

SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES: TRENDS IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

With the aim of "ensuring not only those sufficient funds are allocated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, but also that the funds are used properly and that effective and practical programmes towards clear goals and targets are initiated," a special component plan was created in the sixth five-year plan.

The Sixth Five Year Plan (SCP) was implemented with the aim of uplifting the SC and ST communities. However, the SCP has not yielded considerable development for the SC community. This report discusses the trends in SCP budgetary provision and the costs associated with SCP development. This study showed that although the amount allocated to the Scheduled Caste population includes provisions for SCP, there is still a need because the plan's spending is steadily declining.

Keywords: Scheduled Caste, Five year plan, SCP, Budgetary Provision

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is to direct the flow of funds and benefits from the general sectors into the State and Central Ministry plans for the financial and physical development of the Scheduled Castes. During the Sixth Plan period, these schemes are intended to provide composite income producing programmes to assist low-income Scheduled Caste families. All of the key occupational groups within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including agricultural labourers, small- and marginal-farmers, sharecroppers, fishermen, sweepers and scavengers, and urban unorganised labourers below the poverty line, will be covered by these family-oriented schemes.

In the plan of the States and Central Ministries for the physical and financial development of Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is intended to direct the flow of benefits and outlays from the general sectors. Through composite income-generating activities, these plans are intended to assist low-income Scheduled Caste families in the context of the Sixth Plan. Family-oriented activities are intended to serve all the major occupational groups within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including urban unorganised labourers below the poverty line, sharecroppers, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, and fishers.

The schedule caste people of Karnataka are facing difficulties that this development programme (the Special Component Plan) has failed to address." This necessitates an analysis of Karnataka SCP plan spending trends. Given this context, the current study represents an attempt in that direction.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In his research paper "Impact of Special Component Plan on Socio-economic Life of Scheduled Caste People in Karnataka," Murthy T. H. (1999)² concentrated on the scientific examination of specially

created and executed plans and programmes that are created for the advancement of scheduled castes and their effects on the living conditions of scheduled caste members. A researcher claims that Karnataka's Scheduled Caste system is in no way superior to any other in the nation. The researcher discovered that there had been some misuse and ineffective execution of the SCP's plans and initiatives, after reviewing a few government reports. In the research paper "Socio-economic situation of Scheduled Caste: Jadhav P. (2005)

A Comparative Study—with Particular Reference to Kolhapur District—analyses the socioeconomic standing of members of the scheduled caste who reside in the district's rural areas. According to the researcher, the Scheduled Castes' economic situation was not good enough. He proposes that in order to support the economic growth of the Scheduled Caste, a variety of economic activities should be widely encouraged under government schemes, with a focus on the Scheduled Caste. In his book "Scheduled Caste Development-A Study of Special Component Plan," Pathak S. N. Pandey S. P. (2005)⁴ examined the socioeconomic growth of scheduled caste in Uttar Pradesh using the special component plan.

The government also administers the SCP project, which is specifically designed for the scheduled caste community; nevertheless, this financial plan is unknown to the scheduled caste population. In his research work, "Impact of the Special Component Plan on Socio-Economic Conditions of Scheduled Castes Community in Kolhapur District," Suryagandh B. S. (2006)⁵ examined the effects of several government policies on the community of Scheduled Castes. Researchers have thought that either there aren't enough trustworthy people to take advantage of these services, or the schemes haven't reached the beneficiaries in need. The study demonstrates that loans made under the SCP will be ineffective unless the recipients receive assistance in the form of adequate loan funds, a fair quantity of land, and occupational training.

The main issue identified by this study is that a greater number of people are unaware of government programmes, which prevents them from benefiting from them. In his study "A Geographical Analysis of Availabilities of Amenities in Scheduled Caste Household in India," Khan J. H. (2013)⁶ examines regional differences in the accessibility of facilities

The results of this study show that access to clean drinking water, electricity, latrines, indoor kitchens, and bathrooms is extremely limited and varies throughout India's states and territories. According to him, the government ought to have put in place appropriate plans and initiatives for improved housing, the reduction of poverty, and the decentralisation of urban public services and amenities in the areas where the Scheduled Caste community uses them the least.

In his study work "An Evaluation on Sub Plan for Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu," Paramasivan C. (2016)⁷ examined the state of Tamil Nadu's Scheduled Caste reservation policy, the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste individuals, and conducted a quantitative analysis of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. According to him, the distribution and sub plan allocation are arranged in an appealing manner in the paper but not in practice. For a variety of circumstances, the sub plan money allocation did not reach the actual beneficiaries.

As the previously mentioned review of a few research studies indicates, there are undoubtedly studies about special component plans and their schemes, but there isn't a single study that looks at the actual expenditures for that year in comparison to the budgetary provisions made under the special component plan.

