CHAPTER - III

Conceptual Background of the Study

3.1 Introduction

India is a multicultural country in the world, it is socially differentiated by various religions and languages. Hinduism is the oldest and largest populated religion which follows the caste system. A person born in Hindu religion will come to a caste or varna. Therefore, the caste system plays a vital role in the social stratification with a muddled ranking of people and unequal access of valued resources such as wealth, income, power, prestige, interaction and behaviour of people. In the caste system, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been treated as lower caste. These two groups are always been subjugated by the upper castes over a long period of time and they suffering from denying of basic, civil and social rights which are essential for all human being in the society.

In this chapter the researcher gives a brief history about the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes origin, status and measures taken by the Government to uplift these two marginalized communities.

3.2 Origin of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The word “Caste” is derived from the Portuguese word “Casta” connoting breed of race. The Portuguese word, in turn, owes its origin to the Latin word Castus” meaning pure or unmixed.1

These two words “Casta” and “Castus” cover two different concepts in India i.e. Varna and Jati. Varna means colour, it denotes that the four-fold classification of people existence from Vedic period approximately 4000 years ago and Jati refers to thousands of sub-castes exists in each Varna. It is a clear indication of the existence of some form of stratification or caste system in the society.

Now, let us take a brief review about existence of caste and origin of SC/ST in ancient India. The Caste system or the stratification of people in India can understood through reviewing the history of India and its social structure. The caste

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system exists today was grown approximately 4000 years ago. This can be expressed through dividing the Indian history by four periods. Firstly, the ancient period from 4000 BC to 700 AD, this is a very long period which includes Vedic period (From 4000 BC to 1000 BC), Brahmanical period (From 1000 BC to 600 BC), Maurya period, Post Maurya period and Harsavardhan period (From 600 BC to 700 AD). According to Rig Veda (Approximately 1500 years of BC), Grihsutras and Dharmasutra (From 700 BC to 300 BC) and Manu smriti (From 227 AD to 320AD), there were four castes divisions existed, which are Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Sudra. Among these four divisions Sudra caste was not existed in the earlier stage of Rig Veda but it had arisen at the end of Rig Veda². Later, Brahmans had wrote the Grihsutras and Dharmasutra, in which they says the caste based duties of man from birth to death and a code of social behavior and relationships to organize the social life of people. According to Grihsutras and Dharmasutral caste became very clear and the fourth Varna includes the Sudras and they positioned as lower caste in the caste system. According to Koutilya, Brahmans imposed various restrictions on Sudras such as restricted to enter temples, denial of accessing public amenities, forced to do scavenging, cleaning works etc. In Manusmriti, Sudras are a twice born man and they suffered by hot oil poured into their mouth and ears and imposed many restrictions. It indicates the equality of Sudras was completely destroyed and the caste system was developed on a very rigid form in the Maurya period. During Harshvardhan period, Hieun Tsan visited to India in 630AD and wrote that Brahminism dominated the country and Caste ruled the social structure and there were some classification on occupation among the four Varnas. The Brahmins were engaged in priestly occupations, the Kshatrias were warriors, the Visyas were engaged in trading and the Sudras involves doing unclean occupations such as butchers, scavenging and other low occupations. Due to their low occupation they forced to live outside the city³. It is clear from this that the caste system was existed in a rigid line and the Sudras were imposed by various social restrictions and suffering from socio-economic, cultural and educational disabilities. Secondly, the medieval period, it refers to the two major periods namely Rajput period (from 700

² Ahuja Ram, (1999), “Indian Social System”, Rawat Publication, New Delhi, pp.228-448
³ Ibid, p.229
AD to 1200 AD) and the Muslim period (from 1200 AD to 1757 AD). During this period, Brahmins tightened their bonds of castes and disintegration in the caste based on occupation. At the time of foreign armies attacked India, large number of new castes and sub-castes sprang up. Further, Brahmins divided as Kanouji Brahmins, Konkan Brahmins, Telgu Brahmins etc. based on their territorial limits. Similarly, Kshtriya and Vaishyas followed the same caste subdivision system. During this period distinct change had come into the Indian social structure in the form of multiplicity of castes and rigid form of caste system. During Muslims period, the caste system became more rigid because Muslims were not absorbed in the elastic Hindu-fold, but they tried to convert the people to Islam. However, Brahmins succeeded in imposing their leadership on Hindus in the religious and social fields. During these two periods, Sudras severely suffered by socio-economic inequality and placed lowest position in the society. The upper caste people imposed various restrictions on them such as to enter inside the temple, use of public properties, participation in political and the concept of pollution was attached on them and they were treated as untouchables. The untouchability practice forced the Sudra to live outside villages, used to do lo occupations like scavenging, cleaning, agricultural labour etc. Upper castes also maintained distance with them which lead disabilities, concept of pollution and economic dependence. Effect of untouchability practice, Sudras were called as Atisudras, Avarnas, Panchamas, Untouchables, Servile Classes, out castes, Disabled Classes, etc.

Thirdly, the British period from 1757 to 1947, during the earlier British period they continued the same caste system and its structure existed in the society. Later, the British ruler made some changes in religious practices and also in the caste structure existed in the society. The British Government passed The Disabilities Removal Act, 1850 in order to bring socio-economic reforms in India. Further the British rulers passed the Widow Remarriage Act, 1856 and the Special Marriage Act, 1872 for blow on the caste system. However these measures were taken for administrative purposes only, not to abolish the caste system. But, some sort of social reforms in a constructive way began in the British period. In the same period, some Social movements attacked the traditional caste system such as ‘The Arya Samaj’ founded by Dayanand Saraswathi in 1875, The ‘Dev Samaj’ founded
by Shiv Narayan Agnihotri in 1887, ‘The Sanatam Dharma Sabha’ founded in 1895, ‘The Brahma Samaj’ founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1928 etc. These social movements generated social awareness in the society. However they did not succeed in the removal of rigidity of the caste system, though some structural features affected flourished in this period. After the World War - I (1914 to 1918) industrialization began in India, which migrate the people from village to city. This migration process brings some changes in the rigid form of caste system and socio-economic structure of the people.

After formation of the British Government, Census of India 1931 systematically listed the untouchable castes such as Atisudras, Avarnas, Panchamas, Untouchables, Servile Classes, Depressed Classes, out castes, Disabled Classes, Exterior etc., and officially which was defined as ‘Depressed Castes’ in 1932\(^4\). Later, The Simon Commission in 1935 coined the term Scheduled Castes, they also called as Harijans and Dalits then they called as Scheduled Castes (SCs) through the Government of India Act, 1935. In the mean time the Government published a list of Scheduled Castes under the Government (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1936. Fourthly, the post independent period, during this period the Scheduled Castes were recognized in the constitution under Article 341 (1) and defines “Scheduled Casts” as “the President of India may with respect to any State (or Union Territories), and where it’s a State after consultation with Government thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of groups within castes, races, tribes which shall, for the purpose of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State (or Union Territories) or as the case may be.” Accordingly by the President of India has notified the Scheduled Castes in the order called Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled (Tribes Modification) Order 1956. However under Article 341(2), “Parliament may by law include or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under cause (1), any caste, race, or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race, or tribe”\(^5\).

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\(^4\) Harold Issac. (1965), “India’s Ex-untouchables” Asia Publishing House Bombay, p.2  
To conclude the discussion on the social stratification and caste system, it can be said that birth is the only criterion of membership in the caste. Occupational attributes of the caste system are clearly pronounced and carried values of rank and status. Some occupations carried higher status and rank and other occupations lower status and rank. Occupations enjoy social position commensurate with caste occupation. Classification of sub castes as well as occupations has resulted in social hierarchy. The social hierarchy and implicit inequality of status and rank in religious, economic, educational and political relationships among the caste groups exists.\(^6\) According to the overview of the Indian caste system, The Sudras are classified as inferior and the lowest Varna in the ancient social system then they were called Scheduled Castes. In the Indian caste system, they were treated as impure and polluted. As a result pollution and impure, Scheduled Castes were forced to live outside the villages and suffered from discrimination in all walks of life. The census of India 1931 had listed out the disabilities of Scheduled Castes which are inability to be served by clean Brahmmins, inability to serve by barbers, water carriers, tailors etc., who serve the caste Hindus, inability to enter Hindu temples, inability to use public conveniences such as roads, ferries, wells and schools and inability to disassociate oneself from depressed occupation. On account of the restrictions mentioned above the Scheduled Castes were placed low in social hierarchy and suffered from occupational, educational, social cultural and religious disabilities and discrimination.

3.3 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Position in India

A look at the social system, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were been treated as lowest rank in the society and suffered from various socio-economic disabilities and their status classified as follows.

3.3.1 Occupational Status

The Scheduled castes were known for their long association with so called impure, unclean, socially looked down and least preferred occupations. Many untouchables followed the heredity occupations such as scavenging, carcass recovery and faying and hide tanning, leatherwork, drum beating, and grave digging.

These occupations that was associated with the untouchables with permanent ritual population, barred social intercourse between them and higher caste Hindus, in the frame work of traditional Indian Society.

Looking into the occupation of Scheduled Castes it can be said that they were economically poor and generally depend on agricultural labour and other low income occupation besides their caste occupations in the rural areas and unorganized non-agricultural wages labourers cart pullers, civic sanitation workers in urban areas.

