffic in human beings and forced labour. Article 24 barred the employment of children below 14 years in any factory or mine or hazardous occupations. Article 38 envisaged a social order and justice in social, economic and political spheres of national life.

All the Constitutional safeguards have, apparently been provided to facilitate the implementation of the Directive Principles of State Policy contained in Article 46 of the Constitution. It reads: “The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests 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”.

Upendra Baxi notes: “In many respects the fundamental rights in Part III emerge not just as a corpus of limitations on the power of the State, guaranteeing State free spaces for the pursuit of individual and collective rights but also as an onslaught on intransigent attitude and behaviour in Society and culture. The Indian Constitution is unique in that it designates violation of these human rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as offences created by the Constitution itself and casts a constitutional duty on Parliament to enact legislations, regardless of federal distribution of legislative powers provided in the Constitution”.

These Constitutional safeguards protect the interest of about 25 core Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe’s people who form 24.56 per cent of the total population in the country. The various safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the
Constitution are classified under four heads namely, social, educational and economic, political and, other safeguards by B.N. Srivastava (2000).

Table No. 1.1: Constitutional Safeguards for SC/ST Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Constitutional Safeguards</th>
<th>Articles of Constitution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Social problems like abolition of untouchability, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of caste, race, sex, access to public places, wells, tanks, hotels, restaurants etc., prohibition of forced labour, and throwing open Hindu religious institutions etc.</td>
<td>14, 15(1), 15(11), 17, 23, and 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Educational and Economic</td>
<td>Reservation for admission in educational institutions, reservation in public employment, claims in appointments to the services, promotion of educational and economic interests and protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.</td>
<td>15(4), 16(1), 16(4), 16(4)A, 29, 46, and 335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Political</td>
<td>Reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies and period of reservation, Minister in charge of tribal welfare in the state of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa</td>
<td>164(11), 330, 332, and 334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Other Safeguards</td>
<td>Administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas, Grants-in-aid out of Consolidation Funds of India to States for Scheduled Areas and promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Executive power of Union in giving direction to state for Scheduled Tribes, appointment of Backward Classes Communication, specification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, definition, Special Provisions with respect to the States of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, Fifth and Sixth Schedules</td>
<td>244, 275, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 366, 271, Fifth and Sixth Schedules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2.6 Assessment of Constitutional Safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

S.R. Sankaran (2000) observes: “The Constitutional safeguards for the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes relate to the removal of the disabilities as well as positive measures to enable them to acquire a dignified position in the national life. The Constitutional perspective combines both the positive notion of rights guaranteed through the State and law as well as the notion of natural rights and includes horizontal rights applicable to all citizens and vertical rights to enhance the life chances of vulnerable groups such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The welfare and development of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be viewed at not merely in terms of material needs but equally or even more so in relation to non-material needs such as the right to live with freedom, human dignity and self-respect. In the rural India, Scheduled Castes habitations are even today usually segregated mostly on the outskirts of a village. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are indeed the laboring classes on whose strength, sweat and toil the nation survives. But almost all of them suffered and continued to suffer from varying degrees of un-freedom and denial of human dignity. Untouchability is undoubtedly the worst form of inhuman indignity. The victims of custodial violence or illegal detention are mostly from the poor Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with little financial or political power to back them. Despite various measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they remain vulnerable. They are denied a number of civil rights. They are subjected to various offences, indignities, humiliations and harassment. The dehumanizing practice of manual scavenging is yet another blot on the Indian society. Almost all those engaged in these occupations – there are about a million of them in the country – are from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes”.

A large majority of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes belong to below the poverty line even now. A small proportion of them have secured employment in government sector and crossed the poverty line. There is no proper monitoring and evaluation of welfare programmes implemented by the government for the betterment of
the status of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In spite of the implementation of various welfare programmes during the last six decades, a wide gap exists in the conditions of SC/ST and others in Indian society. The hollowness of market orientation in a poverty dominated economy is obvious, with the poor being virtually outside the market. There has been a disjunction between the Constitutional safeguards and hierarchical values which continue to govern the Indian society. In the age of liberalization, privatization and globalization, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have become the worst victims economically and politically.

1.3 Reservation Benefits for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

1.3.1 Concept of Reservation Policy:

The founding fathers of Indian Constitution formulated and implemented reservation policy in order to provide institutional support for the progress of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Communities and Minorities in education, employment and political sectors constitutionally since they constituted the most deprived sections of Indian society. Reservation is a special regulative policy adopted by the Central, State Governments and Union Territories to ensure institutional support for the development of these deprived sections of the society. The primary objective of the reservation policy is to eradicate the social, educational, economic and political inequalities which have existed from time immemorial in different social segments of the Indian society.

D.L. Sheth (1987) observes: “Reservation along with other measures of protection and upliftment of the weaker sections of society, should be viewed as an instrument of a larger social policy of the State addressed to a long term goal of creating a civil society through extending effective citizenship right to the vast sections of the population who have been historically deprived and marginalized”.

