

CHAPTER-5

FINDINGS, EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS, SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND CONCLUSION

The main objective of the present study was to see the effect of Post Matric Scholarship scheme on educational status of tribal students in higher education. For this purpose the researcher collected data with the help of questionnaire and focus group interview. The results were analysed and interpreted in chapter- IV. On the basis of these results following were the main findings of the present study-

Main findings of the study

1. To explore the awareness and utility level of Post Matric Scholarship among Scheduled Tribal students in higher education

On the basis of quantitative research the finding of the study was all tribal students and their parents aware about Post Matric Scholarship Scheme. This study depicts that 58% of the students had received the benefit continuously from 11th class whereas 42% of the students said that they had not received the benefit of the scheme continuously. The results demonstrates that only 11.66% of the STs Students had received the financial benefits of the scheme within six months from the submission of their application whereas 88.33% of the student showed their inability to get scholarship amount within six months of the submission of their application. From the table 1 it was also found that 63.44% of the students utilized the benefit of the scheme for academic purpose whereas 36.66% of the students not utilized the benefit of the scheme for educational purpose.

To explore various dimensions of educational status affected by Post Matric Scholarship scheme focus group interviews were taken with the beneficiaries of the scheme and on the basis of focus group interviews the study that found that most of

the Schedule Tribes students and their parents were aware about the scholarship scheme. The result also found that they also faced lot of problems at the time of filling application forms. Interviews also found that due to the poor economic condition of parents' students were not able to use amount of scheme solely for their academic purpose and parents were not provided with any guidance for utilization of scholarship amount for academic purpose.

2. To find out principle component of educational status affected by Post Matric Scholarship scheme among Schedule Tribes students in higher education

Results of the principal component analysis demonstrate 9 principal components of educational status having the Eigen values greater than 1.0 and accounted for 62.256 % of total variance. Further these nine component mainly indicate the three dimensions of educational status such as Component-1 and Component-4 represent academic achievement of students which include both scholastic and co-scholastic development of students. Component-2 and Component-5 represent adjustment among friends group on the basis of financial and social status and receiving respect from others. Component-3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 depict the characteristic of the third dimension of educational status that is motivation for higher education. The most prominent component which was highly affected by this scheme is motivation for higher education.

3. To explore the motivation and challenges among Post Matric Scholarship scheme beneficiaries Schedule Tribes students in higher education.

On the basis of focus group interview the results described that illiteracy and poor socio-economic status of parents was the main hurdles in the success of Schedule Tribes students in access and motivation for higher education. During interview student discussed that they faced learning difficulties at every stage of

education due to illiteracy and poor economic condition of parents and they were not able to take coaching classes for learning improvement which was the main reasons of low academic achievement and dropout among the students. Due to their backwardness girls are suffered from many social evils like early marriage which halted their education as household work considered more significant than education at in laws home. In interviews with the students it was explained that low socio-economic status hampered their peer adjustment and motivation for higher education. The finding of the study also indicate that due to the unemployment reason Schedule Tribes Parent's attitude towards education is that it does not provide any immediate economic return for which they prefer to engage their children in remunerative employment which supplements the family income.

4. To find out the difference in educational status between male and female Schedule Tribes Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education.

The result of the study revealed that there is no significant difference between male and female students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education.

5. To find out the difference in educational status between rural and urban college students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education.

The result of the study revealed that there is significant difference between rural and urban college students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education.

6. To find out the difference in educational status between government and government aided college students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education.

The result of the study revealed that there is no significant difference between government and government aided college students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education.

7.To find out the significant impact of Post Matric Scholarship scheme on educational status of Schedule Tribes students in higher education.

From the table 7(model summary)it can be interpreted that R value is 0.330 showing co-relation between two variables (independent-Post Matric Scholarship scheme and dependent-educational status) is low and the R Square value is 0.109 depict that Post Matric Scholarship scheme explained 10.9% of educational status of students in higher education.

Educational implications

Post Matric Scholarship was initiated to increase access to quality education to Schedule Tribes students. The findings of the study also suggest that this scheme is motivating the parents and students for their higher education. Thus scheme is helping them to overcome their lower socio-economic status which is hindrance in their access to higher education institutions. Keeping in view the impact of scheme on motivation for higher education colleges must initiate awareness programme for community through their information bulletin, small workshops or street plays etc.

