



Welfare and development schemes structure of scheduled caste in India

P Surya Kumar

Department of Econometrics, SVU College of Arts, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract

Economic development is not just about development of basic needs of individuals but about people working together to achieve sustainable economic growth and improved lives. Employment and income are needed to grow. Welfare refers to assistance programs sponsored by governments for needy individuals and families, including schemes, such as food stamps, Education development health care assistance, and unemployment compensation. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the central funds released to development of Scheduled caste is 3991.88 crore during 2011-12, these funds were extended to 6908.33 crore during 2020-21. sector-wise funds allocation to Scheduled caste during 2018-19 to 2020-21, these observations were revealed the total scheduled caste funds last three years are, educational developmental funds are declined, economic developmental funds are increased three times, social developmental funds are almost stationary and rehabilitation & manpower development funds are also increased. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was launched on a Pilot basis during 2009-10. The Scheme aims at integrated development of villages in which the population of Scheduled Castes is above 50 per cent. In this scheme, pilot phase 1000 villages were selected and funds released Rs. 201 crore rupees during 2009-14. At present, phase-II (2018-2020) were running in this phase 13216 villages were selected in entire India and Funds allocated Rs.1291.15 crore Rupees for the development of Scheduled Caste. From the BJRCY scheme, during the 2009-10, the central funds released Rs.2536 lakh for the development of SC Girls hostels and Rs.620 lakh for the development of SC Goys hostels, these expenditures were declined to Rs.1635.2 lakh for SC Girls hostels and increased to Rs.865 lakh for SC Boys hostels during 2019-20. NSFDC scheme for economic development of scheduled caste people, in the financial year 2014-15 the Govt. of India was allocated funds through various banks/institutions Rs.270.27 crore rupees, these funds were steeply increased Rs.681.5 crore rupees during 2019-20.

Keywords: scheduled caste, welfare and development schemes, India

Introduction

Economic development is not just about development of basic needs of individuals but about people working together to achieve sustainable economic growth and improved lives. Employment and income are needed to grow. The Indian has introduced several schemes that have not only helped citizens improve their financial situations, but also contributed to the country's economy. Welfare refers to assistance programs sponsored by governments for needy individuals and families, including schemes, such as food stamps, Education development health care assistance, and unemployment compensation. The welfare expenditures by the Central Government of India are a substantial portion of the sanctioned union budget. Also, the state and local governments play important roles in promoting and executing welfare policies.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are officially designated groups of historically disadvantaged people in India. The terms are recognised in the Constitution of India and the groups are designated in one or other of the categories. For much of the period of British rule in the Indian subcontinent, they were known as the Depressed Classes. The Scheduled Caste people are the one who were previously untouchables. On the other hand, Scheduled Tribes are community of people who lived in tribal areas. They make up to 7-8 % of Indian population. They have traditionally been marginalized of the society. Since the independence of India, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were given Reservation status, guaranteeing political representation.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is the structure of the welfare and development schemes of Scheduled Caste in India during the last ten years.

Data Base

For the fulfil of the main objective of the study, the data were collected from various annual reports of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, related various research articles and newsletters etc...

Welfare and Development Schemes of Scheduled Caste

In this section majorly reveals the structure of total central assistance funds released to scheduled caste, sector-wise allocations to SCs, and few major schemes for development of scheduled caste group, Particularly, Educational development, Economic development and Social development schemes.

Central Assistance to Major Social Groups

From the table-1 reveals allocation funds to major social groups in India during 2011-12 to 2020-21. From the data, the central funds released to development of Scheduled caste is 3991.88 crore during 2011-12, these funds were extended to 6908.33 crore during 2020-21. Last ten years from the total central assistance funds, an average 75 per cent of the funds disbursed to Scheduled caste group.

