



Contribution of government sponsored welfare schemes for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in entrepreneurial development with special reference to Almora district”: A pilot study

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Abstract

Entrepreneurs play an important role in the economic and industrial development of any country. They are building blocks for any country, nation, or region. India is a developing country and has diversity in its unity. Scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs) are socially and economically most disadvantaged groups in India. They share a significant proportion in terms of population but their ownership in businesses is underrepresented. Most of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes entrepreneurs are running micro enterprises having no employee in their enterprises. To promote entrepreneurship among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes various measures have been taken by government which aims to uplift socio-economic status of these communities and enhance entrepreneurial qualities among them. To develop the qualities of entrepreneurs skill development training and education has imparted by government at various levels. SCs and STs, entrepreneurship brings small capital resources and skill in the country. It ensures fuller utilization of capital and mobilization of human potential. Entrepreneurship is suitable to all as it can be managed with other works. Self-employed persons have no time-bound work which makes it easy for them to manage with other works. Most of the entrepreneurs from SCs and STs communities manage their enterprise along with other works such as daily wage earners. It is realized that the strength of the country is in these small or micro businesses.

Keywords: entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship, socio-economic, development, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Introduction

According to census 2011, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes comprise 16.6% and 8.6%, respectively of India's population. 18.5% scheduled castes live in rural areas and 12.6% live in urban areas. 11.3% scheduled tribes live in rural areas and 2.8% live in urban areas. Scheduled castes are a powerful segment in terms of population, labour force and vote bank.

The total population of Almora district is 622,506. Out of which 24.26 per cent are Scheduled castes and merely 0.21 per cent is Scheduled Tribes. Scheduled castes population is a powerful segment in the Almora district which is above the state average of 18.76 per cent. 25.16 per cent Scheduled castes live in rural areas and 16.15 per cent in urban areas. 0.13 and 0.85 percent of scheduled tribes live in rural and urban areas respectively (As per 2011 Census).

Scheduled castes are a powerful segment in district not only in terms of vote bank and work force but they also play an important role in self-employment. Number of Scheduled castes population involved in self-employment which are micro in nature such as black smith, utensil maker, cobbler, manufacturer of consumer goods, agriculturist etc. Male as well as female from scheduled castes in both rural and urban areas are involved in self-employment. In rural areas scheduled castes are mainly involved in agriculture and allied sector. They sell dairy products such as milk, eggs, mutton, and chickens etc. In urban areas they are involved in manufacturing of consumer goods such as utensils making, knitting, carpet making, carpentry, etc. There are few retail shops of Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the main market, engaged in selling of consumer durables. Scheduled tribes in district are a weaker section in terms of population as

well as in enterprise holding. Most of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have only micro enterprises with or without registration. It is still a challenge-able one for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to have enterprises which could generate employment for others in the district in spite of various government schemes due to socio-economic condition. Even it is tough for them to survive with these micro level businesses. Various schemes and policies both at social and economic level have been implemented by government to promote entrepreneurship among both communities and to uplift living standard.

Review of Literature

1. Prof. M. A. Lokhande (2006) [8]. Undertake study on "Entrepreneurship Development among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Marathwada Region" to probe into the entrepreneurial process, problems and challenges faced by the SC/ST entrepreneurs and to make some possible suggestions. Author mentioned the difficulties faced by the SCs and STs in the way of entrepreneurship. Found that poor economic condition, lack of proper education, and social discrimination, are the main difficulties faced by these entrepreneurs. Infrastructural development, organization and publicity of entrepreneurship development programmes at village level, all type of assistance should be provided by the corporations, business education to backward class students, awareness about schemes should be provided, any kind of discrimination should be rooted out, social banking should be encouraged, no stress on security deposit, reduction in interest rate, indifferent attitude of government officials must be rooted out, reservation of

