CHAPTER – VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The meaning of equality is not as simple as it appears. There is no society anywhere in the world where all individuals are wholly equal. In India, dimension of inequality is largely conceived as castes. The castes are divided on the basis of their occupation. After Independence, the Constitution was created, ensuring certain fundamental rights to its all citizen viz., right to equality, right to freedom, right against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights and rights to Constitutional remedies. Inspite of Constitutional safeguards in India which are exclusively in favour of socially and economically backward population, inequalities exists between castes. In 1979 SCSP was started to ensure flow of plan resources proportionate to their population for the development of SCs. The system has evolved as a useful mechanism to draw funds and physical benefits in various sectors for improving the socio-economic and living conditions of SCs people.

According to 2011 Census SC population is 14.4 million constituting 20.01 percent of total population of Tamil Nadu and its decadal growth rate is 21.75 percent which is more than six percent compared to that of non-SC population(14.05 percent). The literacy gap between SCs and non-SCs is declining, yet the general growth in educational attainment in SCs is still a distant dream. Tamil Nadu is the third most urbanized state among major states in India. Yet the urbanization of the non-SCs population(52.28 percent) is far higher than urbanization of SCs(34.37 percent) population. Majority of the SC population lives in rural areas which is characterized by agriculture and most of them still live below poverty line. According to 2011
Census 48.99 percent of the SCs have employment and remaining 51.09 percent are unemployed. In rural Tamil Nadu among total workers of SC population, only 7.0 percent are cultivators, 50.4 percent are agricultural labourers and 42.6 percent are non-farm workers. Whereas in non-SCs 14.4 percent are cultivators which is double that of SCs cultivators only 23.1 percent are agricultural labourers and 62.5 percent are non-farm workers.

These facts show that the SC population in the state of Tamil Nadu is still lagging behind when compared to other social groups. In order to identify the research problem we referred the previous studies and identified three major issues. First, the relative contribution of various public spending in developing countries increases growth prospects and reduces poverty ratio (Fan and Saurkar, 2000). There is positive relationship between government spending on education and health and indicators of educational attainment and health outcomes of the poor (Gupta and Verhoeven, 2001). The research studies have underlined that the government spending on education and health care can increase economic growth, promote income equality and reduce poverty (Gupta and et.al, 2002). Second, the level of education and socio-economic status was found to have a positive effect on the number of anti natal care visits (Sharma and et.al, 2012). There are two reasons why people visit nearest health centre, one they derive maternity benefits from government and two, their low economic status compels them to access free medical care. The social and economic status is a strong determinant of beneficiaries of maternity schemes of government generally, yet people from SCs, STs, and landless labourers have greater chance of being excluded from participation in these schemes (Balasubamanian and Sundari, 2012). The Rural Development Department of the central government compiled statistics of participants in government schemes has shown that the beneficiaries among SCs, STs and women has been increasing since 1996 except in a few states (Rajan, 2001). Third, a
significance part of the performance of Dalit and Muslim children is attributed to their experience of schools and schooling (Borooah, 2012).

Government has been taken several measures for the upliftment of the SCs population. Tamil Nadu also plays a major role in their development. Constitution of India also guarantees reservation in education and employment for SCs. The research issue is the adequacy of public expenditure is addressing the development problems of the SCs and the efficiency of developmental schemes is uplifting the SCs that are general in character and those that are attempted at the SCs.

The major objectives that is to examine how the public programmes of the government help in socio-economic development of SCs in Tamil Nadu.

The specific objective of this study of the study are as follows; first objective of the study is to examine the public finance situation of Tamil Nadu over the last two plan periods; second how the social sector programmes reach the SC population, particularly in individual programmes like old-age pension and cash transfer for pregnant women and third to evaluate the programmes that are targeted exclusively at the development of SC like the efficacy of ADW schools.