3.3.2 Educational Status

The Scheduled Castes also suffered from educational disabilities for centuries. Historically they had been most uneducated and illiterate group. The mass illiteracy among Scheduled Castes was in turn was due to the social and religious sanctions imposed on them. According to the sacred books, Brihaspathi and Manusmriti Sudras were prohibited to learn Hindu religious slokas. Poverty, adverse economic conditions, absent of educational facilities in rural areas, lack of knowledge of educational facilities, backwardness are the main reasons to take up the formal education and they have remind educationally backward.

3.3.3 Political Status

The Scheduled Castes had absolutely no access to power in the past not only because of the absence any of the factors that contributed for political participation which the caste Hindu had, but also due to their low social status and economic dependence on the caste Hindus. For reasons such as illiteracy and ignorance, traditional values and customs, lack of hopes and aspirations, the Scheduled Castes have generally accepted the lowest rank tagged on to them with many social disabilities. In the past there was no room for entertaining caste association among Scheduled Castes. There was no representation for Scheduled Castes in the village councils in the traditional political set-up.

3.3.4 Socio Cultural and Religious Status

Untouchability practice was the main social disability of Scheduled Castes. The origin of position of Scheduled Castes is partly racial, partly religious and partly a matter of social custom. The maintenance of untouchability practice is the result of
unclean and ritually impure occupations in the urban, semi urban and gradually spread in villages. The caste system was said to be found on the concept of purity and pollution. As the very positions in the caste hierarchy are based on the ideas of purity and pollution, the caste at the top have greater purity in that their food, dress and occupation are regarded as more pure than those of the other castes. Castes at the bottom are regarded as impure and their food, occupations, clothes, customs and myths are regarded as either inferior, or impure. Therefore they are economically dependent on the superior, educationally backward, socially degraded and treat with contempt deliberately deprived of the higher religious and cultural values of the Hindu society. All the Scheduled Castes were attributed with varying degrees of ritual impurity. Close contact with them was polluting, hence they were untouchables. To be an untouchable in the Indian Caste system was to be very low, and more or less excluded from the social mainstream.

The life of these sections of people had been miserable and unhygienic. The environment of these people was in no way conducive to the achievement of better standards. No member of Hindu caste did accept the cooked food, salt, milk or water from untouchables. Their touch was polluting and even their nearness was often sufficient to defile a man of high caste. In some of the cases even their sights was polluting and the lower caste in hierarchy were required to keep a respectable physical distance from higher castes ranging 24 to 64 feet. There was no relationship between untouchables and all other castes. The services of barbers, water carriers, washer men, tailors who serve the Hindu castes were denied to Scheduled Castes. They were debarred from using all public conveniences, roads, vehicles, ferries, wells, schools, restaurants and teashops. They were also not allowed to enter the houses of caste Hindus and not allowed to enter the streets where higher castes live

Their dress pattern was also different from those of clean castes. The male Scheduled Castes used only loincloth and females in some part of the country were not allowed to cover their breasts. Gold ornaments were prohibited to them and the same time they could not afford them either. Practice such as meat eating, and in particular beef and carrion eating, consumption of alcohol, use of shamans, and

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7 Ibid, p.13.
animal sacrifices, the practice of divorce and remarriage of widows and less lineally and age-status oriented family structure tend to distinguish low status, groups such as untouchables their cultural traits. The religious disabilities took the form that the Scheduled Castes were debarred from Hindu temples and places of worship, from the celebrations of feasts, offerings and religious rites for them.

It is clear from the above that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are suffering from occupational, educational, economical, political, social, cultural and religious disabilities.

3.4 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Demographic Status in India

According to 2011 Census the Scheduled Castes population is 201.4 million, it constitutes 16.6 % of the total population of India. They are concentrated more in Uttar Pradesh (41.35 million), West Bengal (21.46 million), Bihar (16.56 million), Tamil Nadu (14.43 million) Andhra Pradesh (13.87 million) and Madhya Pradesh (11.34 million). These six states constitute 59.11 % of the total SC population of the country. States, Punjab (31.9%), Himachal Pradesh (25.2 %) and West Bengal (23.5%) have the highest concentration of SC population in terms of absolute percentage to the State population. In case of Scheduled Tribes population they are sharing 104.2 million as per 2011 Census, it is 8.6% in the total population of India. Scheduled Tribes are majorly residing in Madhya Pradesh (15.31 million), Maharashtra (10.51 million), Odisha (9.59 million), Rajasthan (9.23 million) and Gujarat (8.91 million). These States constitutes 51.24% in the total ST population of the country. States, Lakshadweep (94.8%), Mizoram (94.4), Nagaland (86.48%) and Meghalaya (86.15%) have the highest concentration of ST population in terms of absolute percentage of ST to the State population. The major occupational groups of SC/ST can be categorized into four such as cultivators, agricultural labours, house hold industry workers and others occupations. Cultivators are those having petty extent of agricultural land, agricultural labour are those engaging for cultivation purposes, hose hold industry workers those used to house cleaning and other works, other occupations are those involved in leather works, weaving works, civic and sanitation works(scavenging and sweeping), civil works, urban labour works and Traditional Dais. These occupational groups may be put into two broad categories,
namely main workers and marginal workers. According to Censes of India 2011, 40.87% of SCs are working groups. Among this 70.69% are main workers and 29.31% are marginal workers. In case of ST 48.71% are working groups, among this 64.81 are main workers and 35.195 are marginal workers. The working population of SC/ST is comparatively high to the total working population of India (39.79%). Similarly, the main working population of SC/ST is comparatively low to the main working population of the nation (75.23%). In case of marginal working population, SC/ST is comparatively high to nation’s general marginal working groups (24.76%). It denotes that more number of SC/ST people is engaged as marginal workers in India. Therefore, majority of SC/ST people are earning low income and suffering from poverty, due to the low income earning capacities they are not able to make themselves as equal to the general population.

3.5 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Status in Tamil Nadu

3.5.1. Population

The Scheduled Castes are constitutes 20 % (14.43 million) in the total population of 72.14 million of Tamil Nadu as per Census 2011, which represents 7.1% in the total SC population of India and it constitutes Seventy Six (76) castes. Among the seventy six SCs, Five SCs are sharing majority of 91.57 % in the State SC population namely Adi Dravida, Pallan, Paraiyan, Arunthathiyar and Chakkiliyran.

Table No- 3.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Population in %</th>
<th>% of Urban live</th>
<th>% of Rural live</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>All Schedule Castes</td>
<td>14,438,445</td>
<td>20.01</td>
<td>34.37</td>
<td>65.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Adi Dravida</td>
<td>7,242,176</td>
<td>50.16</td>
<td>4,761,920</td>
<td>65.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pallan</td>
<td>2,329,117</td>
<td>16.13</td>
<td>1,672,576</td>
<td>71.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Paraiyan, Parayan &amp; Sambavar</td>
<td>1,822,524</td>
<td>12.62</td>
<td>1,263,560</td>
<td>69.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Arunthathiyar</td>
<td>1,084,162</td>
<td>7.51</td>
<td>640,707</td>
<td>59.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chakkiliyran</td>
<td>742,597</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>486,250</td>
<td>65.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>91.57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Census India 2011)
It is clear from the table No.3.1 that among the SCs majority 50.16% belongs to Adi Dravidar followed by Pallan 16.13%, Parayan 12.62%, Arunthathiyar 7.51% and Chakkiliyan 5.14%. Among the all SCs, majority 66.75% are living in rural and 33.25% in urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

The Scheduled Tribes are constitutes 1.1% (0.79 million) in the total population of 72.14 million of Tamil Nadu as per Census 2011, which represents 0.76% in the total ST population of India and it constitutes Thirty Six (36) castes. Among the Thirty six STs, Five STs are sharing majority of 80.32 % in the State ST population namely Malayali, Irular, Kattunayakan, Kurumans, and Uraly.

Table No- 3.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Population in %</th>
<th>% of Urban live</th>
<th>% of Rural live</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Malayali</td>
<td>357,980</td>
<td>45.05</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>96.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Irular</td>
<td>189,661</td>
<td>23.87</td>
<td>14.95</td>
<td>85.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kattunayakan</td>
<td>46,672</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>67.67</td>
<td>32.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kurumans</td>
<td>30,965</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>21.17</td>
<td>78.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Uraly</td>
<td>12,986</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>96.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>794,697</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>16.91</td>
<td>83.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Census India 2011)

It is clear from the above statement that among the STs majority 45.05% belongs to Malayali followed by Irular 23.87%, Kattunayakan 5.87%, Kurumans 3.90% and Uraly 1.63%. Among the all STs majority 83.09% are living in rural and hill areas and 16.91% are residing in urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

3.5.2 Education

Education and literacy are two indicators and essential elements of human resource development, education not only increases knowledge and skill among the individuals but also it creates awareness about health, hygiene and other social conditions. The spread of education status of SCs are low while comparing with the upper casts. According to Census 2011, 65.18% of SCs aged above seven years are literate those who can read and write with understanding, which is less than the
whole State literacy rate of 71.84%. Among this 54.97% are male and 45.03% are female literates, in case of female literacy rate which is lower than the state’s total female literacy rate of 54.09%.