Table 1: Allocation Funds to Major Social Groups in India during 2011-12 to 2020-21 [Rs.in Crore]

Major Social Groups	Allocation of Funds to Major Social Groups in India (Rs.in Crore)									
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Scheduled Caste	3991.88 (79.74)	3821.96 (82.12)	4665 (69.37)	4837.5 (77.87)	5128.5 (78.50)	5128.99 (78.12)	5418.91 (78.44)	5562.58 (71.77)	6404.67 (72.08)	6908.33 (68.38)
Backward Class	658.84 (13.16)	756.4 (16.250)	1225 (18.21)	1129.5 (18.18)	1225.48 (18.78)	1215 (18.50)	1237.3 (17.91)	1745 (22.52)	1944 (21.88)	2015 (19.94)
Social Defence	63.66 (1.27)	44.13 (0.95)	173 (2.57)	194 (3.12)	109.02 (1.67)	156.01 (2.38)	179.99 (2.61)	292.16 (3.77)	434.1 (4.89)	595 (5.89)
Misc	292.01 (5.83)	31.64 (0.68)	662.32 (9.85)	51.74 (0.83)	61.82 (0.95)	65.95 (1.00)	71.8 (1.04)	150.26 (1.94)	101.93 (1.15)	585.24 (5.79)
Total	5006.39 (100.00)	4654.13 (100.00)	6725.32 (100.00)	6212.74 (100.00)	6524.82 (100.00)	6566.95 (100.00)	6908 (100.00)	7750 (100.00)	8884.7 (100.00)	10103.57 (100.00)

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various Annual Reports () Brackets in parenthesis are % of total funds

Sector-wise Funds allocation to Scheduled Caste

From the figure-1 explains, sector-wise funds allocation to Scheduled caste during 2018-19 to 2020-21. From the observation, mainly four major sectors are categorised they are Educational Development sector, Economic Development sector, Social Empowerment sector and Rehabilitation & Manpower Development sector. The schemes being implemented by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment aim towards the economic, educational and social empowerment of its target groups. From the data observes, first the Educational Development sector funds were noted 3670.46 crores during 2018-19, these was declined to 3442.33 crore during 2020-21. Secondly, Economic Development sector funds for Scheduled Caste were allocated 377.4 crore during 2018-19 and this has increased 1570 crore during 2020-21. Thirdly, Social Development sector assistance for the Scheduled Caste group were noted 1453.72 crore in the year 2018-19, this was decreased 1276 crore during the year 2020-21. According to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the total scheduled caste funds last three years are, educational developmental funds are declined, economic developmental funds are increased three times, social developmental funds are almost stationary and rehabilitation & manpower development funds are also increased.