12
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar justifies the reservation policy thus: “It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity which are not treated as separate items in a trinity. They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy. Reservation ensures the attainment of the goal of fraternity in a pluralistic and caste-based society like India”.

1.3.2 Objectives of Reservation Policy

The weaker sections of India who are placed low in the hierarchy suffered from social disability and economic deprivation. The historically and structurally disadvantaged sections of Indian society actually deserve a special attention in order to secure redemption from the fetors of inherited deprivation. The weaker sections also needed the protection of reservation to be compensated for the disabilities of the feudal exploitative social order. Ensuring reservation policy is one of the important measures to promote equality among the weaker sections by promoting their participation in the national development programmes.

Reservation is nothing but a protective discrimination which represents affirmative State action to redress the wounds of disabilities and disadvantages among the weaker sections of India. It is primarily intended to reduce the sufferings of the segregated and excluded weaker sections of our society. It also fundamentally seeks to compensate the so called natural inferiors for past privations and is wedded to off-set the inherited disadvantages of weak social capital endowments. Reservation policy is an embodiment of Constitutional priorities of the independent India to the goals of social and economic equality.

Ultimately, the reservation policy seeks to lift the socially and economically deprived from a situation of backwardness. Thus reservation is an important Constitutional devise to ensure the active participation of the weaker sections in the mainstream of national life through a scheme of reserving certain resources, privileges
and opportunities exclusively for them in education, employment and political spheres of life. Reservation is also a special and humane consideration to the weaker sections which reflect the realization for the needed compensation for exploitation and oppression.

1.3.3 Availability of Reservation Benefits for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

The reservation policy originated in the form of Montague-Chelmsford Reforms in 1919. The British Government decided to earmark certain quota in government jobs for minority communities in 1925. The British Government issued necessary instructions in 1934 to reserve a definite percentage of vacancies for the depressed classes (described in the Government of India Act of 1935 as Scheduled Castes). This policy was reviewed in 1942 and it was found that representation of Scheduled Castes in public services was not substantial. The Government issued orders in August, 1943, reserving 8.5 per cent of vacancies for them and proposed to consider the question of raising this percentage as soon as a sufficient number of qualified candidates from the Scheduled Castes were available. In June, 1946, however, the percentage of vacancies reserved in favour of Scheduled Castes was raised from 8.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

The Government of India is one of the good welfare states and that its polities intend to give special preference to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India who badly needed special protection of reservation to be compensated for the disabilities of the feudal exploitative social order. The reservation benefits articulate the urge to counter inequality embedded in the social structure. The reservation of 12.5 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 5 per cent for Scheduled Tribes continued after the coming into force of the Constitution of India. These percentages were subsequently enhanced in 1970 to 15 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes. Presently, there is a reservation of 15 per cent for Scheduled Castes, 7.5 per cent for Scheduled Tribes and 27 per cent for Other Backward Classes in all the posts under the control of Central Government and Central Public Undertakings. Similar reservations have also been provided in the posts and services under the State Governments/Union
Territories. The percentage of such reservations which has been kept in the proportion to
the population of these communities varies from state to state. Reservations have also
been provided in posts filled by promotion. The reservation of more than 50 per cent of
the vacancies as, they arise in any year or a 'carry forward' rule which has the same effect
will be outside the provision of Article [16(4)]. As a result of the implementation of the
reservation policy, there has been a considerable increase in the representation of
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various posts and services under the Central
Government. The reservation policy deserves a stay as inherited inequality tends to
perpetuate. The reservation benefits can be classified into educational, employment and
political categories.

**Educational Reservation**

There is a reservation of 15 per cent for the, Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent for
the Scheduled Tribes in the matter of admission in all the educational institutions which
come under the administrative control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development
and other Central Ministries. Similar reservations have also been provided by the State
Governments and the Union Territories. Educational facilities like scholarships/stipends,
books and stationery, uniforms, mid-day meals, hostels, special coaching etc. are also
provided to the students of weaker sections. The Government of India also initiated a
number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Non-Plan Schemes for the benefit of these
students.

**Reservation in Services**

Article 335 of the Constitution lays down that "the claims of the members of the
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently
with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in making of appointments to
service and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a state". This provision
requires the Union as well as State Governments and Union Territories to take steps to
ensure that claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are duly
considered in making of appointments to services and posts under the public sector. Article 16 empowers the State to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State is not adequately represented in the services under the State. Thus Union as well as State Governments and Union Territories may make a provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, the State is empowered to make provision for reservation in matters of promotions to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State. The Government can no doubt adopt other measures, as well, to implement the provisions of Article 335, such as relaxations of age limits, reduction in examination fees for entry into government services, lowering down of educational and other qualifications, and provision of pre-examination coaching.