The literacy rate of STs is comparatively low with the General population. According to Census 2011, 47.23% of STs are literates those who can read and write with understanding, which is less than the whole State literacy rate of 71.84%. Among this 57.12% are male and 42.88% are female literates, in case of female literacy rate which is lower than the state’s total female literacy rate of 54.09%.

3.5.3 Economic Activity

The Work Participation Rate (WPR) is the percentage of workers to the total population. The WPR among SC population is 48.99% in 2011 Census, which is higher than the state’s total WPR of 45.58%. Among this 79.91% are main workers and 20.09% are marginal workers it is lower than the state’s main workers rate of 84.97% and higher than the state’s marginal workers rate of 15.02%. Majority 66.36% of main workers and 80.32% of marginal workers are residing in rural areas. The male WPR has been 59.55% and female WPR 40.45%.

At individual caste level, the WPR varies from the highest 54.81% of Chakkiliyan to the lowest 46.97% of Adi Dravida. Adi Dravida has also recorded the lowest female WPR of 38.83%. Out of total main workers, cultivators are 7.59%, agricultural labourers are 46.99%, house hold industry workers are 1.69% and other workers are 43.73%. Similarly, marginal works constitute 4.52% of cultivators, 63.87% of agricultural labourers, 2.7% of house hold industry workers and 28.9% of other workers. At the individual caste level of main workers, 75.88% are Adi Dravida, 85.86% are Arunthathiyar, 87.42% are Chakkiliyan, 83.33% are Pallan and 81.35% are Parayan. It is higher than the national main workers rate of 75.24%. Similarly, at the individual caste level of marginal workers, 24.12% are Adi Dravida, 14.14% are Arunthathiyar, 12.58% are Chakkiliyan, 16.70% are Pallan and 18.65% are Parayan. It is lower than the national marginal workers rate of 24.76%.

The WPR among the ST population at 2011 Census is 54.52%, which is higher than the state WPR of 48.99%. Among this 81.80% of ST are main workers and 18.20% are marginal workers. The WPR of male is 55.30% and female is
44.70%, among the total workers of 86.54% are residing rural and hill areas and 13.45% are living in urban areas. At the individual Tribal level, the WPR varies from 63.40% among Uraly to 43.03% of Kattunayakan. In case of main workers, the highest 86.76% are malayali and the lowest 72.91% of Irular. Similarly, in case of marginal workers, highest 27.07% are Irular and the lowest 13.21% are Kattunayakan. Among the main workers, 29.90% are cultivators, 41.11% are agricultural labours, 1.49% are house hold industry workers and 27.46% are other workers. Similarly, 8.58% are cultivators, 60.30% are agricultural labours, 3.70% are house hold industry workers and 27.42% are other workers.

3.6 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Status in Salem District

Salem is a district of Tamil Nadu State in southern India. It consists of 9 taluks and 20 blocks. The city of Salem is the district headquarters. Other major towns in the district are Mettur, Omalur and Attur. The district is well connected by rail and road networks. Salem district is known for mangoes, steel and for Mettur dam, which is a major source of irrigation and drinking water for the state of Tamil Nadu. Salem District constitutes 34,82056 which represents 4.2% in the total population of the State. Among this, 58,0512 belong to Scheduled Casts and 11,9369 belongs to Scheduled Tribes which represents 16.6% and 3.4 % respectively in the total population of the District and also it represents 4 % and 15% respectively in the total population of the State. Majority 31,8693 of SCs are living in rural which constitutes 16,2603 are males and 15,6090 are females and 26,1819 of SC are living in Urban which represents 131459 are males and 130360 are females. In case of STs majority 11,0233 are living in rural which includes 55806 are males and 54427 females and 9136 of STs are living in urban which includes 4683 are males and 4453 are females. Majority of SC/ST occupation includes landless Agricultural labourers. Among these are with petty extent of agricultural land, Marginal and small cultivators including share croppers and other tenants, Fishermen, Traditional Artisans –Leather workers, Weavers and other artisans, Civic Sanitation workers (scavengers and sweepers), and Traditional Dais, Urban marginal labour and the educated. These occupational groups may be put into two broad categories, namely land based activities and non-land based activities.
3.7 Measures Taken by the Government of India to Uplift SC/ST People

After independence, Government of India recognized the special problems of the SC/ST, over the years, and significant steps and policies and programmes were built to develop their human capacities and capabilities. Primarily government drew provisions in the constitution, which legally abolished the practice of untouchability and discrimination (Article 17), equality before law (Article 14), provide for the promotion of the educational and economic interests and protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46), reservation in government services and in democratic political institutions was given (Article 330 and 335). Latter during 1970’s, the Government of India initiated to abolish economic backwardness of SC/ST and implemented Scheduled caste Sub-plan (SCSP) and allotted funds from Special Central Assistance Scheme. The constitution provided the establishment of a permanent body to investigate and monitor the state wise social and economic progress of SC/ST. Scheduled Castes Development Bureau implements Scheduled caste Sub-plan (SCSP) through state wise Scheduled Caste Development Corporations as agencies for the benefit of SC/ST. At present 27 Scheduled Caste Development Corporations are functioning throughout the country. The positions attained by individuals are very much in terms of power, privilege and status. This has its definite impact on the dialectical interaction among individuals, their social prestige, influence and importance. it has achieved various socio-economic achievements for the last 66 years of its independence. Even though India attained sizable socio-economic growth, the social stratification is the main problem and barrier to socio-economic growth. Social stratification amounts to institutionalized inequality.

3.8 Government Schemes Focus for SC/ST Welfare

In the post independent period welfare of SC/ST emerged as one of the significant strategies in the development process and thinking of the Government in socio-economic environment. The Central and State Governments has been taken various strategies and programmes for the socio-economic emancipation of SC/ST under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Welfare as follows:

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8 www.socialjustice.nic.in
1. Centrally sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes Students
2. Central Sector Scheme of 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' for Providing Scholarships to Scheduled Caste Students to pursue Programmes in Higher Education such as M.Phil and Ph.D
3. Centrally-sponsored Pilot Scheme of Pradhan Mantri adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
4. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana
5. Pre-Matric Scholarships for the Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations
6. Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for SC Students
7. Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
8. Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste sub Plan
10. Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Castes Girls belonging to low Literacy Levels
11. Scheme of free Coaching for SC Students
12. National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)
13. National Safaikaramcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)
14. Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs)

3.9 Schemes for Socio - Economic Empowerment

The recommendations and suggestions by the various committees and commissions, study groups helped the government to devise the approach for the development of SC/ST and to formulate various policies and programmes to achieve the objectives as enshrined in the Constitution for them. The various policies and programmes so formulated on the recommendations and suggestions by committees study the groups that have been incorporated in the planning documents of the country.

The First and Second Five Year Plans laid major stress on carrying out development programmes in the field of education. In the Third Five Year Plan, the
emphasis was on some special education and training schemes but this did not mean that these schemes would replace the developmental programmes undertaken for the community as a whole. This plan also stressed on programmes such as land allotment, assistance to set up Scheduled Caste families as cultivators, training in the village and small industries and introduction of improvement techniques in traditional crafts. The Fourth Plan emphasized consolidation, improvement and expansion of the services already undertaken to accelerate the process of development meant for them. Funds allotted under Backward Classes were considered as additive to the programmes from which Scheduled Castes derived benefits under general sector. The Fifth Five Year Plan also laid emphasis on the programmes of educational incentives, subsidies, housing, various agricultural programmes and requirement of development corporations.

An evaluation of these programmes, undertaken up to Fifth Plan shows that they did not produce any tangible results and the desired development of Scheduled Castes Communities could not take place. The Sixth Five Year Plan states that these programmes were intended to be formulated in an ad-hoc manner without any perspective and were merely in the nature of welfare schemes. Besides this, the special programmes for the Scheduled Case groups, conceived as a supplement to the total development efforts in general sector of development, merely substituted the benefits available to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under normal development schemes. This resulted in much lower investment for their development than envisaged. The Sixth Plan document also records that inspite of constitutional directives and legislative and executive measures taken by the government, their situation had not improved appreciably mainly due to lack of economic support. As a result of this lopsided performance, the need of a new comprehensive and integrated approach was felt. Consequently, Working Group for formulation of the strategy and priorities for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the society was constituted by the Planning Commission.

The Report of the Working Group on the Development of Scheduled Castes (1980-85) underlined that the approach for the development of Scheduled Castes must have the following general objective:
To enable 50 percent Scheduled Caste families to cross poverty line through comprehensive and integrated family oriented programmes,

To remove the lag in the educational levels of the community,

To bring significant and tangible improvement in their working and living conditions by removing lag in various social services available to the Scheduled Caste families and their habitation,

To ensure human resource development consisting of their constructive and effective organization and training to develop social awareness and the capacity for taking initiatives for, and managing their own development,

To promote occupational mobility,

To eliminate middleman layers which are responsible for reducing the income of self-employment producers in the primary as well as secondary and tertiary sectors and to pay special attention to women and children of Scheduled Castes.

These general objectives were elaborated into specific objectives by the working group in clear and concrete terms. Further, the physical goals in each specific sector, the outlays required for each specific sector and how these outlays were to be effectively utilized to achieve the physical goals was clearly defined for the first time, for the development of Scheduled Castes communities in the country⁹.