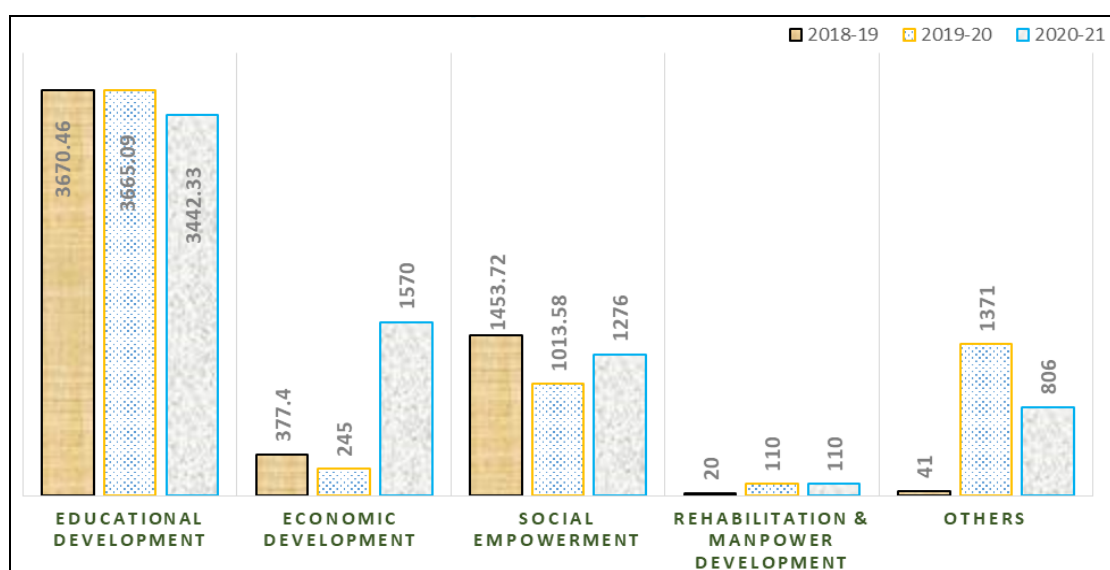


Fig 1: sector-wise funds allocation to scheduled caste [Rs. In CRORE]

Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana

This scheme for construction of hostels for Scheduled Caste (SC) students is one of the means to enable and encourage children/students belonging to Schedules Castes (SC) to attain quality education. Such hostels are immensely beneficial to the students hailing from rural and remote areas of the country. While the scheme of construction of hostels for SC girls is in operation from the Third Five Year Plan (1961-66), the same for boys was started with effect from the year 1989-90. The scheme was revised in 2008 and recently on 15.07.2020.

Table 2: Central Assistance funds and Beneficiaries Covered Under Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana.

Year	SC Girls Hostel (Rs.in Lakhs)			SC Boys Hostel (Rs.in Lakhs)		
	Expenditure	Beneficiaries	No. of Hostels	Expenditure	Beneficiaries	No. of Hostels
2009-10	2536	1421	20	620	735	20
2010-11	4391	2506	33	3428	3244	41
2011-12	3832	2300	22	2760	2656	26
2012-13	2171	2856	32	1410	1700	20
2013-14	4152	2919	33	794	1181	15
2014-15	1872	1272	14	441	329	4
2015-16	4569	1755	23	328.26	472	4
2016-17	3009.98	1150	17	490	700	12
2017-18	7000.64	1700	17	490	700	12
2018-19	2311.07	954	12	1344.16	1000	15
2019-20	1635.2	550	6	865	450	5

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various Annual Reports

The Scheme provides central assistance to State Governments/ UT Administrations, Central & State Universities/ Institutions for fresh construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities. The NGOs and Deemed Universities in private sector are eligible for central assistance only for expansion of their existing hostels facilities.

The number of beneficiaries and expenditure under the Scheme from 2009-10 to 2019-20 are as presented in table-3, during the 2009-10, the central funds released Rs.2536 lakh for the development of SC Girls hostels and Rs.620 lakh for the development of SC Goys hostels, these expenditures were declined to Rs.1635.2 lakh for SC Girls hostels and increased to Rs.865 lakh for SC Boys hostels during 2019-20. In this process 1421 lakh SC girls were benefited and 735 lakh SC boys were benefitted during the 2009-10, these beneficiaries were declined both Boys and Girls during 2019-20.

