

IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN IN MANIKKAL GRAMA PANCHAYATH IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The study was aimed to analyse the Special Component Plan of Manikal Grama Panchayath in Thiruvananthapuram district. The utilisation status of the SCP in Manikal Grama Panchayath was 100% during the year 2014-15.

Methodology: Descriptive design was selected for the study. Data from Sulekha software, Vikasanarekha and discussion with stakeholders were used for the study. Descriptive analysis was made in the analysis of the data.

Findings: The projects designed under the service sector for the improvement of housing and education made desired effect on Scheduled Caste population in the Panchayath. The projects in the production sector help the beneficiaries to produce temporary income effect on Scheduled Caste. The projects taken under Infrastructure sector have improved the infrastructure facilities of the Scheduled Caste in the implementation area.

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INTRODUCTION

The Special Component Plan was visualized as an effort to radically rework the whole strategy of Dalit welfare and Dalit empowerment. It was expected to facilitate easy convergence and pooling of resources from all departments in proportion to the population of scheduled cast and monitoring of various developmental programmes for the benefit of scheduled casts (Maurya, 2001).

The objective of Special Component Plan is to ensure not only that sufficient funds are allocated but also to make sure that the funds are properly used. Effective and practical programmes towards clear goals and targets are to be initiated. The Special Component Plan intended to cover comprehensively economic, educational and social development along with fulfillment of minimum needs and human resource development. The measures for securing the scheduled casts full access to modern secondary and tertiary including public services, land and other resources and protection against discriminatory practices constitute the part of Special Component Plan. The Special Component Plan though started 1970- 1975 took continuous shape in 1985-1986. In Kerala the government attempts to implement the scheme in a more practicable way by setting up district planning boards. There by the priorities of each district could be decided and projects could be taken up.

government to make it part of the people's planning. 70 % of the funds were left to the disposal of the local self-governments. The schemes have been implemented in a decentralized set up.

Characteristics of Special Component Plan

Out of the total plan outlay, funds allocated for the welfare of the scheduled cast should be at least as much as the percentage of this population of representation -That means if the scheduled cast population in Kerala constitute 15 percent of the total population, a minimum of 15 percent of the total plan outlay of Kerala should be allocated as Special Component Plan funds.

Secondly every department of the state government should initiate concrete steps to evolve separate programs in accordance with Special Component Plan and priorities of scheduled casts. Those programs specifically meant for scheduled casts and funds allocated can be included in the Special Component Plan. The funds allocated for the Special Component Plan should be given noting the subheads of the expenditure. These are to prevent diversion of funds from the Special Component Plan allocations. Only those projects which ensure direct benefits to cluster of scheduled casts, group of families or directly to scheduled cast individuals shall be included in the Special Component Plan.

In our state the schemes under the Special Component Plan are as follows

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1. The development schemes on family basis to increase their income.
2. The schemes for basic needs like food and nutrition for both individual and family basis.
3. The schemes for land development, irrigation, soil protection and minimum needs programmes like drinking water supply and electrification etc.
4. Projects for improvement of health, education and social welfare etc.

Implementation of the Special Component Plan has undergone a change in each phase of its planning and implementation but still the outcome is not much as desired and targeted. The poor results shows that it still not in pace.

Related studies

The following studies indicates some facts about SC and ST development programmes

Atle, I.D. (1992): *Rural Employment of Scheduled Castes*.

Deep and Deep Publication, New Delhi.

This is an attempt to discuss a very important issue in the development, planning and strategy against poverty. He examines in a greater detail the impact of "National Rural Employment Programme" in general and Scheduled Castes in particular in Marathawada Region on village level. The author shows the failure of the programme due to several reasons.

The study points out that

1. Long term solution of unemployment problem in both rural and urban areas lies only on heavy investment.
2. High rate of investment may increase the rate of industrial growth, but at the same time it could not help to increase employment opportunities.
3. There is lack of co-ordination and proper linkage with other ongoing programmes like: Integrated Rural Development Programme" (IRDP), "Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme" (RLEGP) etc.