In accordance with the three major objectives of the study, both primary and secondary data were used. The state finances of Tamil Nadu and the expenditure of social sector and ADW department are analysed using secondary data. Efficacy of the social sector programmes like IGNOAPS and DRMRMBS and performance of the ADW schools in Tamil Nadu are analysed using primary data which are collected with structured interview schedule and questionnaire. Simple percentage, ratio and simple linear regression model were used in the data analysis.
This study finds that the public expenditure plays a significant role in the functions of economy in all stages of economic development. Both the revenue and capital expenditure are done in three major heads like general services, social services and economic services. This study clearly shows that the revenue expenditure on social sector was increased over the years, including education, health and welfare of SCs and STs. Whereas the increase in capital expenditure on social sector was less than three-fold, that is, it increased from 6.4 percent of total social sector expenditure in 1997-2002 to 16.4 percent in 2007-12. The increasing trend of the capital expenditure on social sector show that more and more assets are created in sectors like health and family welfare, education and welfare of SCs and STs. If we look into the economic and functional classification nearly one-fourth of the social expenditure about 24.01 percent was spent on education.

Allocation of funds from general budget to welfare of the SCs was not adequate to the upliftment of the SCs population in India so the government of India initiated the SCSP. It has been implemented in Tamil Nadu since 1980-81, it ensures seamless flow of funds from the State Annual Plan outlay in proportion to the population of the SCs in the state in order to bring about marked socio-economic educational development of the SCs. Several crores of money were spent on their development through the SCSP since 1980-81. Out of funds allocated to welfare schemes of SCs more than 70 percent has been allocated to the schemes related to education. In the year 2001-02 about `3,678.56 lakh were spent through the government of India post-matric scholarship it was gradually increased to `89,757.73 lakh in 2013-14. About 1,90,694 students were benefitted in 2001-02 through this scheme and it increased to 6,81,855 students in 2013-14. For higher education special scholarship was provided which was `451.34 lakh in 2002-03 and it
was increased to `2,015.44 lakh in 2013-14. Since 2011-12 nearly `80 lakh were spent to assist the students who are willing to study in abroad.

Second objective of the study is how the social sector programmes reached the SC population. Individual beneficiary programmes like old-age pension and cash transfer for pregnant women were taken for evaluation in this study. In the social sector, medical and public health departments are in the domain of the states, the central government plays an important role and it finances several centrally sponsored programmes such as maternal and child health services and IGNOAPS. In the combined social sector expenditure of centre and state government, about 80 to 85 percent is incurred by states. Government of India has implemented several programmes to alleviate the poverty since 1970. Some of the major poverty alleviation programmes have come into effect after 1990s they are: Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozar Yojana(SGSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes(MNREGS) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme(IGNOAPS). In order to maintain social security in the country the National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP) was introduced by the Government of India on 15.8.1995 to support minimum needs of the poor destitute who have little or no regular income from their own source or financial support from their family members. The NSAP was initiated with three major components viz, National Old Age Pension Schemes(NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme(NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme(NMBS). The DRMRMBS is similar to IGNOAPS which was named after by Dr. Muthulakshmi reddy, Tamil Nadu’s first woman doctor and social activist, was launched in 1987 and is known as the Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme (MRMBS). Initially, its beneficiaries were offered ` 300 to pregnant women to cover the expenses of childbirth. The amount was enhanced to ` 500 in 1995. DMRMBS was reshaped in 15th September 2006 by
Government of Tamil Nadu for welfare of pregnant women of below poverty line (BPL) families. In September 2006, the amount was raised significantly and a clear set of guidelines were drawn to disburse the money. Between September 2006 and April 2011, cash assistance of ` 6,000 was given to pregnant women to compensate for the wage loss during pregnancy and in getting nutritious food to avoid delivery of low birth weight babies. The state government have launched a revised DRMRMBS from 01.06.2011 by enhancing the maternity benefit to the poor pregnant women mothers who delivered in Government health institutions (GHIs). In May 2011, the newly elected state government announced its intention to double the support amount to ` 12,000. With a view to ensure adequate ante natal, natal and post natal care and encourage institutional delivery, nutritional support and immunization to mother and child.