Following consideration, the researcher will examine the financial allocation and the actual amount spent.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The work is the result of a review and analysis of numerous secondary sources as well as the author's own experiences and observations. The primary sources of secondary data are the Social Justice and Special Assistance Department of the Karnataka government, as well as the yearly Economic Survey Report of the state from 2014–15 to 2020–21. Microsoft Excel is used for data analysis using the mean, percentage, and ratio techniques.

4. OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the research is to look at patterns in the government's budgetary allocations for Karnataka's Special Component Plan.

5. TRENDS IN SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN IN KARNATAKA

The social welfare department oversees the programmes put into place under the Special Component Plan. Agriculture, horticulture, conservation of soil and water, irrigation, flood control, animal husbandry, dairy development, fisheries, forestry and social forestry, transportation and communication, general economic services, housing, urban development, welfare of the lower classes, development of women and children, labour and labour welfare, nutrition, etc. are some of these schemes.

Total 5.1 Total Outlay and Expenditure for SCP in Karnataka (Rs in lakh)

Year	Total outlay	Expenditure	Percentage
2011-12	2060	1871	90.83
2012-13	2332.8	2213	94.86
2013-14	2652	2247	84.73
2014-15	3467.1	2603.44	75.09
2015-16	4284	3111.62	72.63
2016-17	4590	3284.16	71.55
2017-18	4997.68	2306.43	46.15
2018-19	6044.62	3583.29	59.28
2019-20	6490	3856.32	59.42
2020-21	6725.65	4941.54	73.47
Mean	4364.385	3001.78	72.80
SD	1717.57	944.90	15.03
CGR	14%	11%	-2%

The Karnataka government established the Special Component Plan to provide for the socioeconomic development and welfare of the Scheduled Caste in accordance with the Indian Constitution's State Directive Principle. The budgetary allocation under the Special Component Plan and its utilisation are shown by the statistics above.

The Karnataka government makes annual budgetary provisions, however a large portion of those funds are not used to support the advancement of the Scheduled Caste. The aforementioned data indicates that the government allocated an average of Rs 4364.38 lakh for budgetary purposes during the years 2011–12 and 2020–21; however, the GoM only used 72.82% of this total, or Rs 3001.78 lakh.

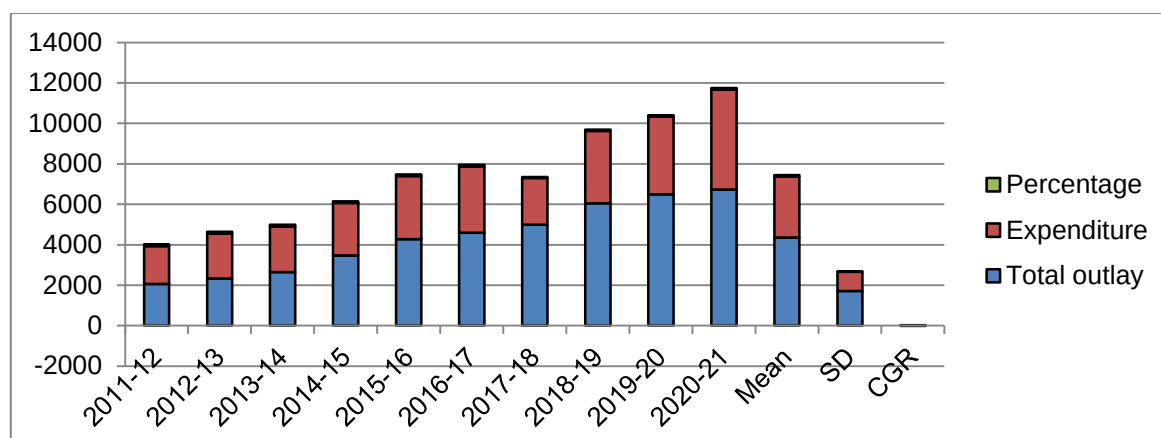
The budgeted provision's Compound Growth Rate (CGR) is 14%, however fund utilisation is only 11%, or 3% less than what is projected.

The data indicates that although the government has established budgetary provisions under SCP, the funds have not been properly utilised. Pathak S. N. Pandey S P (2005)7 "The Special Component Plan

is the most well-known initiative designed to help members of scheduled castes improve, which is why programme transparency is essential.

The government also administers the SCP programme, which is specifically designed for the scheduled caste population. However, neither the scheduled caste population nor government offices are aware of this financial programme, nor are they interested in using the fund.

Fig 5.1: Percentagewise Expenditure on SCP in Total Budge



Source : Economic Survey Report of Karnataka

Figure 5.1 illustrates that, of total expenditures, 90.83 percent was spent on SCP in Karnataka in 2011–12. However, from 2012–13 to 2015–16, this tendency declined. Additionally, the spending for 2017–18 is only 46.15%, which is seen as extremely low. However, in 2019–20, the spending is 59.42%, up 0.14%, and in 2020–21, it increases by 14.05%, respectively.