So, the benefits of the development programme are very thinly spread over. The study shows that the socio-economic life of the Scheduled Castes is very much governed by their caste factor even today. They mainly live in rural areas and dependent on wage employment as agriculture labourers, scavengers and bone collectors. Land reforms and service reservation could not help much despite Governmental efforts. Social and economic deprivation, denial of opportunities compels them to live under the social and economic insecurity. Finally, the study concludes that NREP has very ideal objective, but practically it remains as a short term employment providing scheme and hence can not help rehabilitate the people in general and the Scheduled Castes in particular.

Singh, D. (2009): "Development of Scheduled Caste in India", *A Journal of Rural Development*. Vol.-28, NO.-4, Oct., Dec. 2009.

D. Singh in "Development of Scheduled Caste in India: A Review", viewed that the gap between the mainstream and Scheduled Caste population still persists significantly in our traditional society. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reorient and focus on the strategy in order to support the

lesser privileged by providing qualitative education and infusing among them the individualistic and moralistic values of self-denial, temperance, fore thought, thrift, sobriety and self reliance essential to bring these downtrodden into the national mainstream. Besides their circumstances, the major factor responsible for the deprivation and/or poverty among the Scheduled Castes people is their improvident habits, thriftlessness, and mismanagement. Their conditions can be improved through inculcating in them the individualistic and moral values. These values will help them in proper utilisation of various developmental schemes which, in turn, lead to the stability and improvement of their life.

Research Study on Livelihood Options Assets Creation out of Special Component Plan (SCP) & Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Schemes and its Impact among SCs and STs in India Sponsored by: Planning Commission, Government of India Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg New Delhi 110 001. Socio Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS) RZF-754/29, Raj Nagar II, Palam Colony, New Delhi 110045 8 april 2011

Objectives of the Study

The present evaluation study is an attempt to analyse the formulation and implementation of SCP and TSP and its impact on SCs and STs in the seven sampled states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu with the main objectives to

Assess the level of development of the SCs and STs in the context of various development schemes/programmes in the selected states,

- a. To identify the key socio-economic indicators of the SC and ST development both at present and over a period of time,
- b. To examine the process of planning, implementation and monitoring of SCP and TSP in the selected states over a period of time. Project formulation, identification of beneficiaries and Social projects/programmes being implemented towards SCs and STs and their sustainability in terms of: (a) Whether State has set out population proportionate plan outlay out of total plan outlay of the State and then distributes the plan outlay to other departments as per needs for SC/ST schemes or whether quantification method for each department has been followed. (b) What has been the method of formulation of SCP in district plan & village plan if any and what has been the outcome at state level & District level.
- c. To examine problems of the beneficiaries and the initiatives taken for the economic development and the inputs required for proper implementation of the programmes.
- d. To suggest policy measures to improve the overall performance and quality of implementation of SC and ST programmes in India with a special reference to the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Orissa, Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The analysis of the implementation of the SCP and TSP in the selected States dealt in detail in individual chapters indicate that, none of these States are following the stipulated

guidelines of SCP, TSP in toto. The allocation of funds towards SCP and TSP indicate that, except Tamil Nadu and Orissa (for both SCP and TSP) and Bihar (for SCP) other States have not allocated SC and ST population proportionate funds during 10th Plan. In the other previous Five Year Plan periods also the same trend is seen. As dealt in detail in the earlier chapters, even these States allocations are only notional in nature like the other States. These States are allocating funds towards SCP and TSP from the divisible and non-divisible sectors/departments and whatever shortage accrued to these sub-plan outlays are being accounted mainly from the non-divisible sectors. Tamil Nadu State in their SCP and TSP documents shows clearly the sectoral outlays from divisible departments and non-divisible departments schemes/programmes which is in the ratio of 40:60. Even these less allocated SCP and TSP outlays have also not been utilized fully in the States except in T.N. State. The tribal dominant states like Chhatisgarh and Orissa have utilized their TSP funds to the extent of 65 to 70% only for tribal development. The sectoral allocation and utilization of funds, fixing of targets and achievements are comparatively better in the states of Tamil Nadu followed by Gujarat state. Some states like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are setting realistic targets and showing achievements against various schemes of the departments in their SCP and TSP documents by compiling them regularly. During the terminal years of the 10th Plan, other states like Orissa, Haryana, Punjab and Chattisgarh have started setting targets against various schemes and depicting the achievements.