Using the primary data, the effectiveness of IGNOAPS and DRMRMBS is analysed. The primary survey identified the 129 sample households for IGNOAPS and 287 sample households for DRMRMBS schemes to analyse, out of 727 households in the Chellencheri village of Cuddalore district in the State of Tamil Nadu. This study finds that about 53.5 percent of the beneficiaries in the IGNOAPS are SCs, 41.9 percent are BCs and only 4.6 percent are FCs. Out of the total sample, 100 percent of the SC old aged people are getting benefits under IGNOAPS whereas it is not in the case of non-SCs, some of them are excluded due to various reasons.

The study used multivariate regression analysis, participation in scheme is considered as dependent variable and the explanatory variables are dummy variable for SCs and non-SCs, education, occupation, annual income of the respondents and total value of assets are included.

\[
PS_{op} = a + b_1 DSc + b_2 Edu + b_3 Occ + b_4 AI + b_5 TVA + \varepsilon
\]
The above equation is used to test whether the beneficiary of scheme is related to above mentioned socio-economic variables. We interpret the value and sign attached to the regression coefficient as follows: negative sign attached to variables education, occupation, total value of asset that is the participant in the scheme should have been from the poor households. The coefficients of the identified variables are significant and R-square value is 0.705 The results show that the strictly following the guidelines of the schemes has made this scheme effective in reaching the really needy sections of the society.

In the evaluation of DRMRMBS the respondents were identified based on the delivery of baby in last one year in the same village and the primary data was collected. Out of the 287 samples about 51.9 percent of the respondents are SCs and 48.1 percent of the respondents are non-SCs. Out of 51.9 percent of SCs about 56.4 percent are beneficiaries and 43.6 percent are non-beneficiaries, whereas in non-SCs 32.6 percent are beneficiaries and 67.4 percent are non-beneficiaries. This study also used the regression analysis to check whether the participation of this scheme is related to socio-economic variables. In the following regression analysis, participation in scheme is considered as dependent variable and explanatory variables such as dummy variable for SCs and non-SCs, education, occupation, annual income of the family, total value of assets are included.

\[ PS_{MB} = c + d_1 DSc + d_2 Edu + d_3 Occ + d_4 AI + d_5 TVA + \varepsilon \]

The regression result shows that the coefficients of all the variables are significant and R-square value is 0.227 hence the participants in the scheme are from the poor households in the society. In the case of pregnant and lactating women, they could not meet the family expenditure with this transfer money due to delay in receiving the cash transfer. Targeting of this schemes
avoided inclusion and exclusion problems and schemes reached the right person, only less than two percent is wrongly included and excluded. These two cash transfer programmes have achieved their objective in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Now we turn to the third objective of this study, that is, to evaluate the efficacy of Adi-
Dravidar Welfare schools in Tamil Nadu. This objective used both secondary and primary data. Secondary data was obtained from Directorate of Education, Tamil Nadu and primary data collected from 539 students of three ADW schools in Chidambaram block of Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu. The study finds that except the students from SCs and STs students from all the social groups like OC, BC and MBC students performed well in the public examination. Nearly 50 percent of the SC student have performed well in the government schools. This study finds out of these 539 students about 84.23 percent of the students are SCs, 4.27 percent are the BCs, 10.39 percent are MBCs and only 1.11 percent are STs. About 8.16 percent of the students in ADW schools are scored less than 40 percent of marks and 50.46 percent, 29.31 percent, 11.87 percent of the students scored between 40 to 59.9 percent, 60 to 74.9 percent and above 75 percent of marks respectively. Compared to other communities only 10.15 percent of the students from SCs scored above 75 percent of marks. The primary data shows that the especially students from SCs community whose siblings have scored good marks in the public examination students perform well in the examination. At the same time students whose parents are literate and have higher qualification perform well in the education.

This study is a modest attempt to understand the efforts of the government in uplifting the most depressed community, namely SCs in Tamil Nadu. We understand that the financing of
pro-poor schemes has been improving over the years, yet not in proportion to the dimension of the problems of exclusion that the SCs face in the society. The cash transfer schemes have reached the intended beneficiaries, but the amount of cash transfer is still inadequate. The educational programmes have increased the access to education, particularly for SCs. But once again, quality of education is low and the educational achievement of SC students is disproportionately lower than that of students from other castes. This underlines the need to improve quality of government schools.