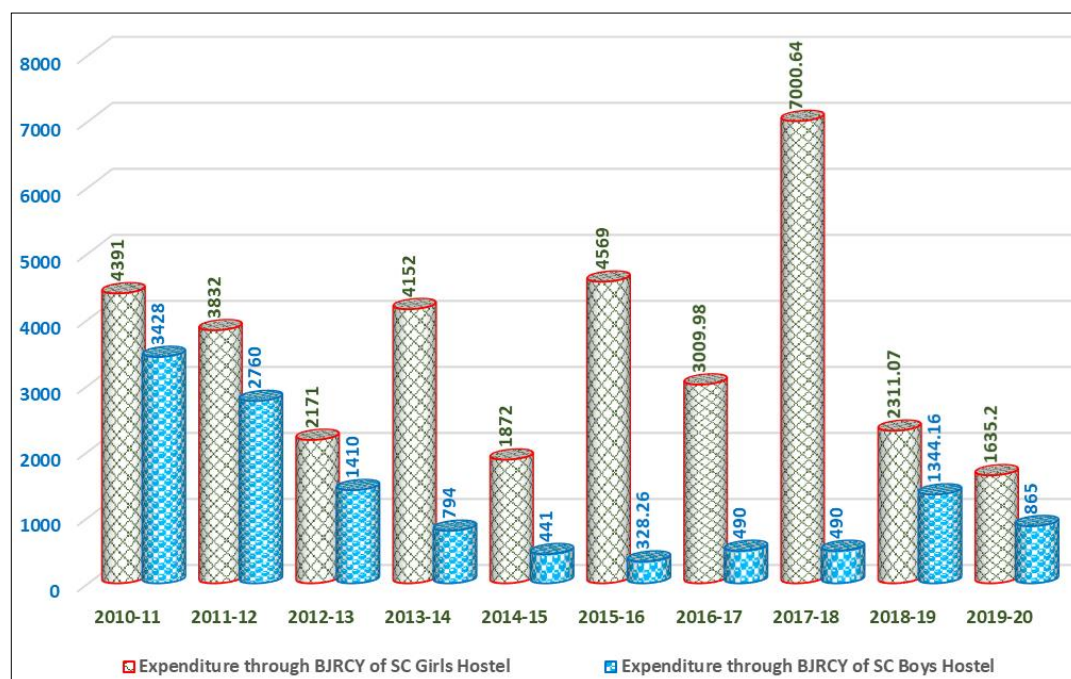


Fig 2: central assistant released under BJRCY (Rs.in Lakh)

Post & Pre-Matric Scholarships and Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students & Scholarship Scheme of Top-Class Education for SC Students

Different types of scholarships are provided belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) students to ensure that education is not denied due to the poor financial condition of their families. These Scholarships are provided at

both pre-matric and post-matric levels. Scholarships are also provided to SC students for obtaining higher education in India and abroad, including premier educational institutions. *Pre-Matric Scholarships*: The objective of the pre-matric Scheme is to support the parents of SC children for educating their wards, so that the incidence of drop outs at this stage is minimized. *Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students (PMS-SC)*: The Scheme is the single largest intervention by Government of India for educational empowerment of scheduled caste students. This is a centrally sponsored scheme. 100% central assistance is released to State Governments/UTs. *Pre-Metric Scholarships for Children of those engaged in Unclean Occupation*: Under the Scheme, the Children of families engaged in unclean occupations such as scavenging, flaying and tanning are assisted to pursue education upto matriculation level. The scholarship is provided through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Central assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis and to the Union Territories on 100 per cent basis over and above their committed liability. Students amongst target groups with disabilities are also assisted.

The objective of the *Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students Scheme* is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged SC and OBC candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Public/ Private sector. The Scholarship Scheme of *Top-Class Education for SC Students* Scheme for meritorious students belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) with effect from June 2007, namely the Scheme of Top-Class Education for SC Students. The objective of the scheme is to promote qualitative education amongst SC students, by providing full financial support for pursuing studies beyond 12th class. All the four schemes expenditure and beneficiaries are described in table-3.

Table 3: post-matric & pre-matric Scholarship and Free Coaching & Top-Class Education Scheme for Scheduled Caste students

Year	Post-Metric Scholarship		Pre-Metric Scholarship		Free Coaching Scheme		Top-Class Education Scheme	
	Expenditure (Rs.in Lakh)	Beneficiaries (in Lakh)	Expenditure (Rs.in Lakh)	Beneficiaries (in Lakh)	Expenditure (Rs.in Crore)	Beneficiaries	Expenditure (Rs.in Crore)	Beneficiaries
2010-11	209720	42.98	5848	61.41	9.43	9347	14.15	1036
2011-12	271134	48	6365	68.62	6.96	7359	14.82	1259
2012-13	165464	49.42	93137	40.55	5.38	5765	16.7	1306
2013-14	215349	49.95	54653	27.38	8.94	4400	24.18	1574
2014-15	196337	53.38	51403	25.13	8.14	6126	19.38	1569
2015-16	221388	56.8	52470	24.45	6.83	4300	29.77	1907
2016-07	279877	58.62	50615	20.21	1.5	250	28.5	2033
2017-18	341409	59.26	6282	22.82	19.84	2247	33.94	1883
2018-19	592815	60.29	11540	26.3	14.87	1296	25.48	1385
2019-20	271130	52.8	35289	28.09	13.26	1345	39.7	1375