SCHEMES UNDER SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN AND SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE

A number of programmes, including the Mahatma Phule Backward Class Corporation, Sant Rohidas Charmodyogand Charmakar Development Corporation, and Sahityaratna Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe Development Corporation, are implemented at the district, state, federal, and corporate levels under the Special Component Plan and Special Central Assistance. Researchers have examined the budgetary provisions and actual expenditures of this programme in order to determine its performance and budgetary trends.

6. DISTRICT LEVEL SCHEME: BUDGETARY PROVISION AND EXPENDITURE

The government of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCP) implements a number of projects at the district level to help the Scheduled Caste community improve their socioeconomic standing. Each district's District Planning Commission is in charge of these plans.

6.1 Scheduled caste sub plan district level scheme budgetary provision, received fund and Expenditure

Year	Budgetary Provision	Received Fund	Expenditure	%Expenditure to actual received fund	%Actual Received fund to budgetary provision
2015-16	65000.00	59784.23	58791.47	98.34	91.98
2016-17	191176.39	74177.22	68267.18	92.03	38.80
2017-18	159010.96	131545.70	128037.95	97.33	82.73
2018-19	159873.00	149496.59	144509.70	96.66	93.51
2019-20	199660.50	172000.75	167411.22	97.33	86.15
2020-21	239369.58	211117.58	199404.66	94.45	88.20
Mean	169015.07	133020.35	127737.03	96.03	80.23
SD	58962.39	57824.45	55284.46		
CGR	30%	29%	28%		

Source: Social Justice and Special Assistance Department GoM

Table 6.1 demonstrates that, while the government made budgeted provisions totaling 169015.07 lakh for district-level SCSP projects between 2015–16 and 2016–17, only 80.23% of this amount was actually received for the schemes' implementation. The total sum available for distribution over the next six years is 133020.35 lakh, of which 96.03% is actually distributed to members of the Scheduled Caste. The plan's expenditure growth rate is 28% and the compound growth rate of the budgetary provisions is 30%. It displays a level of plan implementation that is satisfactory. From the above table its reveal that, district level schemes under implemented SCSP effectively performed but there is needed to release total sanctioned amount for the scheme

7. STATE LEVEL SCHEMES: BUDGETARY PROVISION AND EXPENDITURE

The Karnataka government developed about forty state-level Special Component Plans for the advancement of the Scheduled Caste population.

Table 7.1 State level budgetary provision and Expenditure

Year	Budgetary Provision	Received Fund	Expenditure	% Received fund to Expenditure	% Actual received fund to budgetary provision
2015-16	125769.26	118160.47	116830.72	98.87	93.95
2016-17	187279.42	142600.00	127037.97	89.09	76.14
2017-18	145527.97	108489.22	106124.18	97.82	74.55
2018-19	138676.47	95501.28	95533.41	100.03	68.87
2019-20	163222.68	106657.91	102765.05	96.35	65.35
2020-21	172391.91	111511.10	80635.10	72.31	64.68
Mean	155477.95	113820.00	104821.07	92.41	73.92
SD	22896.70	15923.24	16217.09		
CGR	7%	-1%	-7%		

According to the aforementioned data, the government prepared an average of 155477.95 lakh financial allocations under the Special Component Plan between 2015–16 and 2020–21; however, only 73.92% of the funds were released for the programmes. There are 113820 lakh money available for the Special Component Plan at the state level during this time, however the government uses 92.41% of these funds. Just 72.31% of the funds were used by the government in 2020–21. The mean value of budgetary provisions and expenditures is considerably off from the standard deviation value. The budgetary provision's compound growth rate is quite small, and its spending is negative 7%. State level schemes did not perform as well as district level plans.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY SUGGESTIONS

The current study discovered that the percentage of the Scheduled Caste community has provisions for SCP. However, the plan's spending is steadily declining, which suggests that either too little money was really allocated or that monies were diverted. Budgetary provisions at the state and district levels are sound, and they enable smooth operation; nonetheless, corporations' budgetary provisions are insufficient, hindering their ability to operate efficiently. This indicates that the government's honesty and strictness prevented Scheduled Caste members from benefiting from this arrangement. This calls for the government to be sincere and honest, as well as for the people of South Carolina to be ignorant of, and uninformed about, this strategy.

Therefore, the current research recommends that in order for the SC people to profit from the programme, the government must be proactive, truthful, and honest. It must also take initiative, make the necessary provisions in the budget and expenditures, and make efforts to raise knowledge of the programme. The government must set up distinct offices at the state and district levels to inform the public about the Special Component Plan. Offices must also be established at the village and Taluka levels to inform the public about government schemes.

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