This shows that the working group had stressed that there should be a clear focus on the development, specially the economic development of the Scheduled Castes and that this problem is clearly and unambiguously recognized as being at the core of the approach to development in the central as well as State Plans as a whole. With a view to provide focus and to streamline the process of development of Scheduled Castes, two important policy decisions were taken by the Government before the Commencement of Sixth Five Year Plan. These were special Component Plans (SCP) and special Central Assistance to Special Component Plans.

It was mainly due to the lack economic support programmes that the socio-economic situation of Scheduled Castes did not improve appreciably. Though it was inherent in the earlier Five Year Plans that the benefits of economic development

resulting from the investment in agriculture and industry in particular would in
course of time trickle down to the poorest, the experience was otherwise. This
necessitated the search for a new strategy. At the beginning of the Sixth Plan a new
strategy for development of Scheduled Castes was devised. This new strategy is a
combination of the following three instruments:

The special Component Plans (SCP)

The Special Central Assistance (SCA): and

Scheduled Castes Development Corporation in the state/UTs (SCDC)

3.10 Special Central Assistance

The Special Central Assistance is the most important programme of the
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the alleviation of poverty
among Scheduled Castes. The objective of SCA, which provides 100 percent grant
to States and UTs as an additive to their Special Component Plans, is that it would
be used to give an added thrust to the development programmes for Scheduled
Castes with reference to their occupational pattern and the need to increase the
productivity of and income from their limited assets by taking up family-oriented
schemes for them.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (M/SJ&E) is providing 100% grant under the Central Sector Scheme of SCA to SCSP as an additive to SCSP to the States/UTs to fill the critical gaps and vital missing inputs in family oriented income generating schemes with supporting infrastructure development so as to make the schemes more effective. The objective of the SCA is to provide additional support to Below Poverty Line (BPL) SC families to enhance their productive and income. SCA could also be utilized for infrastructural development in the blocks having 50 percent or more of SC population. SCA is released to these States/UTs on the basis of the following criteria:

SC Population of the States/UTs: 40%

Relative backwardness of the States /UTs: 1

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10 Ibid, p.132-133
percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by Composite economic development programmes in the state plan to enable them to cross the poverty line: 25%

Percentage of SCSP to the Annual Plan as compared to SC population percentage of the States/UTs: 25%

3.11 Scheduled Castes Sub Plan

The strategy of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (earlier called “Special Component Plan” for SCs) was started in 1979. As per guidelines issued by the planning Commission in October, 2005, and December, 2006 to State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments respectively, they are required to earmark the funds out of their Annual Plan in proportion to the SC population for implementing schemes directly relevant to SCs. These guidelines also require that the funds earmarked under SCSP be placed under a separate budget head.

The nomenclature of special component plan for Scheduled Castes has been renamed as Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) on the lines of Tribal Sub Plan to make the beneficiaries aware of the programme meant for them. The strategy of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) is one of the most important interventions through the planning process for social, economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes and also for improvement in their working and living conditions. In spite of the Constitutional safeguards and developmental planning launched since 1951, through the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) the SCs lagged behind the general population in various socio-economic indicators. The Sixth Plan had identified the lack of economic support as the main cause of extremely slow pace of development of the Scheduled Castes during the earlier plans. Thought it was inherent in the earlier five year plans that the benefits of economic development resulting from the investments in agriculture and industry in particular, in course of time trickle down to the poorest of the poor, the search of a new strategy during the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Sixth Plan (1980-85) marked a shift in the approach to the development of SCs. Special emphasis was laid on the implementation of the newly launched SCSP for SCs facilitating easy convergence and pooling of resources from all the other
developmental sectors in proportion to the population of SCs and monitoring of various developmental programmes for the benefit of SCs.

The Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) was a combination of three important instruments, viz., (i) The Special Central Assistance of the States and Central Ministries; (ii) the Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plans of state; and (iii) Scheduled Castes Development Corporations.\(^{11}\)

3.12 Tribal Sub-Plan

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy was evolved for the rapid socio-economic development of tribal people in the 5th Five Year Plan. It has the objectives of socio-economic development and Protection of STs against exploitation through legal and administrative support by narrowing the gap between their levels of development to that of the general population. The important aspect of this strategy is to ensure allocation of funds for TSP areas at least in proportion to the ST population of each of the State/UT. The TSP strategy is now being implemented through 196 Integrated Tribal Development Projects/Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDPs/ITDAs), 259 Modified Area Development approach (MADA) Pockets, 82 Clusters and 75 Primitive Tribal Groups in 23 TSP States/UTs. The Tribal Sub-Plan Programmes are to be financed by the following sources: (a) Tribal Sub Plan funds form State/U.T Plans and Central Ministries/Departments, (b) Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), (c) Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution to the States/U.Ts, (d) Funds through Central Sector Schemes, (e) Funds from Centrally Sponsored Schemes and (f) Institutional Finance.

The TSP expenditure though has increased from fifth five year plan steadily the allocations made by the States/U.Ts are mostly notional in nature as the expenditure is not even half of the allocation and most of the governments had not created separate budget heads and had not made the tribal welfare departments nodal for earmarking of funds as per the needs of the tribal groups in the States with proper monitoring mechanism. Over the years it was observed that TSP strategy is not being implemented properly and inter-sectoral allocation and prioritization is not

\(^{11}\) Ibid, p.135
being done. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) is provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the States/U.Ts since 5th Five year Plan as an additive to State/U.T Plan to 21 States and 2 U.Ts which are implementing TSP for supporting the tribal population below the poverty line as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3.13 Organizations Established for the Welfare of SC/ST

3.13.1 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to oversee the interests of the Scheduled Castes. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of the Scheduled Castes rests with all the Central Ministries in the area of their operations and the State Governments, the Ministry complements their efforts by way of interventions in critical sectors through specifically tailored schemes. Efforts made by Stat Governments and Central Ministries for protecting and promoting the interests of Scheduled Castes are also monitored.

Under the Scheduled Castes Development Bureau, the Ministry implements Scheduled Caste Sub-plan (SCSP) which is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits from all the general sectors of development for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. Under this strategy, States and UTs are required to formulate and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes as part of their Annual Plans by earmarking resources. At present 27 Stats/UTs having sizeable SC population are implementing Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan.

Another policy initiative for the development of Scheduled Castes is Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan, in which 100 % assistance is given as additive to Scheduled Caste Sub-plan of the States/UTs on the basis of certain criteria such as SC population of the States/ UTs, relative backwardness of the States/UTs percentage SC families in the States/UTs covered by complete economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) set up under the Ministry provides credit facilities to persons belonging to Scheduled castes living below double the poverty line limits for income generating activities. Another Corporation under the Ministry viz. National
Safi Karmacharis Finance and Development Cooperation (NSKFDC) provides credit facilities to beneficiaries viz. Safai Karamacharis, scavengers and their dependents for income generating activities for socio-economic development through State Channelising Agencies.

The Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment in particular looks into the Educational Development, Protective measures, Service through Voluntary Organizations and Special Central Assistance for Scheduled Castes. Number of Commissions and Corporations are started for the economic development of the Scheduled Castes by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment12.

3.13.2 National Commission for Scheduled Castes

The National Commission for Scheduled Casteed and Scheduled Tribes which was set up under Article 338 of the Constitution in 1990 was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for and also to review issues concerning their welfare. Functions of the NCSC as enumerated in Article 338 (5) of the Constitution are:-

To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards,

To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Castes,

To participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State,

To present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards,

12 www.socialjustice.nic.in
To make in such reports recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and

To discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the Scheduled Castes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

The Commission has wide powers to protect, safeguard and to promote the interests of the SCs.

The National Commission has 12 State offices located at Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Patna, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. Helpline number is 1800118888. During January 2008 to December 2008 the NCSC had handled 2648 cases.\textsuperscript{13}

3.13.3 National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up by the Government of India in February, 1989 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. The broad Objective of NSFDC is to provide central financial aid and assistance in the form of concessional loans to all the Scheduled Castes families living below Double the Poverty Line [Presently Rs.40,000/- per annum for rural area and Rs.55,000/- per annum for urban areas] for their economic development, upliftment and economic empowerment through various schemes.\textsuperscript{14}

3.13.4 National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, had defined Safai Karamchari as a person engaged in, or employed for, manually carrying human excreta or any sanitation work”. The target groups of the Corporation are “Scavengers”, which means persons wholly or partially employed for manual handling of human excreta and their dependents, and “Safai Karamcharis” which means persons engaged in or employed for any sanitation work, and their

\textsuperscript{13} www.ncsc.nic.in
\textsuperscript{14} www.nsfdc.nic.in
dependents. No income limit is fixed for availing financial assistance. However, the Corporation accords priority to the economic development and rehabilitation of Scavengers and amongst Scavengers, whose income is below double the poverty line.

3.13.5 Scheduled Caste Development Corporations

To implement economic development programmes for Scheduled Castes living below the poverty line, and specially to mobilize institutional credit and credit at concessional rates, the Government of India decided in 1978-79 to participate in the share capital of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) in the States, UTs which had a sizeable Scheduled Castes population. At present, SCDCs are functioning in 23 states and in 4 UTs. These corporations have been established with the basic motive of implementing welfare-oriented programmes for the down-trodden and to lift them from the poverty line, not merely quantitatively but also in qualitative terms. When the Sixth Plan strategy was being formulated, the utility of these corporations was recognized. Hence, The Government of India instructed states having sizeable population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to vigorously take up economic development programmes of SC/ST families below the poverty line.