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various Annual Reports

National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste students

The National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste is formulated and funded by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The scheme is open to candidates who belong to Scheduled Caste and are pursuing higher studies such as regular and full time M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology. There are 2000 slots for Scheduled Caste every year for all the subjects, in the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 these slots were increased 2311 and 2379 slots for Scheduled castes in India. The detailed budget allocation and Central Assistance released during the last six years presents in table-4. From this database, we observe, in the financial year 2014-15 the govt. of India released funds were Rs.148.84 crore rupees and these expenditures were expanding to Rs.246.66 crore rupees during 2019-20.

Table 4: Expenditure and Beneficiaries under National Fellowship for SC Students

Year	Budget Allocation	Fund Release	Fellowship Awarded		
			Male	Female	Total
2014-15	200.00	148.84	1034	966	2000
2015-16	209.55	200.55	1090	910	2000
2016-17	200.00	196.00	1340	660	2000
2017-18	230.00	225.40	1065	935	2000
2018-19	300.00	255.81	1544	856	2311
2019-20	360.00	246.66	872	1507	2379

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various Annual Reports

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)

The Government had taken a number of initiatives for development of SCs, which had yielded positive outcomes, and had also resulted in narrowing the gap between the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the rest of the population. However, the focus of most of the welfare Schemes of SCs was mainly centred on individual

beneficiaries rather than on integrated development of SCs pockets. To enable an area-based development approach, a new scheme called the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was launched on a Pilot basis during 2009-10. The Scheme aims at integrated development of villages in which the population of Scheduled Castes is above 50 per cent. A total of 1000 villages from Tamil Nadu (225), Rajasthan (225), Bihar (225), Himachal Pradesh (225) and Assam (100) were selected under the Pilot phase. During 2014-15, the scheme was further extended (Phase-I) to cover another 1500 villages across 11 States namely Andhra Pradesh (7), Assam (75), Chhattisgarh (175), Jharkhand (100), Haryana (12), Karnataka (201), Madhya Pradesh (327), Odisha (175), Punjab (162), Telangana (6) and Uttar Pradesh (260).

Expansion of the Scheme (Phase-II): In the light of the benefits accruing to the residents of the villages through successful implementation of the Scheme, it was decided in 2018-19 to take up more villages in the Phase-II every year so that there is a pan-India coverage as well as continuity of scheme. All those districts were considered for coverage which have villages having total population greater than 500 and with more than 50 per cent persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. It is planned that about 3000-3500 new villages will be taken up every year from 2019-20 onwards until all eligible villages are covered by the scheme. The number of villages selected and funds released under each of the earlier phases and the current phase so far is given in figure-3.