Table No. 1.2: Reservation Benefits for SC/ST Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Group-A</th>
<th>Group-B</th>
<th>Group-C</th>
<th>Group-D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>10.15</td>
<td>12.67</td>
<td>16.15</td>
<td>21.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>7.03</td>
<td>17.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>8.19</td>
<td>18.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>2.68</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>6.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>6.18</td>
<td>6.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Courtesy: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI.- 2007*

Political Reservation:

Articles 330, 332 and 334 provide for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies for a period of ten years after the commencement of the Constitution of India. The number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, shall bear, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to that State or Union Territory in the House of People as the population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State or Union Territory as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State or Union Territory based on the preceding census. In pursuance of this
Article, 106 out of 545 seats are reserved for the members of SC/ST communities. A similar reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been provided in the State Assemblies under Article 332 of the Constitution. The reservation of seats provided under Article 332 cannot be challenged on the ground of denial of right guaranteed under Article 14. In Article 334 the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been provided initially for a period of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution. The time has been extended after the expiry of every ten years till 2000. The last amendment of Article 334 was made in 2000 by substituting the word 'fifty' by 'sixty'.

Article 243-D provides that in accordance with the Constitution (73 Amendment) Act, 1992 seats in Panchayats from Village Panchayats to Zilla Parishads will be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their population at respective level, in direct election. Out of the seats reserved for SCs and STs one third will be reserved for women of these communities. These reserved seats for SCs and STs shall be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

1.3.4 Assessment of Reservation Benefits for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

Even after six decades of national independence, a majority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India could not enjoy the benefit of primary education. There are large numbers of drop-outs among the weaker sections mainly due to poverty. Not even one percent of these sections could get the benefit of access to higher education in India. The implementation of the policy of the job reservation has been in vogue for the last five decades. Though there has been some increase in the intake of SC / ST candidates in various posts and services in the Central as well the State Governments since 1950, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not been able to reach the prescribed percentage of reservation mainly due to poverty, lack of education, professional experience and specialization.
There have been significant distortions in the implementation of the reservation policy and the progress has not been really satisfactory. The political reservation has not really benefited the weaker sections in India. A greatest majority of the SC/ST elected representatives have not been the true representatives and angel guardians of the weaker sections. The slaves of the system have only received political benefits. Reservation granted to SC/ST communities has created difference between different castes and tribes and within castes and tribes. The reservation policy has enabled a microscopic minority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to grab most of the benefits since they are the slaves of the system. In spite of all constitutional safeguards and reservation benefits, there has not been a total reformation in the lives of the weaker sections. In the age of liberalization, privatization and globalization, reservation policy has become irrelevant. Reservation is not the only answer. The larger issues is how to empower these weaker sections and put them in the right path of development.

1.4 Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

1.4.1 Constitutional Provisions for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

According to Census of India – 2001, in India there were 1,028,610,328 persons out of which 532,156,772 males and 496,453,558 females. The SC/ST populations were 75,318,285 and 32,386,821 respectively. Statistically, the SC/ST populations in India constitute about 25%. The national development in general and welfare of weaker sections are rooted in the Constitution based on the values of equality, human dignity, social justice, laws and policies emanating from the Constitutional mandate. The founding fathers of Constitution were also profoundly influenced by the mainstream social and political movements launched by various reformers including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Indian Constitution incorporated a number of commands for the elimination of the inequities, disparities, discriminations and exploitations prevalent in the Indian society. The Directive Principles of State Policy are the fundamental parameters and foundations for the governance and development of the country.
Article 46 of the Constitution states: “The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests 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”. Several clauses were also incorporated to the Constitution in order to enable the State to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and economically backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Several policies and programmes were formulated and implemented in the post-independence era to facilitate the progress of the country including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have remained as disadvantaged sections of Indian society historically and structurally. Several protective measures have been taken for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Planners and administrators were also sensitized about the special problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. Special component plans were also implemented over the years to empower the weaker sections.

Several welfare measures for the educational, social and economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been undertaken since the First Five Year Plan in accordance with the Directive Principles of State Policy and other Constitutional provisions. Until Fourth Five Year Plan the special programmes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were undertaken only under the 'Backward Classes Sector'. The new strategy for the integrated development of the Scheduled Tribes through the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) concept and rapid development of the Scheduled Castes through the mechanism of Special Component Plan (SCP), Special Central Assistance and the Scheduled Caste Development Corporations was adopted during the Fifth and Sixth Five Year Plan, respectively. The prime requisite of both the strategies is that funds should be earmarked for the TSP and SCP from out of the Central and State Plans in proportion to the population percentage of SCs and STs. The special programmes under the 'Backward Classes Sector' were conceived as supplement to the
total development effort under the general sectors of development; but in actual practice, these special programmes substituted the benefits available to SCs and STs under the general sector programmes, resulted in much lower investment for their development than envisaged.

1.4.2 Plan Outlays and Efforts for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

It is well to remember that about one fourth of the total population of the comprising Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been kept at the society’s margin. There is need for integrating them into the mainstream of the society as equal and rightful members. During the last six decades of planned development, India’s economy has registered commendable progress in a number of sectors of national development. Despite launching of special schemes/programmes for SCs and STs in last six decades, they are still trailing behind in comparison to others economically and otherwise.