- certain products for small industries, priority must be given to market the products of small enterprises and emphasis should be given to formation of more and more self- help group are the suggestions suggested by the author.
2. Surinder S. Jodhka (2010) ^[7]. selected Panipat in Haryana and Saharanpur in UP for his study about "Dalits in Business: Self-Employed Scheduled Castes in Northwest India", His paper focused on Self-employed Dalits in business and small-scale entrepreneurship and addresses unsought questions of collective prejudice emanating from tradition which has not only crippled their prospects in the markets but are known to shape their self-image and identification and draw insights on the expansion of private capital in India during post-1991. Author explored about the issues of how and in what ways caste matters in business and entrepreneurship, specifically in subtle mannerism and bias; varying from difficulty in getting enough supplies on credit, lack of social networks, absence of kin groups in the business and control of traditionally dominant business caste groups. The paper highlights that caste is a social and political reality that haunts the Dalit entrepreneurs and not mere past tradition or value-system that is found incompatible with contemporary market economy. And concluded that despite of problems and hardship the dalit entrepreneurs faced, they successfully running their enterprises and they have proud that they choose business. These dalit entrepreneurs also felt proud that they not only come out from the life of slavery but some of them were also in a position to help others by assisting them set-up an enterprise or provide them employment. These entrepreneurs are role model for their communities and focusing more attention to provide best education to their children. Author mentioned that in spite of several positive changes castes continue to plays role in urban economy. If dalit entrepreneurs have economic resources they crippled by a lack social resources. At last author mention the life stories of successful entrepreneurs from dalit communities.
 3. Lakshmi Iyer, Tarun Khanna & Ashutosh Varshney (2013) ^[5]. showed differences in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes entrepreneurship ownership across India in their paper titled "Caste and Entrepreneurship in India". They found that the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are significantly under-represented in the ownership of enterprises and the share of the workforce employed by them. By using comprehensive data on enterprise ownership from the Economic Censuses of 1990, 1998 and 2005 in their paper they found that representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are significantly under-represented in the ownership of enterprises and the share of the workforce employed by them and such under-representation appears to persist in the states with very progressive policies towards scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Authors suggested that deeper thinking is required to determine the entrepreneurship additionally growth of enterprises depends strongly on network effects, both for finding the right workers and for making links with suppliers and customers, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes enterprise owners might thus be disadvantaged by their relatively smaller networks, particularly in urban areas.
 4. Ashwini Deshpande and Smriti Sharma (2013) ^[3]. in their article titled "Entrepreneurship or Survival? Caste and Gender of Small Business in India", tried to understand the involvement of dalits and other marginalized groups, especially adivasis and women, in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector, based on an analysis of unit-level data from registered manufacturing segment of the MSME census data for 2001-02 and 2006-07. They found clear and persistent caste and gender disparities throughout the MSME sectors. The share of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in business is under-represented except in the north-eastern states. However, the share of female-owned and managed enterprises is significantly greater among SC-ST owned enterprise. They suggested that participation of dalit in entrepreneurship is crucial to eradicate the problem of unemployment and there is need of concredited policy to correct historical caste based inequalities. They concluded that the share of SC-ST owned businesses are declined over the year and their enterprises are smaller in size, more rural than urban, and single operated unit.
 5. Manisha Shah and J.C. Joshi (2016) ^[9]. dealt with the study of some social indicators of scheduled caste in Uttarakhand in their paper titled "Social Indicators of Scheduled Caste: A Socially Excluded Group of Uttarakhand" and noted that despite of various welfare measures adopted by government to improve socioeconomic condition of scheduled castes they still remain vulnerable and are subjected to various forms of atrocities committed against them. India"s historically rooted hierarchal social system plays a central role in the context of caste exclusion. Caste based exclusion prevent the disadvantaged groups from taking part in the full economic, social, religious and political life involving denial of equal opportunities, resources and rights of the community. They concluded that despite domestic laws and welfares measures there are number of discrimination cases against scheduled castes continue their vulnerable position can be seen in various forms such as low literacy rate, poor health status, and low work participation. The schemes and welfare measures implemented by government are not implemented in full spirit and there are lack of awareness about these schemes and measures among these communities due to illiteracy and low social networks. They advocated the sustainable development measures that can bring about equity in society and not disparity.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the socio-economic condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe in Almora District.
- To study the awareness of various welfare schemes among scheduled castes and schedules tribes run by state government of Uttarakhand
- To appraise the schemes in view of entrepreneurial opportunities.

Research Methodology

The study covers the Almora district of Uttarakhand. The foregoing information for pilot study collected from both

rural and urban areas in district Almora. Rural areas which included for information are Village Channa Dhoura, Ratkhan, Kunuda, Tamtuda, Malli Dhoura, and urban areas are Main market, Bhotiya market, Sidhi market, Dharanaula, Tamta Mohlla, Rajpura, and Talla Daniya. Fifty entrepreneurs selected for the study.

Frequency and Simple Percentage method is used to analyze the data. It is simple to design and interpret and calculate the estimate of the population and the sampling technique.

Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study.