3.13.5.1 Objectives and Activities

The broad objectives of the SC Corporations are:

To help the SCs to cross the poverty line through a gradual and sustained effort;

To transform the economic structure of the incomes and expenses incurred by the SCs through entrepreneurial mode;

To work for the social upliftment of the SCs through their educational upsurge; and

To mobilize institutional credit for the socio-economic transformation of the SCs by functioning as catalysts, promoters and guarantors.

A study of the activity portfolio of the various SC corporations points out that there are some corporations which have a limited mandate and have never
attempted to go beyond that. On the other hand, there are some SC corporations which have a large activity portfolio. On the whole, a large number of corporations have not gone beyond the initial mandate specified for them and, to that extent; they have remained away from innovations.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for participating in the equity share of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDCs) in the ratio of 49.51 was introduced in 1979. The main functions of SCDCs include identification of eligible SC families and motivating them to undertake economic development schemes, sponsoring the schemes to financial institutions for credit support, providing financial assistance in the form of margin money at low rate of interest and subsidy on order to reduce the repayment liability and providing necessary tie up with other poverty alleviation programmes. The SCDCs is playing an important role in providing credit and inputs by way of margin money loans and subsidy to the target group.

The SCDCs fiancé employment oriented schemes covers: (i) Agriculture and allied activities including minor irrigation, (ii) Small Scale Industry, (iii) Transport, and (iv) Trade and Service Sector. SCDCs finance projects by dovetailing loan component from NSFDC/ bank along with margin money out of their own funds and subsidy out of Special Central Assistance (SCA).

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes development Corporations were in existence before the commencement of the Sixth Plan, in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and West Bengal.

Even though the Government of Tamil Nadu had implemented through Five Year Plan a series of measures for ameliorating the social and economic backwardness of Scheduled Castes, their socio-economic status had come to deplorably low level during 1970s.

The Scheduled Castes live away from the rest of the population in almost all the villages and towns. Therefore, special development and planning, special component plans are being prepared and implemented for the scheduled castes. The trust of this plan is the existing schemes in each sector of development which would directly benefit the scheduled caste families they are to be identified, earmarking provision from secretarial plans in proportion to the scheduled castes population in
targeted groups, providing institutional credit and marketing facilities to scheduled caste families particularly to those below the poverty line, direct help through family and individual oriented programmes with the objective of providing assets and skills to the scheduled castes to fetch income etc. Further habitation oriented schemes like provision of drinking water, drainage, medical help, allotment of house sites, construction of houses, electrification, providing educational facilities are also included and implemented in this plan. Marginal and sum-marginal cultivators, leather workers, artisan like weavers and craft men in cottage and village industries are to be separated financially by providing by liberal institutional credit. Educational and cultural development and economic upliftment are the three main areas which are to be tacked by the state and sociologists.

It clear from the above discussion the Government of India and State Governments implementing various welfare measures to abolish the disparity in literacy, education, occupation, housing, assets ownership and the availability of basic amenities in terms of water, drainage, electricity in the rural areas with the general population.

3.14 Role of TAHDCO in SC/ST Development

TAHDCO was incorporated in the year 1974 under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Initially TAHDCO deals the construction activities for the downtrodden Adi Dravidars and building houses to them. Latter TAHDCO became to functioning as a Scheduled Caste Development Corporation (SCDC) with 51% share capital owned for Tamil Nadu Government and 49% share capital owned for Central Government. The corporation starts its functions by full-fledged to taking care the duty of uplift the SC/ST people who are living below poverty line. The socio-economic development of SC/ST is focused by the corporation through implementing the welfare programmes. The main objectives of TAHDCO is providing financial assistance to economic development for income generating activities, skill development trainings for SC/ST and also doing construction activities like constructing hostel, school building etc. Even though the Government is making various efforts to uplift SC/ST, still there is a gap in socio-economic development among SC/ST.
3.15 Schemes Offered by TAHDCO for the Welfare of SC/ST

To improve the socio-economic status of SC/ST, various need schemes providing by TAHDCO which can be classified into three, first one as Financial Assistance to Individuals and second one as Financial Assistance to Self Help Groups and the third one as Skill Development Trainings. These schemes include the following activities:

3.15.1 Financial Assistance to Individuals

Land Purchase Scheme and Land Development Scheme (LPS & LDS)
Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP)
Self Employment Programme for Youth (SEPY)
Managing Director/District Collector’s Discretionary Fund
Fast Track Power Supply (Electric Board Deposit) for Agricultural pump sets

3.15.2 Financial Assistance to Self Help Groups

Revolving Fund to Self Help Groups
Economic Assistance to Self Help Groups

3.15.3 Skill Development Trainings

Skill Development Training (Manufacturing of Apparel, Plastic products, Footwear and leather, Beautician and Tailoring etc.,)
Development Training for various competitive examinations

3.16 Status of TAHDCO Schemes for the Current Study

From the above schemes, financial assistance schemes are more effective and boost the SC/ST people become entrepreneur since under this scheme the corporation providing subsidy of 30 % percent of the project cost subject to a maximum sum of Rs.225000 from State Assistance and Special Central Assistance along with Bank loan. From 2001-2002 to 2010-2011, TAHDCO distributed a sum of Rs.39757.8 lakhs for 1077996 beneficiaries. Out of these figures particularly individual schemes covered 98074 SC/ST beneficiaries and subsidy realized a sum of Rs.14634.41lakhs. From this the researcher has observed that the individual financial assistance schemes are more effective and it is a strategy for develop SC/ST entrepreneur and also gives
more power to individual to empower themselves. Therefore the present research has focused on TAHDCO schemes especially financial assistance to individual schemes which are Land Purchase and Development Scheme, Financial Assistance to economic activities including Entrepreneur Development Programme and Self Employment Programme for Youth.

3.16.1 Land Purchase and Development Scheme

To improve the SC/ST people’s socio-economic status and increase the land holding size of SC/ST people in the State, TAHDCO is implementing this scheme for SC/ST women who are in the age group between 18 to 55 years and their family income have below one lakh and also they do not have any agricultural land previously. Under this scheme the applicant’s occupation should be agriculture and their family members should not come under any schemes of TAHDCO so far. Through this scheme TAHDCO is providing 50% as subsidy and arranged the balance amount as loan from banking institutions. The special features of the scheme is 100% exempted from stamp duty and 75% concession in registration fee. The final output of this scheme is creating wealth as agricultural land and it bring socio-economic status among the community and beyond the community. The corporation also provides electricity and minor irrigation facilities to improve the agricultural productivity. The following table shows the ten years trend of Land Purchase and Development Scheme at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level.

Table No. 3.3

Trend Particulars of Land Purchase and Development Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>1221</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>1754</td>
<td>43.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>31.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>1298</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>-49.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8905</td>
<td>-49.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: www.tahdco.gov.in and Salem District TAHDCO office annual report)
From the above table it is found that the trend particulars of Land Purchase and Development Scheme beneficiaries of TAHDCO and distribution of subsidy for the overall position in Tamil Nadu and Salem District. It indicates there is an increasing trend in the years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010 by 100%, 43.65%, 28.79%, 31.13% and 33.40% respectively. Similarly, there is a decreasing trend in the years 2008 and 2011 by 67.15% and 49.31% respectively. Whereas in Salem District it indicates an increasing trend in the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2010 by 100%, 47.22%, 11.32% and 60% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2008, 2009 and 2011 by 23.73%, 11.11% and 60.94% respectively.

In the case of subsidy distribution under Land Purchase and Development scheme of TAHDCO for the overall position in Tamil Nadu indicates there is increasing trend in the years 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010 by 100%, 31.39%, 0.56% and 13.46% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2007, 2008 and 2011 by 40.91%, 38.90% and 37.73% respectively. Whereas in Salem District indicates there is increasing trend in the years 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2011 by 100%, 17.92%, 4.58% and 281.12% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2007, 2008 and 2010 by 32.14%, 16.40% and 83.36% respectively. In this juncture the researcher applies correlation analysis to identify the performance and the trend relationship between Land Purchase and Development Scheme beneficiaries and subsidy distribution at Tamil Nadu level and Salem District level.

In this section Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation is applied between TAHDCO schemes all over Tamil Nadu and at Salem District level. This would help the researcher to find an analogy between TAHDCO performance at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
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<td>.900(***).000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>

The application of Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between Land purchase and Development Scheme and beneficiaries of TAHDCO schemes at Tamil
Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level clearly indicated a positive correlation (r=0.900, P= .000). This indicates the trend of beneficiaries at Tamil Nadu possess more proximately with the Land Purchase and Development Scheme beneficiaries at Salem District at 90% level. Therefore it can be concluded that all TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level is found more successful and at Salem District level also.

Table No. 3.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
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<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem District</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application of Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between Land purchase and Development Scheme and subsidy distribution of TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level clearly indicated a positive correlation (r=0.916, P=.000). This indicates the trend of beneficiaries at Tamil Nadu possess more proximately with the Land Purchase and Development Scheme beneficiaries at Salem District at 90% level. Therefore it can be concluded that all TAHDCO schemes, at Tamil Nadu level are found more successful at Salem District level also.