**Table No. 1.3: Plan Outlay for SC/ST Communities in India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five Year Plans</th>
<th>Total Plan (Rs.)</th>
<th>Share of ST (Rs.)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Share of SC (Rs.)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>19.93</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>6.13</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>4672</td>
<td>42.92</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>28.56</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>8577</td>
<td>50.53</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>40.82</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>15,779</td>
<td>79.85</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>72.19</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>39,426</td>
<td>1157.67</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>204.90</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>1,09,292</td>
<td>3640.25</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3722.97</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh</td>
<td>1,80,000</td>
<td>6744.85</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>7233.32</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth</td>
<td>1,81,735</td>
<td>14873.43</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>2280.80</td>
<td>12.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth</td>
<td>8,59,200</td>
<td>3174.13</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>4218.40</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth</td>
<td>19,68,815.00</td>
<td>1754.00</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>6206.50</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courtesy: Planning Commission of India-2007

The data revealed that while the outlays for Scheduled Tribes ranged between 0.5 per cent to 1 per cent of the total plan outlays upto the Fourth Plan period, there has been a marked hiatus since the Fifth Plan onwards when the outlays have been 3 per cent or
more. Similarly, in the case of Scheduled Castes, outlays on their development varied between 0.35 per cent and 0.52 per cent between the first and Fifth Plans. The plan outlays shot upto 3.41 cent in the Six Plan and 4.02 per cent in the Seven Plan. Undisputedly, the two special plans have been responsible for raising the earlier depressingly low level of investment for the two scheduled communities.

Dr. Sukhdeo Thorat (2000) observes: “The economic planning in India started in 1951 with First Five Year Plan. In the First Five Year Plan schemes were largely confined to education and allotment of agricultural land. The same policy continued in Second Five Year Plan. In the Third Five Year plan, education received high priority with additional emphasis on technical and vocational training and education. Among the schemes for economic development, stress was laid on the allotment of agricultural land, special financial support to Scheduled Caste farmers, village artisans, traditional craft and small scale industries. In the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans emphasis on economic and educational programmes continued. In the Sixth Five Year Plan significant modification was made in the strategy and methodology in the development of Scheduled Castes. Special Component plan was adopted to provide beneficiary – oriented developmental support. In the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans emphasis remained on beneficiary – oriented programmes of socio-economic development. In Ninth Five Year Plan, emphasis was placed on empowering the landless rural SC families and providing legislative support for ownership of land. These measures thus intend to provide some source of income and also to build the human resource capabilities of Scheduled Caste persons”.

The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) also continued the empowerment – oriented programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, the outlay for the empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not in accordance with their population and magnitude of poverty and under-privileged status.
1.4.3 Special Schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

Since Independence, a variety of initiatives have been undertaken by the state for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The series of land reform legislations, the land allotment rules and the myriad developmental programmes known as poverty alleviation programmes were launched all over the country to enable the weaker sections to achieve social and economic progress. Initially, the approach to the welfare and development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes took the form of a few limited schemes of ameliorative nature by Center and States. Thus, over the successive Five Year Plans, particularly from the beginning of the Fifth-Five Year Plan (1974-79) the approach to the development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes underwent a basic change with the emphasis shifting to that of ensuring of adequate flow of benefits from all the sectors of development in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

A systematic institutionalized effort in planning for the development of the Scheduled Castes was initiated late in the year 1978 in the nature of Special Component Plan (SCP). It was designed to channelise the plan outlays and benefits in all the sectors to the Scheduled Castes at least in proportion to their population to secure their integrated development. It was intended to be a plan for the development of the Scheduled Castes in relation to their resource endowments and their needs in all the areas of social and economic activity including agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries, education including scholarships, hostels and midday meals, provision of drinking water, electrification of Scheduled Castes localities, development of sericulture, minor irrigation including construction and energisation of irrigation wells, programmes for specially vulnerable groups, having and house sites, links roads, self employment schemes, social forestry, allotment of land as well as schemes for development of lands and allotment of shops and stalls in public places.
The Special Component Plan is an important and integral part of the planning process intended to secure the rapid socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes. In the year 1980 the Social Central Assistance (SCA) was also introduced as an additive to social component plan. Thus, the strategy for the development of the scheduled castes is anchored on the special component plan formulated and implemented by the center as well as the states supported by the central scheme of Special Central Assistance.

In the seventies, the State created specific institutional mechanism for providing assistance for economic development of the Scheduled Castes. The State Governments in the states with substantial Scheduled Caste population have set up the Scheduled Caste Development Corporation (SCDC) to enable the members of Scheduled Castes to take up viable income generating activities. In the year 1979 the Government of India also introduced the centrally sponsored schemes of assistance to the State Governments for investing in the share capital of their corporations. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was established in 1989 to provide support to the economic development programmes for the Scheduled Castes. A National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation was also set up in January 1997 to facilitate all round socio-economic development of Safai Karmacharis and their dependents and to extend confessional financial assistance for the establishment of income generating and viable projects as an alternative means of livelihood.