Primary data

Were collected with the help of questionnaire-cum – interview schedule.

Secondary data

Were collected from various sources such as books, journals, websites, periodicals, research publication, official publication of government and non-government organization.

The first section of the questionnaire cum- interview schedule was designed to know the social status of respondent and the second section consist enterprise profile of respondent, awareness about various schemes, medium of

awareness, participation in training programme etc.

Sampling Methods

Sample selected for the purpose of pilot study is convenience sampling and people who surveyed are entrepreneurs who run any type and size of enterprises. Sample selected from both rural and urban areas in district Almora. Rural areas which included for information are Village Channa Dhoura, Ratkhan, Kunuda, Tamtuda, Malli Dhoura, and urban areas are Main market, Bhotiya market, Sidhi market, Dharanaula, Tamta Mohlla, Rajpura, and Talla Daniya.

Sample Size

Fifty entrepreneurs selected for the purpose of pilot study.

Tools and Techniques Used for Analysis of Collected Data

Collected data classified and presented in tables and graphs. Simple percentage, frequency, chi-square test and 5 point likert scale has been used to analyze the data with the help of SPSS and Excel.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Objective 1: To study the socio-economic condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe entrepreneurs in Almora District.

Table 1

SI No.	Questions	Frequency / Percentage
1.	Age (In Yrs)	
	20-30	8 / 16%
	30-40	17 / 34%
	40-50	11 / 22%
	50-60	11 / 22%
	60-70	1 / 2%
	70-80	2 / 4%
	Total	50/ 100%
2.	Gender	
	Female	19/ 38%
	Male	31/ 62%
	Total	50/ 100%
3.	Marital Status	
	Married	43/ 86%
	Others	2/ 4%
	Unmarried	5/ 10%
	Total	50/ 100%
4.	Education Status	
	10 th	7/ 14%
	12 th	5/ 10%
	Below 10 th	27/54%
	Under-Graduate	5/ 10%
	Post-Graduate	1/ 2%
	Illiterate	5/ 10%
	Any Other	0/
	Total	50/ 100%
5.	Castes of Entrepreneurs	
	SC	40/ 40%
	ST	10/ 20%
	Total	50/ 100%
6.	Type of Family	/
	Joint	26/ 52%
	Nuclear	24/ 48%
	Total	50/ 100%
7.	Total members in the Family	
	0 to 5	23/ 46%

	5 to 10	21/ 42%
	10 to 15	4/ 8%
	15 to 20	0/
	20 to 25	2/ 4%
	Total	50/ 100%
8.	Type of House	
	Own Pucca House	44/ 88%
	Rented	6/ 12%
	Own Kaccha house	0/
	Total	50/ 100%
9.	Annual family Income	
	Upto 1 lac	30/ 60%
	1-5 lac	20/ 40%
	Total	50/ 100%

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows that out of 50 respondents, the maximum numbers of entrepreneurs are from age group 30-40 yrs (17 or 34%). maximum numbers of entrepreneurs are married (43 or 86%) having below 10th standard educational qualification. Data comprises 40 or 80% scheduled castes and 10 or 20% scheduled tribes. Most of the respondents who are entrepreneurs are from joint family (26 or 52%). Maximum number (23 Or 46 %) of entrepreneurs have 0-5

members in their families. Only few (6 or 12%) lives in rented house others have their own pucca house. Maximum numbers of the entrepreneurs have annual income of up to 1 lac (30 or 60%).

Objective 2: To study the awareness of various welfare schemes among scheduled castes and schedules tribes run by state government of Uttarakhand

Table 2

Awareness about various government schemes	Medium/ Reasons	No. of Entrepreneurs	% of Entrepreneurs
Yes	Internet	2	4
	Through Government Officials	3	6
	Through Head of the area	3	6
	Enquiry from organizations or Institutes which implement schemes	3	6
	Through Personal Contacts	2	4
	Add by government in various media	2	4
	Total	15	30
No	Lack of information sharing among peoples in the area	11	22
	Illiteracy among peoples	12	24
	No social contacts or time due to busy schedule	4	8
	Never took interest in any schemes	8	16
	Total	35	70
Total		50	100

Table 2 shows that out of 50 entrepreneurs 15 (30%) entrepreneurs are aware about various government schemes implemented for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and their medium of awareness are through government Officials who regularly visiting their enterprises (3 or 6%), Head of their area (3 or 6%), Enquiry from organization or institute implementing schemes (3 or 6%), Personal Contacts of entrepreneurs (2 or 4%), through internet (2 or 4%), and Advertisement by government in various media (2 or 4%).Out of 50 entrepreneurs 35 or 70%

entrepreneurs are not aware about various government schemes implemented for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Various reasons which entrepreneurs cited are Illiteracy among peoples (12 or 24%), followed by Lack of information sharing among peoples in the area (11 or 22%), entrepreneurs who never took interest in any schemes (8 or 16%), entrepreneurs having no social contacts or time due to busy schedule (4 or 8%).