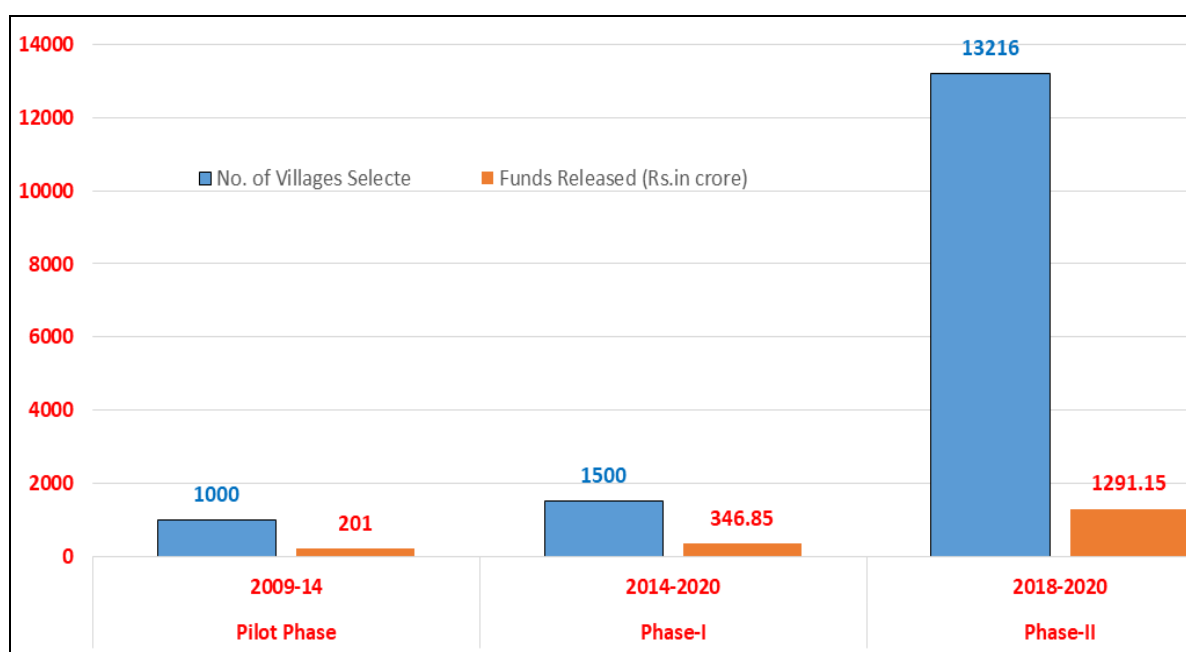


Fig 3: Number of Villages selected and funds released under PMAGY

In pilot phase 1000 villages were selected and funds released Rs. 201 crore rupees during 2009-14. From the 2014-2020, were started phase-I, in this phase 1500 villages were selected and funds was released Rs.346.85 crore rupees. At present phase-II (2018-2020) were running in this phase 13216 villages were selected in entire India and Funds allocated Rs.1291.15 crore rupees.

National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students

The Central Sector Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship is to facilitate the low-income students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category to obtain higher education viz., Master degree or Ph. D courses by studying abroad thereby improving their Economic and Social status. The Scheme provides for tuition fees charged by institutions as per actual, fixed maintenance allowance, air passage, visa fee, health insurance premium, annual contingency allowance and incidental journey allowance. In this scheme central assistance were allocated 14.02 crore rupees during 2016-17, these funds were increased 28.56 crore rupees during 2019-20. In this scheme an average 100 slots were allocated in every year.

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up by the Government of India in February, 1989 under Section-8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (formerly, Section-25 of the Companies Act, 1956).

The broad objective of NSFDC is to provide financial assistance in the form of loan for socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste families having annual family income up to Rs.3.00 lakh. The NSFDC has so far disbursed Rs.5973.37 crores covering about 13.63 lakh beneficiaries. NSFDC functions through Channel Finance System in which concessional loans are routed to the beneficiaries through the 37 State Steering Agencies (SCAs) appointed by the respective State Governments/ Union Territories.