The concept of Tribal Sub-Plan was evolved in the year 1974-75. The new Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy took note of the fact that a clearer approach to the tribal problems was necessary in terms of their geographic and demographic concentration if faster development was to take place. Accordingly, the tribal areas of the country were classified into to three broad categories. (1) The States/Union Territories having as majority Scheduled Tribes population; (2) States/Union Territories having a substantial tribal population with major tribal population concentrated in particular administrative units such as Block and Tehsils; (3) States/Union Territories having dispersed tribal population in the light of this approach, it was considered that tribal majority state like
Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep may not need a Tribal Sub-Plan as the entire plan of these states was meant for the Scheduled Tribes population. For the second category of States/Union Territories, the Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy was adopted after delineating areas of tribal concentration. A similar approach was adopted in case of states and Union Territories have dispersed tribal population by focusing special attention on the pockets of tribal concentration. In order to effectively administer the programmes, the Tribal sub-Plan strategy adopted the Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) for tribal areas with substantial tribal population, the Modified Tribal Development Concentration and special projects for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) along with administrative, financial and functional integration and equally all necessary measures to eliminate exploitative relationships. At the beginning of the year, 2000, Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy was being implemented through 194 Integrated Tribal Development Projects, 259 primitive tribal groups projects. There was substantial increase in the flow of funds for the development of Scheduled Tribes, resulting in the expansion of infrastructural facilities and enlargement of coverage of the tribal population.

Under the major Integrated Rural Development Programme, Integrated Tribal Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Prime Minister Rozgar Programme an over all preference was given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. At the district level, the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and Zilla Parishad were required to utilize 22.5 per cent of the funds for individual beneficiary schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The prominent programmes which have been launched in the post – independence era for the betterment of the living standards of the weaker sections include - Million Wells Scheme, Indira Awas Yojana, Dr. Ambedkar Chikitsa Yojana, Dr. Ambedkar Samajik Samata Kendra Yojana, national scholarship scheme for SC/ST meritorious students, financial assistance to SC/ST students for Admission in reputed public schools, post-matric scholarship scheme, pre-matric scholarship scheme, establishment of
Ambedkar centres, centrally sponsored scheme of hostels for SC/ST boys and girls, scheme of upgradation of merit of SC/ST students, residential schools for SC/ST students, Provision of loans to SC/ST under micro finance scheme, provision of loans to family of Safai Karmachari on low interest rate, national scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents and so on.

Hon’ble Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, viewed that “Freedom is incomplete without social justice”. During his governance of six year in the Government there were number of schemes initiated to deliver social justice to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

1.4.4 Assessment of the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India

B.P. Chaurasia (1990) states: “The extreme economic backwardness, social retardation and virtual stagnation have aggravated the situation for ages and pushed the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to large scale exploitation. Proper social and economic status is very vital to progress in a caste - ridden society like ours. It is because of this that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have no major say in the politico - ritual activities. Caste plays an important role in Indian society at every stage. Caste is also taken into consideration at every stage of human life and almost all activities revolve round the pivot of caste”.

From the very dawn of the independence, our government has been taking solid remedial steps for the upliftment of the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. The State has put in place laws, policies and programmes without which even the modest progress in the overall situation would not have been possible. However, these welfare measures are quite inadequate and have to be more effectively implemented in order to enable the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes overcome the continued subordination.
Even at the beginning of the 21st Century, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who constitute approximately 25% of the total population of India suffer from varying degrees of slavery, indignity, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, ill-health, malnutrition, discrimination, exploitation and so on. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continue to remain at the bottom of the Indian society in wealth, social status, education, health and overall living conditions.

Dr. Sukhdeo Thorat (2000) suggests: “A very large section of Scheduled Castes are engaged in rural and urban informal or unorganized sector. High incidence of landless and near landless households among the Scheduled Castes has created an enormously high level of manual wage labour among them. With high incidence of wage labour associated with high unemployment / under-employment rates, the Scheduled Castes are suffering more from low income, low consumption and high incidence of poverty. This comparative account of the economic position of the Scheduled Castes and others does provide convincing evidence on the continuing economic inequalities associated with castes. It is thus beyond doubt that the historical impact of traditional caste based restrictions on the ownership of property, employment and occupation are still visible to significant extent. The protection against economic discrimination that the Scheduled Castes received in government and public sector is nearly absent in private organized or unorganized sectors. Hence, the extension of protection in the form of reservation in jobs or other forms in agriculture and urban industrial sector is necessary”.