Manikal Grama Panchayat

Manikal garama panchayat is a hilly panchayat situated in Nedeumgadu taluk in Thiruvananthapuram district. It is a beautiful panchayath once thought to be a forest area. Now it is a highly populated area. Manikal derived from malayalm term Manikakallu meaning precious stone. It is situated distantly in North West position of Thiruvananthapuram city. Manickal Gramapanchayat has become the first local body in the district and eighth in the State to secure ISO certification for quality management, including rendering speedy welfare assistance to people. It is a part of Vamanapuram Block Panchayath with an area of 32.59 sq.km with 21 wards. The total population is 36264 comprise of 17553 male and 18711 female. Schedule cat population of the panchayth is 4852 which comprise of 2309 male and 2543 female. The literacy rate of the panchayth is 86%.

Table 1 Project Abstract of Manikal Grama Panchayath during year 2013-2014

Abstract	Total number of project	Abstract amount	Utilized amount	
			Amount Rs	%
Total projects	197	70482689	58028459	82.33
SCP	18	9552850	9552850	100

Source*- DPC Approved Detailed Project Report- Sulekha software

From the table budgetary allocation for the panchayath during financial year 2013-2014 was Rs. 70482689. The expenditure incurred during this period was Rs. 58028459 and it was estimated as 82.33% of the total budgaterly allocation.

Amount earmarked for 18 Projects under Special Component Plan during this period was Rs 9552850. Three projects were under Production Sector, Eight Projects were under Service Sector and seven were under Infrastructure Development. The entire expenditure was utilised under all the earmarked SCP

projects during this period (100%).The details of the fund utilisation of all the three sectors are as follows.

Production Sector

Production sector is the back bone of local economic development. Production sector has madatory allocation of 40% of total allocation in the plan outlay of panchayaths.

Table 2 Details of SCP under Production Sector in Manikal Grama Panchayath during the year 2013-2014

Sl. NO:	Name of the project	Abstract Amount	Utilized amount	
			Amount	%
1	Goat rearing	183750	183750	100
2	Cow rearing	320000	320000	100
3	Goat rearing (Spill over)	114000	114000	100

Source*- DPC Approved Detailed Project Report- Sulekha software

Three projects were planned in production sector under SCP ie Cow rearing and Goat rearing. One spill over project was also in that sector. All the projects were completed successfully during this period and maximam amount (114000) was utilised for the spill over goat rearing project.

Service Sector

Thirty percent of the total coast has to be mandatory allotted for service sector. The possile Projects under this section are improvement of health, education, social welfare etc.Individual or family beneficiary schemes are also allowed under this section. The details of the service Sector projects areas follows.

Table 3 Service Sector Projects taken under Special Component Plan in Manikal Grama Panchayath

Sl. No:	Name of the project	Abstract amount	Utilized amount	
			amount	%
1	I. A. Y	2207123	2207123	100
2	Maintenance of house	1150000	1150000	100
3	Latrine building	294000	294000	100
4	Ashrya Maintenance of house	200000	200000	100
5	Ashrya Assistance for purchase of land	600000	600000	100
6	Ashrya latrine building	104000	104000	100
7	Assistance for purchase of land	660250	660250	100
8	The project Of Jala Nidhi.	85927	85927	100

Source*- DPC Approved Detailed Project Report- Sulekha software

Eight projects were earmarked under Service Sector in Manikal Grama Panchayt during the financial year 2013-2014. I. A. Y, Maintenance of house, Latrine Building, Ashrya Maintenanceof house, Ashrya Assistance for purchase of land, Ashrya latrinebuilding, Assistance for purchase of land, The project Of Jala Nidhi etc.From the table, maximam amount was utilised for the IAY (Rs.2207123) Projects and minimum was for JalaNidhi (85927).