The major qualitative findings of the present study indicates that due to illiteracy and poor economic condition of parents, lack of sufficient awareness about the assistance programmes provided by government and lack of employment opportunities for the educated ST students, parents who don't have right perception of education of their children. Therefore awareness campaigns should be organized for sensitization of masses about the opportunities in higher education and government provisions for the welfare of Schedule Tribes. With the help of local government

counseling and guidance programmes should be organised to encourage parents about girl's education. Educated masses of the society should be involved with less educated Schedule Tribes in different social activities and aware them about the values of education and motivate them for education of their children rather than engaging children in domestic works.

The significant finding of the study suggests that in execution of Post Matric Scholarship scheme students faced challenges like opening of bank accounts, paying bribe for preparation of relevant documents and unawareness regarding filing of application. Thus execution and monitoring must be more transparent and user friendly to avail benefits of the scheme. As Post Matric Scholarship scheme is the only scheme available to Schedule Tribes students unto completion of higher education. So this will increase the enrolment and retention rate of ST students in higher education institutions.

During data collection it was also found that language is also barriers which cause learning difficulties and subsequently leads to dropout from higher education. Therefore, inclusion of tribal culture, traditional knowledge systems, tribal history and vocational skills training in the school curriculum can help building confidence among Schedule Tribes students for higher education.

National importance of the study

India is a country with large diversity where we find people with multiple identities on the basis of their culture, language and religion. Among all categories Scheduled Tribes are the more deprived and backward section of the society. This backwardness effect their development and wellbeing in the society. Education is the powerful instrument for the development of the society as well as individuals. For which various stakeholders of education system implemented various educational

scheme and programmes for educational development of Scheduled Tribe students. In the present study the researcher gave focus on Post Matric Scholarship scheme which is a centrally sponsored financial incentives scheme for educational development of Scheduled Tribe students. As this is a centrally sponsored scheme and applicable for all state of India, the finding of the study helps the policy makers and administrative members for proper implementation of the schemes and meet the barriers faced by scheduled Tribe students for higher education. This study also helpful for both the State and Central government to understand the utility level of Post Matric Scholarship for educational development of Scheduled Tribe students.

Suggestions for further research

The result of the present described that Post Matric Scholarship scheme has a positive effect on development of educational status of Schedule Tribes students. However, unawareness, poor economic conditions of parents and defective execution of scheme create hindrance in increasing educational status of students through the scheme. On basis of finding of the present study following suggestions can be considered for further researches

Post Matric Scholarship Scheme is the Central Government sponsored scheme with the provision of availability of the benefit to the students within six month of the application form. However, administrative mal functioning it reached to students generally at the end of year. Thus an evaluative study can be done by Central and State level to find out the difficulty and barriers faced by different departments in execution of scheme.

Poor economic condition and unemployment are crucial obstacles for the students and Schedule Tribes parents in creating disinterest for higher education. So, further researches can be conducted in the direction to improve employment opportunities for

students with the help of vocation training programme. Other scholarship schemes can be studied meant for increasing vocational status of students.

Females are doubly condemned in reference to access to higher education. Poor socio economic status of parents and patriarchal attitude of society create more hurdles for girls in comparison to boys. If more amounts can be provided to girls in Post Matric Scholarship scheme so will it increase their access to higher education? The opportunities can be explored in further researches in this regard. Therefore in order to bring them in the main stream of education and their social development more research can be done in this field.

Due to shortage of time the present study was confined to few components of educational stays and area. Many more components can be studied for better understanding of impact of Post Matric Scholarship scheme on educational status of students in higher education. The study can be further extended to Scheduled Caste students as well.

CONCLUSION

As indicated by UNESCO, 'education is an effective device by which financially and socially underestimated and marginalised groups can lift themselves out of backwardness and poverty and take an interest completely as citizens'. In order to achieve of this goal, India has been offering scholarship to its Post-Matriculation/Post-Secondary students, beginning in 1948 with those having Schedule Tribes and Scheduled Caste Category and in the long run extending the scope has to backward classes, minorities and the monetarily in reverse classes throughout the years. But due to the lack of education and economic development still all programmes are not reaching effectively to the Tribe. The present study shows that at graduate level 58% of the Tribal students had received the benefit of the scheme