In spite of various measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they remain weak and vulnerable. The development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India is thus a part of a continued quest for educational progress, social justice, economic equality and political empowerment.
1.5 Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

1.5.1 Demographic Features of Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state in India. It also has the fifth biggest population in the country. According to Census Report 2001, the state has 76,210,007 populations out of which there were 38,527,413 males and 37,678,594 females. There were also 1,23,39,496 SC population and 50,24,104 ST populations respectively. As in other parts of India, in Andhra Pradesh also the Scheduled Castes have been associated with unclean occupations, social restrictions, poverty and exploitation by the strong and advanced sections of the society for many centuries. When the Government of India passed the Scheduled Castes Act of 1935 to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes in the country, the then Government of the state also took appropriate measures to provide them free education reservation in employment, financial support to start college industries and political concessions. The reviewed and present efforts in respect of the welfare of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh are not different from those made by the Government of India in the rest of the country.

1.5.2 Plan Outlays and Efforts for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

For the welfare of the scheduled castes the state government of Andhra Pradesh has undertaken special programmes in the successive Five Year Plans and the size of investment on these special programmes has been increasing from plan to plan. The Ministry of Social Welfare is the model ministry for the overall conditions of such programmes. The Planning Department has a division of Social Welfare which makes necessary provisions in the plans for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes. The Ministry of Social Welfare implements these plans with the help of the Director of Social Welfare assisted by a number of senior officers. At the district level there is a District Social Welfare Officer and at the Taluk level there is a Social Welfare Inspector. The Statutory Village Panchayats, the Village Development Officer and the various cooperatives are
also expected to play a key role in bettering the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes.

Table No. 1.4: Plan Outlay for SC/ST/OBCs in Andhra Pradesh (Rupees in Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Period</th>
<th>Total outlays</th>
<th>Outlays on Programmes</th>
<th>Col. 3 as a % of Col. 2 (SC/ST/OBCs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Five Year Plan</td>
<td>9,618.00</td>
<td>385.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Five Year Plan</td>
<td>18,860.00</td>
<td>443.00</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Five Year Plan</td>
<td>35,245.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>44,887.00</td>
<td>788.00</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>1,00,428.00</td>
<td>4,747.00</td>
<td>4.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>3,23,707.00</td>
<td>5,982.00</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Five Year Plan</td>
<td>4,72,301.00</td>
<td>6,197.00</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>18,92,000.00</td>
<td>8,346.00</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>25,15,000.00</td>
<td>1,24,059.00</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>4,66,14,000.00</td>
<td>3,91,461.00</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


During the First Five Year Plan, more than 60 per cent of the outlay was spent on housing and the rest on education, and programmes meant for economic upliftment and on the removal of untouchability.

During the Second Five Year Plan, the emphasis was on education in terms of construction of hostels and grant of scholarships. The various economic programmes provided for agricultural assistance in the form of ploughs, bullocks, seeds and manures, financial assistance to agricultural and industrial cooperatives and building of housing colonies, subsidies for house construction, facilities for supply of drinking water and training facilities in tailoring and other income generating activities.
During the Third Five Year Plan the emphasis continued to be on education. The various educational programmes included the starting of new hostels, construction of girls' hostels for imparting integrated education, free supply of states, books and clothes, pre-metric stipends, exemption from fees, increase in the post-metric scholarship amounts and increase in the number of post-metric scholarships. The other programmes were similar to those envisaged in the Second Five Year Plan.

The Fourth Five Year Plan had included several new programmes in addition to those provided in the preceding plan. The educational programmes consisted of institution of merit-scholarships for high school students and free coaching for students appearing for competitive examinations held by the UPSC and the APPSC. Economic programmes included the introduction of Small Farmers Development Agency, the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency and Drought Prone Areas Programme. The Scheduled Caste Housing Corporation was established to look after the housing needs of the Scheduled Caste in the state.

The Fifth Five Year Plan initiated the Integrated Rural Development Programme. A large number of pre-metric scholarships for the children of scavengers were instituted. The scope of girls' hostels was widened. Book banks for the Scheduled Castes students studying in medical and engineering colleges were opened. The amount of pre-metric stipends was increases. A fruitful district measures meant for the betterment of the Scheduled Castes was the establishment of the Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation in Andhra Pradesh at the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan in 1974. Its aim had been the economic betterment of the Scheduled Castes population in the State. The main function of this corporation was the formulation of economically viable support programmes for the Scheduled Castes falling below the poverty line. The Sixth Five Year Plan continued in an expanded form of all the programmes of the Fifth Plan. The Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan expenditure for the welfare of SC/ST/OBCs reveals that not even 1.00% of the total plan outlay was spent on the welfare of weaker sections in Andhra Pradesh State.
1.5.3. Special Schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

Like the Government of India, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh also has not considered equal weightage as desirable in respect of plan outlays. Therefore the state plans have given more emphasis to education and economic betterment in various Five Year Plans. The plan outlays for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 1951 to till date revealed a dismal picture. The size of the outlays in 1985 is about eight times more than that of 1951. In addition, the state also provided a certain amount from its non-plan budget for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh.