Infrastructure Sector

Thirty percent of the total allocation is madatory earmarked for this section. The schemes for land development, irrigation, soil protection, drinking water supply and electrification can be included in it. Road construction Projects has also be included in this section under certain provision with social and istitutional map of the SC Clusters.

In 2013-2014 seven projects included in the DPR worth of Rs 3633800 (DPC Approved Detailed Project Report- Sulekha

software). All the projects were completed in time with 100% achievements in fund utilisation.

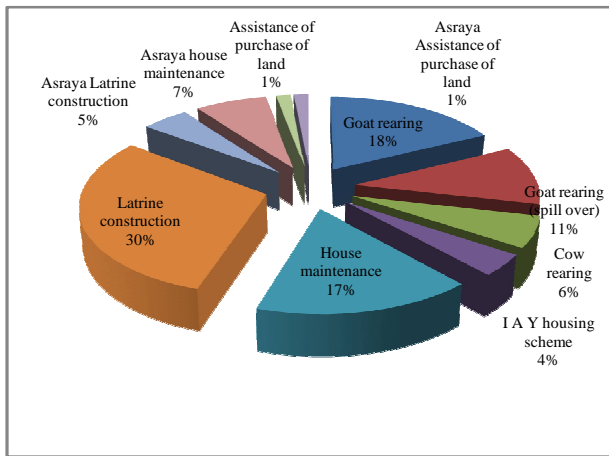


Fig 1 The beneficiaries of various projects of the Special Component plan selected by the Gramasabha from Manikal Grama panchayath from 2013- 2014

Total number of beneficiaries selected for Special Component Plan was 277. The beneficiaries selected the projects are Goat rearing, Cow rearing, I A Y housing scheme, House maintenance, Latrine construction, Asraya Latrine construction, Asraya house maintenance, Assistance of purchase of land etc.

Schedule Cast Development Working Group

Working group is a key component in Local project planning. The responsibility to design SCP entrusted only on working group. All the projects ideas were thoroughly discussed here and converted into project. The chairman of the working group always be the SC Panchayth member and the convener be the SC Development officer. In some cases Village Extension officer may be placed in this position in some cases. Most of the panchayath trivialising this component by even not constituting this statutory body. Generally SC development officer articulating all these process and copied some projects from the previous years.

In Manikkal Grama panchayth the SC Working groups were constituted properly and convened two times. All the 11 members were present in the first meeting in both time (Source: working group minutes book). Member of ward 1 was elected as chairman, SC promoter as vice chairman and VEO as the convener. In the first meeting itself the project for the three sectors under the S. C. P was identified after detailed discussion and in the second meeting the projects were finalized. All these matters show the enthusiasm of the working group members in the planning of projects in the panchayath.

Gramasabha Participation of SC Beneficiaries

As envisaged in the project preparation guideline, all the designed projects were presented in the planning Gramasabhas for approval. The participation of the beneficiaries is a key component of effectiveness of the planning process. Manikal Grama Panchayath has convened Gramasabhas in all the 21 wards during the year 2013-2014. Gramasabhas in ward number 2 was convened in 4 times. Grama Sabhas in ward 12 were met 3 times, ward 7 with Grama Sabhas 2 times and ward 3 with Gramasabhas only once. Participation of the Scheduled castes in Gramasabhas was

moderately very low (27.54%) (Source: Gramasabha minutes book)

DISCUSSION

The objective of Special Component Plan is to ensure not only that sufficient funds are allocated but also to make sure that the funds are properly used. Success story of SCP implementation in Manikal panchayath is a motivational story of many of the panchayath which exceeds more population in SC category. Effective and practical programmes towards clear goals and targets are to be initiated rather than trivialising and articulating the need. Conduct of working group meetings punctually and meaningfully, initiatives to change the knowledge, attitude and practices, measures for securing the full access to modern resources would enhance the implementation of Special component plan in another phase. Meaningfully designed and implemented Special Component Plan definitely to cover comprehensively the economic, educational and social development along with fulfillment of minimum needs and human resource development.