Objective 3: To appraise the schemes in view of entrepreneurial opportunities.

Table 3

Availed any Schemes	Availed Schemes / Reasons (if not)	No. of Entrepreneurs	% of Entrepreneurs
Yes	Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme	7	14
	Hast Shilpi Scheme	1	2
	Total	8	16
No	No awareness	29	58
	lengthy procedure	4	8
	Not interested	7	14
	Not fulfill the criteria	2	4
	Total	42	84
Total		50	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that out of 50 entrepreneurs only 8 (16%) entrepreneurs availed scheme and Prime Minister Employment Generation Schemes availed by maximum numbers of entrepreneurs (7 or 14%). 84% entrepreneurs not availed any schemes due to various reasons Prime Minister Employment Generation Scheme performed well to generate entrepreneurial opportunities in the area. The following hypothesis was formulated

H01: There is significant difference in view of entrepreneurial opportunities and socio-economic condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities before and after implementation of the schemes.

Social and economic status of SC and ST improved after implementation of various schemes by government.

Table 4

SI No	Satisfaction Level	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Strongly Agree	3	6
2	Agree	18	36
3	Neutral	5	10
4	Disagree	24	48
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0
6	Total	50	100

Let us take the Chi-Square test to test the hypothesis

Table 5

Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
3	10	-7	49	4.9
18	10	8	64	6.4
5	10	-5	25	2.5
24	10	14	196	19.6
0	10	-10	100	10.0
50	50	0		43.4

(Chi -Square) $X^2=43.4$

Degree of Freedom=5-1=4

Significance level =5% or 0.05

X^2 value for four degree of freedom $v=5-1=4$ is 9.49 at 5% significance level.

The calculated value of X^2 is 43.4 which is more than table value.

Hence the hypothesis formulated for the study that there is significant difference in view of entrepreneurial opportunities and socio-economic condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities before and after implementation of the schemes is rejected and null hypothesis accepted.

Welfare schemes run by government are able to generate entrepreneurial opportunities for SC and ST in the district.

Table 6

SI No	Satisfaction Level	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Strongly Agree	0	0
2	Agree	15	30
3	Neutral	4	8
4	Disagree	31	62
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0
6	Total	50	100

Let us take the Chi-Square test to test the hypothesis

Table 7

Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
0	10	10	100	10.0
15	10	5	25	2.5
4	10	-6	36	3.6
31	10	21	441	44.1
0	10	10	100	10.0
50	50	0	0	70.2

$X^2=70.2$

Degree of Freedom=5-1=4

Significance level =5% or 0.05

X^2 value for four degree of freedom $v=5-1=4$ is 9.49 at 5% significance level. The calculated value of X^2 is 70.2 which are more than table value. Hence the hypothesis formulated for the study that there is significant difference in view of entrepreneurial opportunities and socio-economic condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities before and after implementation of the schemes is rejected and null hypothesis accepted.

Conclusion

Sustainable development of any country like India is possible when all her section of society developed. It is possible when most disadvantages section scheduled castes and scheduled tribes included in the main stream.

Number of welfare schemes and programmes are run by central and state government to improve the socio-economic conditions of these communities and to create entrepreneurial opportunities for these communities. But most of the respondents or entrepreneurs had no or low knowledge of these schemes and programmes. There is strong need to create awareness among these communities about government schemes and programmes so that they can better avail them. Government spent huge amount of fund to develop the infrastructural facilities in Scheduled castes and scheduled tribe’s dense areas. Government is developing transportation, hospital, education, water and electrification facilities in tribal areas. The main problem faced by entrepreneurs in the district was economic; hence there are need to increase earning capacity of these entrepreneurs and they become self- dependent.

Only a few entrepreneurs in the district are aware about the government schemes and programmes; hence there is strong need to create awareness about these schemes and programmes which are big challenge for government due to illiteracy and backwardness prevail among these groups. Most of the respondents who are running enterprises in the district are below matric qualification and have micro level enterprises.

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