1.5.4. Assessment of the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

The Planning Department of the State of Andhra Pradesh has assessed from time to time the results of the various socio-economic programmes implemented for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The assessment reveals that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes in Andhra Pradesh are still suffering from many social and economic disabilities. The results of planning in relation to the welfare of these sections in Andhra Pradesh are not much different from those pertaining to the weaker sections in the rest of India. Some maintain that there is no improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes even after spending millions of rupees over them in the past several decades, while others emphasis that the heavy expenditure incurred on the planned development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh has yielded only negligible results.

1.6 Social Significance of the Study

India is the second largest country of the world and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes approximately constitute about 25 per cent of national population.
India attained freedom in August, 1947 and adopted its own “Constitution of India” for its citizens. The founding fathers of the Constitution of India have protected the human rights of the weaker sections of society by awarding certain safeguards and privileges which can be broadly classified under the four heads of (1) social (2) economic (3) political and (4) other safeguards.

The role of communication as an investment in human resources development was recognized by the policy makers and planners in India. The importance of formal and informal educational development of the general masses and particularly of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not fully realized by the modern mass media which are controlled by the market forces. In reality, education has a special significance for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For them education is an input not only for their economic development, but also for promoting in them self-confidence and inner strength to face the new challenges of life. The need for their educational development, therefore, assumes prime importance to save them from all types of exploitation and to enable them to achieve all round development. The SC / ST personnel also need adequate cultivation of media habits and utilization of media services in order to cope with new environment, challenges and opportunities.

Communication media are considered to be a subject of special concern especially in all developing countries in general and in all modern organizations in particular. Communication media in India and elsewhere have definitely crossed a few milestones to look back with pride. The information scenario is undergoing such swift changes that no effort to fully update the concept and practices would never become complete. In this age of information explosion, command over information is an unmistakable index of power and development. In modern organizations the personnel must have free access to all sources of information science they are the real pillars of organizational development. The relationship between the media habits and information acquisition has, therefore, become a subject of interesting debate and research.
The crucial importance of information acquisition becomes highly relevant in the present times since the world moves towards the knowledge-based society. In developing organizations, the emphasis is on personnel’s participation in the process of organisational development. There is growing recognition in training, research and developmental organizations in Ranga Reddy district on the crucial role of information in the personality development among SC/ST personnel. There is need for organized communication support for SC/ST personnel, especially to help them to cope up with changing environment and take advantage of new growth and developmental opportunities.

The number of professionals representing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in training, research and development organizations in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere is very small. It is appropriate to find out as to whether these organizations have developed suitable communication networks and management information systems in order to promote SC/ST professional academically, professionally and otherwise. It is also very essential to understand as to how well these organizations are collecting, processing and disseminating need based information to the SC/ST professionals on various promotional activities especially at the organizational level. It is a matter of profound interest to probe the nature and extent of cultivation of media habits and availability of media access from the point of view of human resources development and human rights protection of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes personnel who are serving in these modern organizations.

There are certain drawbacks and limitations on the part of various communications media with special reference to professional advancement, human resources development and human rights protection of SC/ST communities. The print media have a limited role to play in the empowerment of weaker sections since the owners, professionals, market forces and political affiliations are pulling in different directions in the age of LPG. The electronic-media are official organs which have remained as media of information, entertainment, advertisement and propaganda. The
private electronic-media channels are least bothered about social justice. The film continues to be a medium of entertainment. The new media are very much accessible to the creamy layer of the society. The folk media are cut off from the main stream of development. The non-government organizations have financial and policy constraints with respect to empowerment of weaker sections. The search for an ideal media mix has become important in view of these limitations from the empowerment point of view of weaker sections in general and Dalit professionals in particular.

There is need to define the areas in respect of which these organizations would furnish information to SC/ST personnel in order to bring about their active participation in the mainstream of organization by upgrading their communication skills and competence. It is necessary to recognize that more media expose and information acquisition among SC/ST professional would facilitate greater effectiveness of their services in this age of competitiveness. Informing the SC/ST professional about the organizational developmental activities in general and professional advancement related opportunities in particular assumes great significance in the present times. Healthy media exposure and constructive information exchange would bring about a new work culture, professional excellence and organizational development.

Thus, media exposure and information acquisition among SC/ST personnel are required in the present times in order to make them more accountable, competitive and competent in the modern organizations which are racing against the times for the attainment of progress. The present study attempted to evaluate the media habits and information acquisition among SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental institutions in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh State. At present, there is lack of planned, organized and systematic information support to SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental organizations. There is no systematic media intervention for the professional development of weaker sections in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of Indian Republic.
The media exposure, acquisition of information through various media, the utility of information and role of information in human resources development and human rights protection of the SC/ST personnel have been the primary concerns of this study. The study is likely to answer several questions in the areas of media research, organizational development, human resources development and human rights protection. Few researchers have assessed the role of communication media (traditional, modern, interpersonal and new media) in the context of social change, economic development, political progress, rural development, personality development and the like.

