

CHAPTER-IX

WELFARE SCHEMES

9.1 BENEFITS RECEIVED UNDER DIFFERENT WELFARE SCHEMES

Information is also collected in respect of benefits accruing under different central/state sponsored schemes to Scheduled Tribe Workers and their families. The concepts of sub-plan approach for tribal development are being formulated and implemented in the state since the beginning of the 5th plan. The blocks having 50 per cent tribal concentration are brought under the umbrella of the tribal Sub-Plans. The tribal Sub-Plan envisages the integrated development of the Tribal area in which all programmes irrespective of their source of funding operate in unison to achieve a common goal or bringing the area at par with the rest of the state and to improve the quality of life of Tribals. Integrated Tribal Development Agencies were formed to co-ordinate implementation of various Schemes.

There are some other social welfare schemes in vogue in the state viz. Old Age Pension/WP, National Old Age Pension Scheme, Gujarat Disability Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme, Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme, Supply of Special Aids and Appliances to Handicapped persons and scholarships to disabled students. It has been reported that Scheduled Tribe families were benefited by these schemes in Schedule Tribe belt area. Gujarat Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Development Finance Corporation was providing economic assistance to SC/ST families living below the poverty line by way of arranging institutional credit under the Margin Money Loan Programme (MMLP) for various income generating schemes. Apart from the above schemes, Scheduled Tribe students were given scholarships, books, boarding and lodging facilities to the eligible students in order to promote literacy and education amongst Scheduled Tribes.

Two types of schemes were run by the Labour Welfare Organization in Gujarat, one for the direct benefit for workers and the other for managements. The schemes for direct benefit of Schedule Tribe workers pertain to health, housing and education. Under health sector there are schemes for the benefits of T.B. patients, Leprosy patients, Mental Patients, schemes for supply of free spectacles, scheme for Cancer patients, schemes for reimbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to S. T Workers suffering form heart disease, kidney transplantation etc and fatal and serious accidents benefits scheme. Under these schemes different type of benefits like free treatment, medicines, subsistence allowance, traveling allowance, diet charges, reimbursement of expenditure, financial aid etc. are given to the Scheduled Tribe workers. Under housing sector assistance upto Rs.40,000/- is provided to Scheduled Tribes to construct a new house or repair of the old house with some conditions.

In additions to the above welfare schemes, the following schemes run by the office of Vigilance Officer for the Tribal development for the development of the Scheduled Tribe are in four parts (1) Education (2) Economic development (3) Health and housing (4) Administration, Directions etc.

9.1.1 Education Scheme

Examination Fee: The students in SSC and equivalent standard appearing in the SSC board examination are provided with examination fee ranging from Rs 170/- to Rs. 200/-

Scholarship: Students with 38 per cent results in Govt. Schools, Govt. recognized schools and with 45 per cent result in Private Schools were given yearly scholarship of Rs.125/- to Rs.200/- per year. Tuition fee of Rs.250/- p.m. paid to the students whose parents/guardian income was less than Rs.24000 p.a. Scholarship were also sanctioned to girl students whose family income exceeds between Rs.50,920 p.a. Engineering medical & B. Sc(Agri) Diploma courses are

given Rs.510 to Rs.740/- for Residential hostel, while for the day scholars it is Rs.330/ p.m.

In addition to the above narrated schemes the following schemes are also in vogue (i) free uniform (ii) food assistance scheme (iii) free Bicycle scheme (iv) financial assistance to medical and engineering students to purchase educational equipments upto Rs 1000/- (v) cash payment scheme to S. T. college students and (vi) Balwadi scheme in which 90 per cent to 100 per cent Grant-in-aid was provided.

Under the housing sector, assistance upto Rs.40,000 is provided to Scheduled Tribes to construct or purchase a new house or repair of the old house.

Some of the other welfare schemes are also functioning like Social education camps are arranged to educate the S.T people to take out from backwardness and to give information about these schemes and for these camp Rs.5000/- has been sanctioned.

The Public cell Scheduled Tribe Atrocities Assistance also provides atrocity assistance. Kunwar bair Noo Mameroo assistance and Saat Phere Samooh Lagna scheme were also in vogue and Rs.1000 to Rs.5000 are given.

9.1.2 Attitude towards Social Customs, Faiths, Education and Family Norms

During the course of the survey information is also collected on the attitude of the scheduled tribe families towards social customs, marriage, faith in natural objects, belief in evil forces, family systems etc. The main aim of this was to know about the attitudinal change regarding these aspects of Scheduled Tribes due to spread of education, general impact of the process of development over times and greater interaction with the general population. The data pertaining to these aspects have been analyses in the following paragraphs.

9.1.2.1 Marriage

(a) Inter Tribe:

Majority of Scheduled Tribe families in all streams taken together, as well as taken separately, it was reported that 99 per cent of Scheduled Tribe families had patronized inter Tribe marriage, while only 1 per cent of the total Scheduled Tribe in Vapi stratum did not patronize this system.

(b) Out side community:

Only a fraction of Scheduled Tribe families in Vapi stratum had favored marriage outside the Scheduled Tribe Community.

(c) Child marriage:

Traditionally, about 33 per cent households reported child marriage in Valsad, but presently no family favoured child marriage. In the rest of the strata i.e. Vapi, Navsari and Sachin, no case of child marriage traditionally or presently had favoured child marriage.

(d) Dowry System:

Traditionally about 33 per cent households in Valsad stratum favoured Dowry system but presently no family reported favouring Dowry system, while in the rest of the strata no case of favouring Dowry system was reported.

These changes have been brought about by the factors like education, general impact of government policies and development, loss of faith in old practices and the influence of greater interaction with the other communities.

9.1.2.2 Belief in Evil Forces:

The maximum of about 49.8 per cent in Valsad stratum, followed by 37.9 per cent in Vapi and the minimum of 12.3 per cent in Sachin believed in the existence of evil forces. None of the households covered in Navsari stratum reported belief in evil forces.

Taking all the strata together the percentage of families having belief in evil forces was 42.9 per cent.

9.1.2.3 Faith in Natural Objects:

The study reveals that all the families in Navsari, 99.4 per cent in Valsad, 98.2 per cent in Sachin and 95.8 per cent in Vapi have faith in Natural objects. Taking all the strata together the percentage was 97.9 per cent.

9.1.2.4 Family System:

Taking all the strata together, 51.4 per cent of households favoured joint family system of living, 41.1 per cent favoured nuclear family system and the rest 7.5 per cent favoured single member family system of living, with the maximum 62.9 per cent and minimum 28.8 per cent favoured joint family in Valsad and Sachin stratum respectively; maximum 47.7 per cent and minimum 35.9 per cent favoured nuclear system of living in Navsari and Valsad stratum.

9.1.3 Discrimination in Society

The tribals have inter-tribal, social, economic and cultural differences. They have their own beliefs and ethics, which may at times, stand in the way of their mixing up with other segments of the society freely. The survey results however, revealed no case of discrimination of any kind against the Scheduled Tribes families by other communities.

9.1.4 Forced or Bonded Labour

Existence of forced labour has not been reported by any of the Scheduled Tribe families covered in the survey.