continuously from 11th class whereas 42% of the students had not received the benefit of the scheme continuously. In order to explore the barriers faced by students for receiving the benefit of the scheme the researcher conducted focus group interviews with the beneficiaries and explored that due to lack of proper information about scholarship scheme and unavailability of required documents at the time of filling of application form were the main hurdles in the way of receiving the benefit of Scholarship Scheme. Both parents and students expressed their concern that this scheme was very much helpful for higher education and it was also found from the principal component analysis that motivation for higher education is the most prominent component of educational status affected by Post Matric Scholarship Scheme with 62.256 % variance whereas according All India Survey on Higher Education, 2016 the enrolment of Schedule Tribes Students on higher education is 4.9% which is comparatively low from other social groups. In focus group interviews with the beneficiaries it was explore that due to poor economic condition and illiteracy of Tribal parents they are not able to provide proper guidance to their children regarding quality education at every stage. They were not able to provided learning material and coaching classes for academic improvement of students. Due to their backwardness girls are suffered from many social evils like early marriage, requirement for seasonal work, requirement for the care of siblings, financial weakness working as earners of families, and engaged in household work which creates disinterest among them for higher education. Another common problem faced by Schedule Tribes students for higher education was language barriers. Unemployment was another problem for parents and students for higher education. Parents wanted to engage their children in some earning sources for family financial needs rather than for higher education. There is no significant difference in

educational status between male and female Schedule Tribes Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education. There is significant difference in educational status between rural and urban Schedule Tribes Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries in higher education. There is no significant difference in educational status of government and government aided college students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries. From the table model summary it can be interpreted that R value is 0.330 showing co-relation between two variables (independent-Post Matric Scholarship scheme and dependent-educational status) is low and the R Square value is 0.109 depict that Post Matric Scholarship scheme explained 10.9% of educational status of students in higher education. Finally it can be concluded that Post Matric Scholarship has positive impact on educational status of Tribal students but due to the financial and social barriers of Schedule Tribes students they were not able to utilize the benefit of the scheme properly for their educational achievement. So the result of the study can be suggested that awareness programs, literacy campaign and social development programs should be organized time to time for the development of Schedule Tribes people.

SUMMARY

India is a country of large diversity with multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious people with 10.43 crore. As per 2011 census, Schedule Tribes population constitutes 8.6 per cent of the total population with 427 different tribal communities where as of the country whereas In the state of Odisha Schedule Tribes population constitutes 22.84 percent of the total population with 62 different tribal communities with diverse cultural, socio-economic and geographical backgrounds (statistical profile of Schedule Tribes in India, 2013). The Schedule Tribes population represents one of the most economically, socially, culturally and geographically disadvantaged and marginalized section of the society. To improve their socio-cultural and economic development education could be powerful tool. Education is conceived as strongest instrument for the development of the individuals as well as society and the progress of the nation depends on its capable citizen and their economic status. Education is the basic requirement for the economic development of tribes as well as it helps them to face the challenges of life. Education is only way for removing the barriers of backwardness and marginalization of any society/community. Therefore, the education of Schedule Tribes has been a priority for the various stakeholders of education system. Many hurdles come in the way of educational empowerment of STs Students in which economic aspect is most prominent one. Due to poor socio-economic condition of people, cultural barriers, illiterate parents, poor education system and subjugation of some over other in society are the main causes of less educational development of a nation (Nayak, 2014).

In order to enhance the educational status among the tribal, various programmes and policies like scholarships, text books, note books, stationary, clothing, hostel facilities and mid-day meals has provided for the development of

these marginalized section of the society. Among various programmes and policies scholarship schemes are the most important financial incentives for the development of these sections of the society.

In the present study the researcher took a topic **“Effect of Government Scheme on Educational Status of Tribal Students: A Reflection on Post Matric Scholarship Scheme”**. The objectives of the present study were to study awareness and utility of Post Matric Scholarship among tribal students, to find out principle component of educational status affected by Post Matric Scholarship. To study the difference in educational status between male and female, urban and rural college students and government and government aided college students of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries. In the present study the researcher prepared two research questions as to explore the awareness and utility level of Post Matric Scholarship scheme among Schedule Tribes students in higher education and to explore the motivation and challenges among Post Matric Scholarship scheme beneficiaries Schedule Tribes students in higher education. Simple random sampling technique was used in the study. The sample consisted of 120 Schedule Tribes students who received Post Matric Scholarship and studied at graduate level. Self-made questionnaire was prepared by the investigator for data collection consisting of three dimensions of educational status such as, academic progress, peer adjustment and motivation for higher education. For the present study the researcher decided to adopt mixed method approach where percentage, t-test, principal component analysis and regression statistical techniques were used for quantitative research and focus group interviews and content analysis were used for qualitative exploration of barriers faced by Schedule Tribes students for higher education. The result of the present study can be concluded that Post Matric Scholarship has positive impact on educational status of

Tribal students but due to the financial and social barriers of Schedule Tribes students they were not able to utilize the benefit of the scheme properly for their educational achievement. So the result of the study can be suggested that awareness programs, literacy campaign and social development programs should be organized time to time for the development of Schedule Tribes people.