Chart No.3.1

Trend Particulars of Land Purchase and Development Scheme-Tamil Nadu
3.16.2 Financial Assistance schemes to individuals

In this scheme, financial assistance provided by TAHDCO to SC/ST individual for starting any viable income generating economic activities including entrepreneur development activities. Under this scheme, the financial assistance provided by 30% as back end subsidy subject to maximum sum of Rs.2,25,000 and the balance amount arranged as bank loan including minimum 5% of promoters contribution in the project cost. This scheme is applicable to all individuals belonging to SC/ST in the age group of 18 to 55 years having an annual family income of less than one lakh. At the time of beneficiaries selection process, TAHDCO is giving preference to beneficiaries having prior experience and desire knowledge in the entrepreneurial activities preferably asset creation projects. Through this scheme government not only aims at poverty eradication but improves the status of SC/ST people from labour to entrepreneur. This scheme also provides financial assistance to establish Petrol, Diesel and LPG retail outlets from 2012-2013. Under this scheme, TAHDCO released a sum of Rs.19915.22 lakhs for 445445 beneficiaries Up to 2010 - 2011. The following table presents the performance and trend particulars of financial assistance scheme to individual at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level for the period of ten years from 2001-2002 to 2010-2011.
Table No. 3.6

Trend Particulars of Financial Assistance Schemes to Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Salem District</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
<td>Subsidy (Rs. in lacs)</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
<td>Subsidy (Rs. in lacs)</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>14416</td>
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<td>1863.93</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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</tr>
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<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>6981</td>
<td>-8.27</td>
<td>880.29</td>
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<td>-19.81</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>8720</td>
<td>24.91</td>
<td>865.29</td>
<td>-1.70</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>270.19</td>
<td>83.02</td>
<td>173.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>17048</td>
<td>95.50</td>
<td>1603.54</td>
<td>85.32</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>-5.27</td>
<td>71.03</td>
<td>-14.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>6491</td>
<td>-61.93</td>
<td>719.73</td>
<td>-55.12</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>-68.15</td>
<td>17.88</td>
<td>-74.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>5814</td>
<td>-10.43</td>
<td>659.16</td>
<td>-8.42</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>-36.97</td>
<td>7.31</td>
<td>-59.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>6209</td>
<td>6.79</td>
<td>759.64</td>
<td>15.24</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>32.05</td>
<td>338.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>2464</td>
<td>-60.32</td>
<td>386.03</td>
<td>-49.18</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>-68.50</td>
<td>11.79</td>
<td>-63.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82287</td>
<td>9446.33</td>
<td>3997</td>
<td>349.79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: www.tahdco.gov.in and Salem District TAHDCO office annual report)

The above table indicates that the trend particulars of financial assistance to individual Scheme beneficiaries of TAHDCO and distribution of subsidy for the overall position in Tamil Nadu and Salem District. It represents there is an increasing trend in beneficiaries selection in the years 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2010 by 100%, 16.47%, 24.91%, 95.50%, and 6.79% respectively. Similarly, there is a decreasing trend in the years 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2011 by 54.68%, 8.27%, 61.93%, 10.43% and 60.32% respectively. Whereas in Salem District indicates there is an increasing trend in beneficiaries selection in the years 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2010 by 100%, 21.37%, 270.19% and 2.42% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in beneficiaries’ selection in the years 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011 by 25.14%, 19.81%, 5.27%, 68.15%, -36.97% and 68.50% respectively.

In the case of subsidy distribution under financial assistance to individual Scheme of TAHDCO for the overall position in Tamil Nadu indicates there is an increasing trend in the years 2002, 2004, 2007, and 2010 by 100%, 10.40%, 85.32% and 15.24% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2011 by 56.43%, 1.82%, 1.71%, 55.12%, 8.42%, and
49.18% respectively. Whereas Salem District indicates that there is an increasing trend in the years 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2010 by 100%, 7.90%, 173.97%, 338.51 and 63.21% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011 by 21.14%, 2.51% 14.44%, 74.82%, 59.14%, and 63.21% respectively. In this stage the researcher applies correlation analysis to identify the performance and the trend relationship between financial assistance to individual Scheme beneficiaries and subsidy distribution at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level.

The Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation is applied between TAHDCO schemes all over Tamil Nadu and at Salem District level. Based on coefficient the researcher finds the correlation between TAHDCO performance at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level.

Table No. 3.7
Correlation between Financial Assistance Schemes to Individuals and Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.655(*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.040</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>.655(*)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.040</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application of Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between Financial Assistance to Individual Scheme beneficiaries of TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level clearly indicated a positive correlation (r=0.655, P= .040). This indicates the trend of beneficiaries at Tamil Nadu possess more proximately with the Financial Assistance to Individual Scheme beneficiaries at Salem District at 95 % level. Therefore, it can be concluded that all TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level is found more successful at Salem District level also.
Table No. 3.8
Correlation between Financial Assistance Schemes to Individuals and Subsidy Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem District</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>.493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application of Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between Financial Assistance to Individual Scheme subsidy distribution of TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level clearly indicated a positive correlation (r=0.493, P= .148). This indicates the trend of subsidy distribution at Tamil Nadu possess more proximately with the Financial Assistance to Individual Scheme subsidy distribution at Salem District at 90 % level. Therefore it can be concluded that all TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level are found more successful at Salem District also.

Chart No.3.3
Trend Particulars of Financial Assistance Schemes to Individuals - Tamil Nadu

87
3.16.3 Self Employment Programme for Youth (SEPY)

SEPY is implemented exclusively for the educated un-employed youths in the age group of 18 to 35 years. Under this scheme in each district, a set of self employment ventures are identified in accordance with the local potential. This scheme intensively trained and escorted in obtaining financial assistance and in starting and running the ventures sustainable over a period of time. Financial assistance for starting self employment ventures is provided for a maximum project cost of Rs.7.50 Lakh in which 30% of the project cost subject to maximum of Rs.225000/- is the subsidy from TAHDCO, promoters contribution is 5% and the balance is arranged as loan from banks. This scheme extended to Siddha Doctors, MBBS and Post Graduate Doctors who wish to setup their own clinic. Under this scheme, TAHDCO released a sum of Rs.1241.67 lakhs for 5399 beneficiaries Up to 2010 - 2011. The following table presents the performance and trend particulars of financial assistance scheme to individual at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level for the period of ten years from 2001-2002 to 2010-2011.
Table No. 3.9

Trend Particulars of Self Employment Programme for Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Subsidy (Rs. in lacs)</th>
<th>Trend in %</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
<th>Subsidy (Rs. in lacs)</th>
<th>Trend in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Trend in %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>71.50</td>
<td>210.25</td>
<td>156.40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>1813</td>
<td>164.29</td>
<td>418.34</td>
<td>98.97</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>-13.73</td>
<td>180.9</td>
<td>-6.57</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>195.51</td>
<td>8.08</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-67.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>22.36</td>
<td>253.3</td>
<td>29.56</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6485</td>
<td>1533.92</td>
<td></td>
<td>156</td>
<td>32.56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: www.tahdco.gov.in and Salem District TAHDCO office annual report)

The above table expresses that the trend particulars of Self Employment Programme for Youth Scheme beneficiaries of TAHDCO and distribution of subsidy for the overall position in Tamil Nadu and Salem District. It represents there is a increasing trend in beneficiaries selection in the years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2011 by 100%, 71.50%, 164.29%, 3.48%, and 22.36% respectively. Similarly, there is a decreasing trend in the years 2008 and 2009 by 48.59 and 13.73% respectively. Whereas in Salem District it indicates that there is a increasing trend in beneficiaries selection in the years 2007 and 2009by 100 and 37.93% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in beneficiary selection in the years 2008 and 2010 by 52.46% and 67.50% respectively and there is no change in the year 2011.

In the case of subsidy distribution under Self Employment Programme for Youth Scheme of TAHDCO for the overall position in Tamil Nadu indicates there is an increasing trend in the years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2011 by 100%, 156.40%, 98.97,8.08% and 29.56% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2008 and 2019 by 53.72% and 6.57% respectively. Whereas Salem District it indicates that there is an increasing trend in the years 2007, 2009 and 2011 by 100%, 6.72%, and 11.68% respectively. Similarly there is a decreasing trend in the years 2008, and 2019 by 44.06%, and 60.19% respectively. Here the researcher applies correlation analysis to identify the performance and the trend.
relationship between Self Employment Programme for Youth Scheme beneficiaries and subsidy distribution at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level.

The Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation is applied between TAHDCO schemes all over Tamil Nadu and at Salem District level. Based on coefficient the researcher finds the correlation between TAHDCO performance at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level.

Table No. 3.10
Correlation between Self Employment Programme for Youth and Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.845(***)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td></td>
<td>.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application of Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between Self Employment Programme for Youth Scheme Beneficiaries of TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level clearly indicated a positive correlation (r=0.8455, P=.002) . This indicates the trend of beneficiaries at Tamil Nadu possess more proximately with the Financial Assistance to Individual Scheme beneficiaries at Salem District at 95 % level. Therefore it can be concluded that all TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level is found more successful at Salem District level also.

Table No. 3.11
Correlation between Self Employment Programme for Youth and Subsidy Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Salem District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.807(***)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td></td>
<td>.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application of Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between Self Employment Programme for Youth Scheme subsidy distribution of TAHDCO schemes at Tamil Nadu level and at Salem District level clearly indicated a positive
correlation ($r=0.807$, $P=.005$). This indicates the trend of subsidy distribution at Tamil Nadu possess more proximately with the Self Employment Programme for Youth Scheme subsidy distribution at Salem District at 95 % level. Therefore it can be concluded that all TAHDCO schemes are found more successful at both Tamil Nadu and Salem District level also.

Chart No.3.5
Trend Particulars of Self Employment Programme for Youth-Tamil Nadu

Chart No.3.6
Trend Particulars of Self Employment Programme for Youth- Salem District
3.17 Meaning of Empowerment

Empowerment literally means, "Becoming powerful"; Empowerment is a process whereby SC/ST are able to organize themselves to increase their own self-reliance, to assert their independent right to make choices and control resources, which will assist in challenging and eliminating their own subordination\textsuperscript{15}.

Empowerment is an active and multidimensional process to enable weaker sections to realize their identity and powers in all spheres enabling women to acquire and possess "Power resource" in order to make decisions or resist the decisions that are made by others that affect weaker sections. Further empowerment provides greater access to knowledge and resources, more autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan their lives, more control over the circumstance, which influence their lives and freedom from custom, belief and practice (Ramanujam and Thenmozhi 2006)\textsuperscript{16}.

3.18 Concept of Empowerment

The 'Empowerment' approach was first clearly articulated in 1985 by Development Alternatives with Women for a new era. ‘Women Empowerment’ concept was introduced at the International women’s conference in 1985 at Nairobi. The Conference defined “Empowerment” as a redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women. In the true sense, Empowerment means giving-up the old established ways, habits and giving-up privileges. This term received prominence in early nineties in western countries. The concept of women's empowerment is the outcome of several important critiques and debates generated by the women's movement throughout the world, particularly by the third world feminists. Its source can be traced from the interactive between feminism and the concept of "Popular education" developed in Latin America in the 1970's. The concept of women's empowerment has its roots throughout the world in women's movement.

In the Indian context the process of empowerment has passed through various stages. In 1960s and 1970s Policies and programmes were not aimed at empowering SC/ST. The first step in empowering SC/ST was organizing them at


grass root level by establishing SCSCP and TSP. It was framed on the basis of planning commission. Later the focus was made on improving the education, economic and health condition of SC/ST. The traces of empowerment were found in strategies adopted to achieve SC/ST’s development and equality. Besides to bring SC/ST into the mainstream of the development process, policy environment was created in sixth plan period by adopting various policies like education policy, nutrition policy and amendments in various acts related to SC/ST.

The process of gaining control over the resources, ideology and self, which determine power, can be called empowerment. When we apply this definition for empowerment of SC/ST, it is clear that SC/ST do not have power, since they do not have control over resources. Even if they have, it is only to some extent over some resources SC/ST are kept out of this domain. In this context SC/ST should have power by gaining control over the resources ideology. SC/ST empowerment is a larger and broader concept with vaster and different dimensions.

Empowerment is the result of the process which enables an individual to know about herself, what she wants, express it, try to get it and fulfill their needs by enhanced confidence, awareness, mobility, choices, control over resources and decisions making power. Central government in its welfare programmes shifted the concept of development to empowerment only in the sixth plan (1980-1985).

3.19 Definition of Empowerment

According to (Zippy 1995)\textsuperscript{17}, empowerment as” a means for accomplishing community development tasks and can be conceptualized as involving two key elements giving community members the authority to make decisions and choices and facilitating the development of the knowledge and resources necessary to exercise these choices”.

(Dubhushi 1997)\textsuperscript{18} considered empowerment as exercising control over ones lives, It first on resources of financial, physical and human and secondly on beliefs, values and attitudes.

3.20 Need for Empowerment

In India, there is a strong performance for the upper castes, as they perceived all the benefits. SC/Ss face discrimination from birth till death.

The vicious circle of poverty in India has a much greater impact on SC/ST. They comprise nearly 25% of the total population, majority are living below the poverty line. Empowerment of SC/ST is the only remedy to this problem. But it is long and difficult process. It requires change in the minds of the people. If a SC/ST in economically empowered, it becomes much easier for her to become socially empowered.

3.20.1 SC/ST Need Empowered for the Following

I. To develop self esteem, confidence, realize their potential and enhance their collective bargaining power.

II. Awareness building about SC/ST’s status, discrimination, rights and opportunities is a vital step towards gender equality.

III. Capacity building and skill development, especially the ability to plan, make decisions, organize, manage and carry out activities, to deal with people and institutions in the world around them.

IV. Participation and greater control and decision-making power in the affairs of home, community and in the society.

V. Action to bring about greater equality between SC/ST and other castes.

3.20.2 Need for Empowerment of SC/ST in Management

In recent years in many parts of the world there have been attempt to improve the status of weaker sections in their society. An important element in national policies is the improvement of SC/ST’s access to a wider range of jobs, including those at a managerial level. Though the government has been launch many schemes for the development of SC/ST, they are so poorly represented in management level. There are some reasons for low participation in management level.

- SC/ST lack leadership qualities, especially assertiveness
- SC/ST dislikes power or are afraid of it.
• Social attitude (i.e., role of SC/ST as agricultural labourer, leather workers, marginal and small formers, that)
• SC/ST is insufficiently ruthless in the work place.
• The dominance of upper caste values in organization culture.
• The need for many SC/ST has to extend career breaks precisely to bring up children and care for elderly relatives.
• Lack of effective social networks at senior and middle level management.

3.21 Importance of SC/ST Empowerment

“As long as SC/ST have the same right in law as upper castes, as long as the birth of a SC/ST society does not receive the same welcome as that of a upper caste, so long we should know that India is suffering from partial paralysis.

SC/ST empowerment is an important tool for socio-economic development and this can be achieved when the society recognizes them as one among the social partners. Providing them equal rights, facilitated them with equal education, health and out of all these allow them to participate equally and effectively. SC/ST and people together constitute about one-fifth of the total population (2011) of our country. They as target group account for 25% of the total population, as per 2011 census. Hence, development of SC/ST, safeguarding their interest is to ensure that they are brought into the mainstream to take advantage to the general developmental activities. Even the various sectoral policies announced in recent past-health (2001), Nutrition (1993), Population (2000) Education (1992), Agriculture (2000) have stressed the need and focused on the comprehensive development of weaker sections (planning commission, 2002)\(^\text{19}\). The various efforts and actives for the development of SC/ST are based on the empowerment strategy that is increasing the capacity of the SC/ST.

Achieving equality in opportunity, decisions making power, gaining confidence, building productive capacities, challenging existing power relations, gaining control over resources are the essential components which an individual or group has to achieve through the process of empowerment.

3.22 Significance of Empowerment

The term "Empowerment" has gained significance and prominence recently among policy makers and researchers. In the field of SC/ST’s studies and social work it is viewed with a holistic perspective and it can be classified as educational, economical, social, political, cultural and psychological empowerment. To quote Thomas and Pierson, empowerment referred to user participation in services and to the self help movement generally, in which groups took action on their own behalf, either in cooperation with or independently of the statutory services. Empowerment is concerned with how people may gain collective control over their lives. So as to achieve their interest the power of people who lack it²⁰.

3.23 Dimensions of Empowerment
3.23.1 Economic Empowerment

It implies the provision of training and employment-cum-income generation activities with both “forward” and “backward” linkages with the ultimate objective of making community economically independent and self reliant. It would also mean conferring through policies, into the economically deprived sections the strength that would alleviate their poverty, improve their living standards and help in generating assets.

3.23.2 Political Empowerment

Political empowerment means conferring the rights to decide the priorities of development best suited to the individuals, groups of people or to the society and to the people themselves. Power in such an event would flow “bottom-to-top” with weaker sections having equal say in decision making. One lesson that the long years of freedom struggle taught was that to achieve a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society like India, it is necessary that people from all sections have a sense of participation in decision making. It is for this reason that even while adopting the West Minister Model of Parliament (Parliamentary system if democracy as it functions in Britain), India opted to be a Republic with a Constitution that conferred fundamental rights that were inalienable, on her citizens. She gave herself a strong

²⁰ Rathidevi S., op. cit., p.60-68.
judiciary as a vanguard of her citizen’s rights, universal franchise irrespective of caste, creed, race, gender or level of literacy and the principle of lone man one vote.

3.23.3 Social Empowerment

Social empowerment means removal of all the existing socially induced inequalities disparities and other persisting problems besides providing easy access to basic minimum services. Social change is a dynamic process and when a section of society, particularly the weaker sections like the SCs/STs and women, is to be conferred the right to property, literacy and equality in the political process, it results in radical transformation in social practices in a society where money has retained a “ceremonial character that is obligatory and effective”, as described by Mauss. In rural India, it would also mean breaking up of “jajmani” system. Empowering women would challenge the ‘patriarchal’ structure of the society where conferment of property rights, particularly land title, and literacy were considered to be the domain of male members of the society.

3.23.4 Cultural Empowerment

This is a complex area that revolves around the beliefs, values, language, art and customs which characterizes the society. The cultural mores take more time to change and the “cultural lag” tends to slow down the empowerment process. To a large extent, cultural practices owe their origin to social setup and time. With change in the economic and social framework, the cultural milieu is also likely to undergo changes. But to avoid a cultural shock that destabilizes the people who are used to certain practices over centuries, the change has to be brought about gradually. This is called the cultural lag that acts as a drag. But this has to be accepted if we are to avoid social tension and resistance from the people sought to be helped. The tribals area good example of the people who need to be protected from exploitation and be allowed to assimilate themselves in the mainstream of economic and political activities even while retaining their cultural practices, their art and craft. This is because it is recognized that many of the tribal societies practice little gender or caste related discrimination; their women have equal say in household and decision-making and they have better control over ecology, particularly in forest areas, and that nurturing the positive gains of tribal culture can benefit the society as a whole.
3.23.5 Educational Empowerment

Education is the key which opens the door to life and develops humanity. It enables to acquire new knowledge and technology required for improving and developing the tasks in all field of life is called educational empowerment. Therefore, Education can be an effective tool for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes empowerment.

3.23.6 Psychological Empowerment

Mental building capacities are the psychological development process, it to move the human being from apposition of marginality to one of centrality in decision making process. Another aspect it is recognizing the peer groups. Human being developments regarding all filed of mental building is called psychological empowerment.

3.24 Indicators of SC/ST Empowerment

The following qualitative and quantitative indicators are for evaluating SC/ST's empowerment.

3.24.1 Qualitative Indicators

Self-confidence understands what they want, expresses it and tries to get it, feels proud of them self has positive self-image.

Articulation
Awareness about health, nutrition, legal right, political activities, government policies and programmes.
Less burden of work and more leisure time,
Changing role and responsibilities within the society
Decrease in violence within the society
Changing attitudes towards tradition and customs like child marriage and dowry.
Physical mobility-walk freely with in the village go to the city or town, to banks, post office, and go for shopping, cinema, exhibition and visit relatives.
Become member of SC/ST’s group or any other people's organization. 
self-identity-identifies themselves positively
Decision making power within the family regarding number of children.
Education of children, marriage of children, budgeting of the family, income and purchase or sale of family property.
Changed attitudes towards SC/ST's participation in politics and willingness to participate in the politics.
Control over individual and family income.
Access to resources like land, house, jewellery, house site, etc,
Access to information, knowledge and skills.

3.24.2 Quantitative Indicators

Increase in age at marriage.
Reduction in number of children.
Becoming beneficiaries of development programmes.
Visible changes in physical status/nutritional status.
Improvement in literacy level and
Becoming member of a political party or local self-government.

3.25 Process of Empowerment and Its Stages

Both individual and collective process of empowerment is based on the following five principles.

Self-reliance
Self-awareness
Collective mobilization and organizations
Capacity building
External exposure and interaction
3.25.1 Stages of Empowerment Process

In the first stage, SC/ST should be trained to look into the situation from a different perspective and recognize the power relations that perpetuate their oppression. At this stage, the SC/ST share their feelings and experiences with each other and build a common vision and mission.

In the second stage, the SC/ST tried to change the situation by bringing about a change in the gender and social relations.

In the third stage, the process of empowerment makes them more mature to realize the importance of collective active.

3.26 Empowerment of SC/ST in India

Even after sixty-two years of Indian independence, the SC/ST are still one of the most powerless and marginalized sections of Indian society. The 2001 Census shows that the sex ratio for India is 933, which is lowest in the world. Percentage of SC/ST literacy is 54.16 against overall literacy of 75.85 percent. In India, SC/ST’s representation in Parliament and in the State Assemblies has never beyond 8 and 10 percent respectively. Most of the working SC/ST remain outside the organized sector. A mere 2.3 percent SC/ST are administrators and managers, 20.5 percent professional and the technical workers of SC/ST collectively earn 25 percent of the shared income.

Indian constitution in its fundamental rights has provisions for equality, social justice and protection of SC/ST. These goals are yet to be realized. Still SC/ST continues to be discriminated, exploited and exposed to inequalities of various levels. So the concept of empowerment as a goal of development projects and programmes has been gaining wider acceptance. SC/ST in India are still a neglected lot, despite the assurance given in the constitution and commitment towards SC/ST empowerment. They are poorest of the poor receiving little education, low medical attention, lower value for their work etc. They are still subjected to practice of untouchables. In India it was assumed that trickledown effect of rapid economic growth will improve the quality of life of the downtrodden and weaker sections of the population. It was realized that unless exclusive SC/ST
development programmes are initiated, SC/ST’s development would not be possible. The Constitution not only grants equality to SC/ST, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of SC/ST.

3.27 TAHDCO Financial Assistance

In order to enhance SC/ST’s socio-economic access to credit for consumption and production, the establishment and strengthening of existing income generating activity mechanisms for SC/ST by TAHDCO. TAHDCO had undertaken and disbursed subsidies along with bank loan so that all SC/ST below poverty line have easy access to credit and establish their entrepreneurial activities as the financial support programmes for the SC/ST economic development schemes. In Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO) was incorporated as a Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) in 1974 under the Companies Act, 1956 with an objective to improve socio economic status of SC/ST in Tamil Nadu.

3.28 Impact TAHDCO Schemes

A TAHDCO scheme creates various impacts among the SC/ST people; financial assistance is a step to enrich their standard of living and making changes in their status. The impact of TAHDCO schemes and Bank finance on professional activities can be ascertained through occupation, education, income, spending pattern, asset building, savings habit, bank linkage, social contact, political interactions and cultural changes. These ten factors are that unique for empower SC/ST.

The study is an attempt to reveal the present status of impact of TAHDCO schemes and empowerment of SC/ST through financial support in Salem District in Tamil Nadu. The study focuses on the socio-economic structure of SC/ST, Trend in distribution of subsidy funds by TAHDCO, impact of TAHDCO schemes and empowerment of SC/ST by economical, social, cultural, political, educational and environmental fields. The findings of the study will be of an immense use to the planners, Government machinery, researchers and social scientists to design plans and execute suitable strategies for SC/ST and other weaker sections in the society. An environment was created for the development of SC/ST through financial support by TAHDCO to establishing occupation, improve education for self and children, income
generation, increase in spending pattern, make new savings, create bank linkage, extents social contacts, aware of political knowledge, change in cultural behaviors, capacity to build assets and clusters and associates.

3.29 Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Empowerment process is that an individual having better control over their lives, understanding their situation, beginning to act to improve their live and environment, expressing feelings and aspiration, learned to make decision and solve problems, social and political skills to develop demographic leadership. These factors belief in their ability and improves the individual self-confidence. In this way the individual empowerment process is reinforced and motivates the community empowerment process through financial assistance provided by TAHDCO. This financial assistance helps for the development of SC/ST by establishing occupation, improve education for self and children, income generation, increase in spending pattern, make new savings, create bank linkage, extents social contacts, aware of political knowledge, change in cultural behaviors, capacity to build assets, participation, decision making clusters and associates with strengthening social, economical, political, educational and cultural environments. Empowerment of SC/ST is betterment to the Indian economic development.

The theme of the study “Impact and Empowerment of SC/ST through TAHDCO Schemes” that provides financial support by way of subsidy and bank loan for SC/ST people who are earning lower income. Through this financial support they generate employment opportunities for themselves to undertake initiatives to do particularly economic activities and social upgrading. Its aims is to enhance their capacity building, self-confidence, skills and gaining and participating in decision-making activities after getting financial support. There is a need to understand and analysis the impact and empowerment of SC/ST in this situation. Their employment generation activity through TAHDCO’s schemes had added new dimensions and was hoped that they had been contributing positively in the national economy. The TAHDCO schemes have attracted more attention of their well being. It is expected that employment generation of SC/ST through TAHDCO schemes had created desire to succeed and desire for independence, self confidence and self reliance,
risk-taking and hope of success, hard work habits, knowledge, skills, innovativeness and leadership and enhancement of the economic, social, political, cultural educational and environmental status.

Financial support is a powerful tool to help the poor people to develop themselves. The TAHDCO schemes and its benefits had not reached sufficiently to SC/ST. Since, they were living in miserable conditions, low employment, poor health, suffering from low education, and social backwardness. The employment generation programme for weaker section was not known to the poor people. The Government allot more funds to develop these weaker section groups and taken step to creating employment opportunity for SC/ST. Financial support is the first effective approach to break the vicious circle of poverty of these people. The study of SC/ST people’s empowerment through TAHDCO schemes and its impacts would reveal how to develop them. The study will reveal the self-confidence amongst SC/ST, their positive image of contribution to society, policy and economy, their ability to think critically, decision-making abilities, equal participation in development process.

Employment generation of SC/ST is a process that addresses all sources and structures of power. The SC/ST in general requires not only financial support but also accesses the sources and generates income for their socio-economic transformation. But TAHDCO provides a great support in employment generation of SC/ST for developing their socio-economic conditions. Suppose utilizes the TAHDCO scheme effectively. There is a possibility to empower themselves with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. This leads to motivates them to play constructive role in the family and to energize the civil society. They build capacity, organize neighborhood, formulate livelihood and ensure production against exploitations. TAHDCO’s financial support creates entrepreneurial status for SC/ST and changes them economically, socially, culturally, educationally and environmentally. The forth chapter deals the impact of TAHDCO schemes and empowerment process of SC/ST after getting financial assistance.