The strategy of (SCP) since evolved in 1979 is aimed at:

- (a) Economic development through beneficiary oriented programmes for raising their income and creating assets;
- (b) Basti-oriented schemes for infrastructure development through provision of drinking water supply, link roads, house-sites, housing etc.
- (c) Educational and Social development activities like establishment of primary schools, health centers, vocational centers, community halls, women work place etc.

It is essential that funds provided under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan should be made non-divertible and non-lapsable with the clear objective of bridging the gap in socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which need to be followed in letter and spirit. It is also suggested that, the following measures as per the guidelines and additional guidelines of Planning Commission may be followed in letter and spirit while formulating and implementing Scheduled Caste Sub Plan for Scheduled Castes.

Implementation

Funds at least in proportion to SC population in the State should be set apart first from the total plan outlay for formulating Scheduled Caste Sub Plan for Scheduled Castes. A separate SCP plan document will be prepared by the nodal department giving the details of the schemes/programmes with physical and financial targets to be implemented during the annual plan. The other line departments should cooperate in proper implementation of the schemes of SCP outlay allocated to them in time and put up the schemes to the nodal departments for sanction, release of funds.

Important schemes to be implemented for the benefit of SCs

The villages with 50% and above SC/ST population may be saturated first and provided with all the development activities under Bharat Nirman, schools, education, skill development, trainings for self-employment, etc. The candidates preparing for various competitive exams like admission in engineering colleges and medical colleges and other services may be allowed to take admission in any reputed private training

centre and their full fees should be reimbursed by the Government from SCP funds.

Review and Monitoring Mechanism

Constitute State and District/Block level Monitoring Committees to monitor the implementation of various schemes under SCP of various development departments would strengthen the review and monitoring of SCP. The District/Block level Committees may review the progress of implementation of schemes and utilization of funds on monthly basis and the State level Committee may review the progress on quarterly basis. The nodal department may ensure timely release of funds to the concerned development department and the development departments may ensure immediate release of funds soon after the receipt of funds from nodal department to their field level implementing agencies. Any lapse on the part of field level implementing agencies in timely utilization of funds and proper implementation of the schemes may be viewed seriously

CONCLUSION

The success of Special Component Plan depends on earnestness of the people's representatives and officials of Grama Panchayaths. A committed team with volunteers, beneficiaries, officials and people representatives was the success of the SCP implementation in Manikkal. People's participation was another notable feature of the SCP in the panchayath. Evidence of Participation of SC people in the Working group and Gramasabhas indicates the direct participation of the scheduled caste population in the planning and implementation of the SCP in the panchayath.

Some limitations has also been noted in the panchayath with regard to the SCP implementation. Though the fund utilisation of the production sector is cent percent, the choice of selection of projects were typical and confined only in cow and goat rearing practices. Probably these ideas were copied from the previous years projects documents of the panchayath. In the production sector, Goat rearing and milk production centres were good initiatives though the designed projects were not competent enough to alter the socio economic status of the scheduled castes in the Panchayath.

Divergent options were existing in the Service sector projects like Education, social welfare, Health etc. Housing projects were given due importance but education has not been come as a focus area. Projects for assistance to promoting higher education among SC students were also not been come as a subject in the service sector projects. House construction projects are one of the major component considered under this area. But the beneficiaries reported that substantial additional amount is needed to complete the house along with special component plan assistance. The grants were insufficient because of hike in the cost of materials and labour. Infrastructure sector is the flagship sector of the SCP. The stake holders have shown keen interest in it. But as envisaged in the plan document only 305 of the total fund could be earmarked for this sector. Land development, irrigation, soil protection, drinking water supply and electrification are some of the models for proposing among them. But Road construction and maintenance were taken into account for implementation Manikkal Grama panchayath.

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