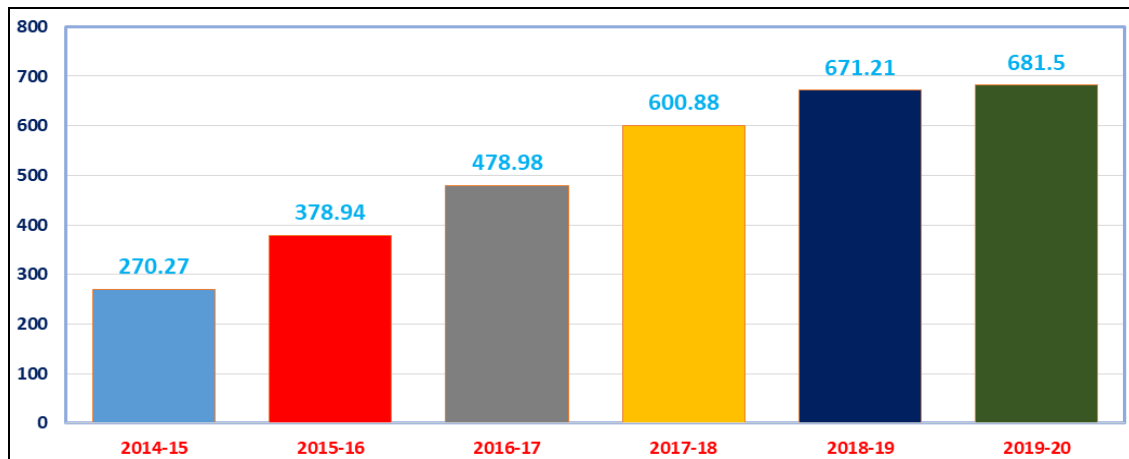


Fig 4: Funds allocation to NSFDC (Rs.in Crore)

The financial year 2013-14, NSFDC has signed Memoranda of Agreements with 07 Public Sector Banks, 33 Regional Rural Banks, 3 Cooperative Bank/Societies, 3 Non-Banking Financial Company – Micro Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) and 4 other Institutions. NSFDC has developed an alternate channel of funding in the form of Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks, NBFC-MFIs and Other Institutions which would also be implementing NSFDC's schemes in different States/UTs as Channelizing Agencies (CA) of NSFDC.

From the above figure reported the funds allocated to NSFDC scheme for economic development of scheduled caste people during the period of 2014-15 to 2019-20. From the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment annual report, in the financial year 2014-15 the govt. of India was allocated funds through various banks/institutions Rs.270.27 crore rupees, these funds were steeply increased Rs.681.5 crore rupees during 2019-20.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP)

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a centrally sponsored scheme, started in 1980 with the main objective of giving a thrust to family-oriented schemes of economic development of SCs living below the poverty line. Under the scheme the grant is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The main objective of the scheme is to increase the income of the target population by way of various income generating schemes, skill development and infrastructure development and to reduce the poverty among the target population and bring them above the poverty lines. Under this scheme the actual release funds were noted 1114.3000 crore rupees in the year 2019-20, previously, these funds were allocated 731.2700 crore rupees in the year 2017-18.

Conclusion

Welfare refers to assistance programs sponsored by governments for needy individuals and families, including schemes, such as food stamps, Education development health care assistance, and unemployment compensation. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the central funds released to development of Scheduled caste is 3991.88 crore during 2011-12, these funds were extended to 6908.33 crore during 2020-21. sector-wise funds allocation to Scheduled caste during 2018-19 to 2020-21, these observations were revealed the total scheduled caste funds last three years are, educational developmental funds are declined, economic developmental funds are increased three times, social developmental funds are almost stagnant and rehabilitation & manpower development funds are also increased. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was launched on a Pilot basis during 2009-10. The Scheme aims at integrated development of villages in which the population of Scheduled Castes is above 50 per cent. In this scheme, pilot phase 1000 villages were selected and funds released Rs. 201 crore rupees during 2009-14. At present, phase-II (2018-2020) were running in this phase 13216 villages were nominated in entire India and Funds allocated Rs.1291.15 crore rupees for the development of Scheduled Caste. From the BJRCY scheme, during the 2009-10, the central funds released Rs.2536 lakh for the development of SC Girls hostels and Rs.620 lakh for the development of SC Goys hostels, these expenditures were declined to Rs.1635.2 lakh for SC Girls hostels and increased to Rs.865 lakh for SC Boys hostels during 2019-20. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up by the Government of India in February 1989. The NSFDC has so far disbursed Rs.5973.37 crores covering about 13.63 lakh beneficiaries. NSFDC scheme for economic development of scheduled caste people, in the financial year 2014-15 the Govt. of India was allocated funds through various banks/institutions Rs.270.27 crore rupees, these funds were steeply increased Rs.681.5 crore rupees during 2019-20.

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