The role of communications media in empowerment of SC/ST communities in general and SC/ST personnel in particular has not been adequately evaluated by our researchers. There are good numbers of anthropological, sociological and behavioural investigations which are conducted with reference to SC/ST communities in India. The major deficiency observed in their works is lack of emphasis on media intervention for the empowerment of SC/ST communities or information support for the human resources development of SC/ST personnel in modern organizations as a whole. Not even a single investigation is conducted on media habits and information acquisition among SC/ST professional with reference to Andhra Pradesh or any part of the country. Hence the problem “A study on Media Habits and Information Acquisition among SC/ST personnel in Research, Training and Development Institutions in Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh” is chosen for the present study.

1.7 Statement of the Problem

The Central, State Governments and Union Territories have made special Constitutional provisions for the advancement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. Series of welfare measures have been launched in the post-independence era to promote social, educational, economic and political interests of weaker sections of Indian society including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state and also has the fifth biggest population in the country. This state provides the meaningful linkage between the north and the south of India. Ranga Reddy District was formed in 1978 and it was named after the doyen freedom fighter and former Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh K.V. Ranga Reddy. This district has a large number of educational, scientific, technological, research and developmental institutions. The Central and State Governmental organizations have recruited SC/ST candidates as per the reservation norms. There is growing recognition in Andhra Pradesh State about the crucial role of communication in the process of development.

A synthesis of the available literature suggests that the media habits and information acquisition among SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental institutions of Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh suffers from series of limitations. Therefore, the primary tasks of the present study were concerned with identifying reasonably representative sample of scientists, technocrats and administrators associated with these modern organizations so as to assess their views on the current status of organizational communication networks and resources, cultivation of media habits, information acquisition, utilization of information, attainment of human resources development and human rights protection with special reference to SC/ST personnel working in these organizations of Andhra Pradesh state.

Hence, the problem “A Study on Media Habits and Information Acquisition Among SC/ST Personnel in Research, Training and Developmental Institutions of Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh”, was chosen for the present study. Media habits and information acquisition among the weaker sections was primarily considered in the study because:

a) The efforts of Central and State Governments in providing constitutional safeguards, reservation benefits and other protective measures has motivated considerable number of research, training and developmental institutions of Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh to provide employment and promotional opportunities to the SC/ST communities.
b) Modern organizations have created communication infrastructural facilities with a view to build and promote mutually beneficial relationship between the organization and other publics.

c) Organisational communication occupies an enviable status in the process of organizational development.

d) In this age of information explosion, command over information is an unmistakable index of power and development.

e) Information acquisition among the personnel in modern organisations becomes highly relevant since the world moves towards knowledge – based society.

f) Modern organizations have a social responsibility of promoting human resources development and protecting human rights of SC/ST personnel in this age of competitiveness.

g) A constant and continued research on the media awareness, media habits, media access, role of information in human resource development and role of communication in human rights protection is imperative in a developing nation like India.

1.8 Objectives of the Study:

With welfare and development of SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental institutions in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh State being the thrust area, the research proposes to:

1. Study the media habits of SC/ST personnel in training, research and development institutions;

2. Index the media/communication access to SC/ST personnel both at home and work place;

3. Find out awareness among the SC/ST personnel on availability of information sources;
4. Analyse the media and methods of communication employed in these organizations;

5. Assess the role of media habits in information acquisition among SC/ST personnel;

6. Understand the effects of media exposure and information acquisition in galvanizing human resources development among SC/ST personnel;

7. Know the role of communications media in the process of human rights protection of SC/ST personnel.

8. Examine the drawbacks in communication network development, media habits cultivation, information acquisition and utilization of information resources with special reference to human resources development and human rights protection of the SC/ST personnel development in these organizations; and

9. Suggest appropriate media and methods for the improvement of overall status of SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental institutions.

1.9 Presentation of the Study

The salient features of the study such as Constitutional safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India, reservation benefits for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India, welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India, welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, social significance of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study and presentation of the study are furnished in the first chapter which deals with the introduction.

The second chapter, namely, review of literature deals with the international, national and regional studies conducted by the past researchers which have a bearing on the present study.
The third chapter, namely, research methodology deals with the research questions, study variables, study area, profile of the respondents, research design, methods of study, statistical analysis, limitations of the study and definitions of the terms used in the study.

The fourth chapter presents the results of the study on the media habits of SC/ST personnel, information acquisition among SC/ST personnel, utility of media among SC/ST personnel and role of media in promoting human resources development and protecting human rights of the SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental organizations in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh State.

The fifth chapter summarizes the findings of the study with a brief resume and implications of the findings.

The last chapter indicates the bibliography, questionnaires and appendices.

1.10 Summary

The present study would throw light on the media habits of SC/ST personnel, information acquisition among SC/ST personnel, utility of media among SC/ST personnel, role of communication in promoting human resources development and protecting human rights of the SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental organizations in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh State. The outcomes of the present study would help the policy makers in government organizations, media organizations, research, training and developmental organizations to formulate suitable media intervention strategies and use appropriate methods for the empowerment of SC/ST personnel in research, training and developmental organizations in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere.