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### **New-born Schemes and Programmes for Advancing Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students Education in India**

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#### **Abstract**

*Education is an important weapon for reducing inequalities as it enables each individual to become independent. Schedule cast and Scheduled Tribe people who come across through different discriminations in many spheres of life have a particular need for quality education and it is widely connected to the status of these individual and there by leads to the overall development in the society. The Government of India and the respective state government fully realise the multiplier effect of schedule cast and Scheduled Tribe students' education and it has considered as a prime agenda for the national development. The schedule cast, Scheduled Tribe student and the girls comprise of half of the population of the school age children. It is essential to understand the multiple vulnerabilities which they face in different geographical terrains in order to plan and implement inclusive education programmes for these children. For this purpose Ministry Of Human Resource Development and the Social Service Departments of each states launched several centralised sponsored as well as states sponsored education schemes and programmes to improve the education status of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students in schools and the higher education level such as PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME, EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS), A BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAWA YOJANA, PMS, TCS PRADHAN MANTRI UCHATAR SIKSHA PROSAHAN (PM-USP), SHREYAS, NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP( NOIS )SCHEME, NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS( NFST ) ADIVASI SHIKSHA NRINN YOJANA which will map the progress of scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students educational status throughout the country. After the implementation of several state as well as centrally sponsored programme and schemes, we are still dragging behind in ensuring quality education to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students both in schools and higher education level. The problem here is not in the implementation of these schemes but in the level of dedication of the people in general. Through this research study the researcher is planning to create awareness as well as analysing purpose and benefits of different government schemes to the targeted population and also explain the focus of all these schemes which ultimately promote the scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students' education.*

**Keywords:** PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME, EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS), A BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAWA YOJANA, PMS, TCS PRADHAN MANTRI UCHATAR SIKSHA PROSAHAN (PM-USP), SHREYAS, NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP(NOIS) SCHEME, NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS, ADIVASI SHIKSHA NRINN YOJANA.

#### **Introduction**

Education is widely accepted as the fundamental right of all citizens of every nation and it plays a vital role in the overall development of the child. The education of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe children in India in the pre- independence and post-independence was grossly pathetic. A large chunk of Hindu population was kept within the four walls of their home due to untouchability and other negative attitudes of the society. The scheduled caste and the Scheduled Tribe children were kept away from the mainstream school's atmosphere and as a result of

that they lacked the opportunity for education and socialisation. For several decades these sections of the population come across through social exclusion, geographical isolation, lack of opportunities in education as well as employment, economic inequalities and huge gaps in literacy level. These disparities ultimately affected the goals of universalization of elementary education. Based on the facts and figures through the study conducted it was identified that there are low enrolment rate, high dropout rate high stagnation and low achievement among these students. To bridge the gap among these students the

Central and the respective state government designed and implemented several affirmative programmes and targeted schemes. Article 46 of the Indian Constitution stated that each state government will take special care to promote and safeguard the economic and educational interest of all weaker sections of the society especially the scheduled caste and the scheduled tribes. The Ministry of social justice and empowerment for scheduled caste children and the Ministry of tribal affairs implemented several affirmative programmes and specialised education schemes for improving the enrolment rate, reducing the dropout rate, enhancing the retention and ensuring high quality residential school campus for the overall education development of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students.

### Need and Significance of the Study

The development of every country is evaluated not only on the basis of its technological and materialistic advancements, but also through the quality of life which is provided to its citizens. The scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and women who comprises of the major chunk of the overall population of the country is generally identified as weaker sections in terms of their low socio-economic status, lack of employment, geographical isolation and huge gaps in literacy level. So, all these weaker sections of the society need to be given equal opportunities for the overall growth of the nation. So, with the view to empower scheduled caste and scheduled tribes' children through education the government introduced the new schemes and policies such as PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME, POST METRIC SCHOLARSHIP (PMS), EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS), BABU JAGJIVAN RAM CHHATRAWA YOJANA, PMS SHRESHTA SCHEME, TOP CLASS EDUCATION SCHEME (TCS), SHREYAS, NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP(NOIS) SCHEME, NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS, ADIVASI SHIKSHA NRINN YOJANA. The majority of the research scholar's, parents, educators and students still have little knowledge or not aware of these schemes or programs and its benefits. Through this research study the investigator taken effort to make them aware about the initiatives taken by the central and respective state government to improve the education status of scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

### Objectives of the Study

- To provide proper awareness on Central and state sponsored Schemes and programmes in the education of scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students.
- To describe the functions, focus and benefits of centrally sponsored scheme to improve the status of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students' education.

### Methodology of the Study

The present study is Descriptive in nature which focus in identifying the design, benefit and purpose of various schemes offered for the education of Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for Scheduled Caste Children and The Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The data were collected from secondary sources such as Websites of various organization, NGOS, Published and unpublished records, magazines, newspapers, journals and periodicals.

### Newborn Schemes

#### • The Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme

This Scholarship is designed and sponsored by the central government through different state and union territories. The main focus of providing this scholarship is to reduce the dropout rate and improve the achievement of these students in their crucial school years. This scholarship is applicable to only those students who are studying in class bracket of 9 and 10 and their family income is less than 2.50 lakh per annum.

#### • Post Metric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students.

This scholarship is applicable to ST students pursuing higher education which is starting from class 11 to postgraduate level. This scheme is offered by the central government which covers various courses such as Professional, non-professional, technical and non-technical in nature.

#### • Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

These schools were launched in the year 1997 -1998 and its main focus is to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribe students in geographically isolated areas. This is a residential school which run in the same manner as Navodaya Vidyalaya schools but here admission is strictly provided only to Adivasi students of different part of the country. The primary entry point falls between the age of 10 to 13 years and they are admitted in the class bracket of 6. EMR schools have special tie up with Indias Premier Institute for example Indian Space Research organisation (ISRO) by giving opportunity to selected EMRS students in satellite tracking and space science.

#### • Shreshta Scheme

This is a centrally sponsored scheme which is designed to provide high quality education to scheduled caste students in reputed national residential private schools. Every year 3000 students were selected by conducting a National Entrance Test by NTA for those students entering in the class 9 and 11. This Scheme also provide an academic bridge course in order to reduce the gap which is conducted just like a remedial class after the regular school hours for the first three months. The bridge course helps the newly admitted scheduled caste students to cope up with the new private school environment.

#### • Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawa Yojana

Which allocate fund for the infrastructural development especially in the construction of hostel with high quality standard for scheduled caste students specifically girl's students to encourage them for formal schooling.

#### • Top Class Education Scheme (TCS)

Those talented scheduled caste students who is admitted in reputed higher education institutions like AIMS, IITS and IIMS will be provided free tuition fees, hostel facilities, living expenses and grant for purchasing laptops.

#### • Shreyas Scheme

This scheme carries fellowship which is awarded annually to those scheduled caste students who qualified for the UGC NET or CSIR exam for completing their PhD degree in India.

• **National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe Students (NFST)**

This fellowships which comes under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The contingency grant and the monthly stipend will be given to scheduled tribe research scholars annually.

• **National Overseas Scholarship(Nois) Scheme**

This scheme is designed to provide financial support up to 8 lacs for those talented scheduled caste students coming under low economic background for completing their masters or research degree from abroad.

• **Adivasi Shiksha Nrin Yojana (Asry)**

The National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

provides education loan up to 10 lakhs for professional courses at allow interest rate.

**Education Implication**

- The newborn education scheme for scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes students prepares them to break all types of barriers in pursuing higher education based on their aspiration.
- These educational policies and programmes enhance the enrolment, retention and achievement of scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students from primary level to higher education level

**Conclusion**

In India the overall educational advancement of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students is more important to develop an inclusive, equitable and a truly democratic society. Providing quality education to scheduled caste and schedule tribe students is only the way through which we can attain the goals of National Education Policy and thereby bring them in the path of overall National Development. In order to empower the scheduled caste and schedule tribe people both financially as well as socially, the Government of India launched various education schemes and policies. Even though we implemented various educational schemes and policies for the education of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe's students we are still lagging behind in achieving the goals of Education of scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students. It is due to the low-level commitment of the stakeholders in this issue. So, the educated segments of the society make effort in spreading the information about scheduled caste and scheduled tribe educational scheme and facilities to the society to bring a revolution.

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