

Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Social Welfare Department to Other Backward Class Students in Kashmir Province - An Evaluative Study

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Abstract: The Study was conducted with an objective to evaluate the role of Social Welfare Department for granting the scholarships at Post-Matric level to Other Backward Class students in all Districts of Kashmir Province. The Sample of 300 beneficiaries was drawn, Self-constructed Information Schedule and Questionnaire was used. The results of the study depict that Post-Matric Scholarship scheme to Other Backward Class students during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10) has been utilized by all Districts of the Kashmir Province except Ladakh Division (Leh and Kargil).

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1. Introduction

Kashmir valley has been facing a serious problem in the area of education since time immemorial. In the Muslim majority State of Jammu and Kashmir the incidence of poverty is higher among Muslims and higher number of families below the poverty line is from the Muslim majority Districts. The government of Jammu and Kashmir has been putting in its best efforts to eradicate illiteracy from the grass root level of Kashmir society. In this regard department of social welfare has been contributing a lot by providing all kinds of financial help to the economically backward and down trodden students in Kashmir Province. Thus the social welfare department of the state has been concentrating on the welfare of the so-called backward classes and other weaker sections of the society. In addition to education the department has been imparting training to the members of the scheduled castes/tribes and the economically backward class in weaving, leather technology, wood work, tailoring, knitting and embroidery.

"Welfare centre is the 'Social Temple' for the people where they can any time come for service, help and guidance".

The social welfare schemes are available to all states of the country. In Kashmir such services are meaningfully connected with the down trodden and under privileged people. Programmes have been taken up to handle such groups. The Directorate of social welfare assist the schedule tribes, economically backward and other backward class students by providing various types of scholarships and with respect to the utilizations of Post-matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes for the years (2008-09) and (2009-10) the study interprets as under:-

Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) students:

- These scholarships will be open to India nationals belonging to OBC's as notified by the Central Govt. /State Govt. UT Administration This scheme provides financial assistance to the OBC students studying at post matriculation or post secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. The annual income of the parents or guardian should be Rs. 44, 500/p.a. The income certificate must carry number and should be issued in recent date. Category certificate of concerned students should be from competent authority.

Under this background, the present study is directed to evaluate the role of social welfare Department for granting the scholarships at Post-Matric level to Other Backward Class (OBC) students in all Districts of Kashmir Province.

Statement of Problem

The problem for the present study is formulated as under:

"Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Social Welfare Department to Other Backward Class students in Kashmir province - An Evaluative Study"

Objectives Of The Study

The overall objective of the present study is to evaluate the role of state social welfare Department in implementing the scheme regarding the grant of scholarships to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) at Post-Matric level. Hence the objectives are stated as under:-

1. To know and evaluate mode of distribution and execution of scholarship to the target group.
2. To know and evaluate the proper utilization of this scheme to the target group.

3. To suggest recommendation for better provision and execution of this scheme on the basis of data and evidence.

Sample

The sample of the present study comprised of 300 beneficiaries randomly drawn from various Districts of Kashmir Province considering the two sessions i.e, (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Tool Used

The investigator used the following tools in order to collect the accurate data as; self constructed information schedule and questionnaire.

Statistical Analysis

The statistical technique employed in the analysis of the data was based on the Percentage statistics.

Analysis and Interpretation

In order to achieve the objectives formulated for the present study, the data collected has been tabulated as under.

Table 1: Mode of Distribution and execution of Post-Matric scholarships

Mode of Distribution	Sample	Percentage
Payee's Cheques	284	94.66%
Demand –Drafts	16	5.34%
	300	100.00%

Table 01 shows the Mode of Distribution and execution of Post-Matric Scholarships. The above table reveals the percentage of the mode of distribution of scholarships among the beneficiaries. The data collected indicates that out of the total sample, 94.66% of the beneficiaries have received their scholarships through Payees cheques and 5.34 % of the beneficiaries get through Demand-Drafts.

Table 2: Distribution and execution of Post-Matric scholarships

Distributors	Receivers	Percentage
Main offices of the project	283	94.33%
District social welfare offices	17	5.67%
Total	300	100.00%

The above table shows the Distribution and execution of Post-Matric scholarships. The above table depicts the percentage of the distribution and execution of such scholarships among the beneficiaries. The data reveals that out of the total sample (300), the percentage of the beneficiaries that have received their scholarships in the main offices of the project and in the District social welfare offices of the Kashmir province is 94.33 % and 5.67 % respectively.

Table 3: Utilization of the Post-Matric scholarship schemes by the beneficiaries

Purpose	Clientele	Percentage
Academics	180	60.00%
Vocational and Technical	120	40.00%
	300	100.00%

The above table shows the utilization of Post-Matric scholarship schemes by the beneficiaries. The above table reveals that these schemes have been utilized by the beneficiaries in their Academics, Vocational and Technical courses. The collected data indicates that out of the total sample (300), 60% of the scholarships have been utilized by the beneficiaries in the Academics and 40% of the scholarships have been utilized in the Vocational and Technical courses.

Table 4: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Srinagar	550	523	50,83,000	95.09%
2009-10		1000	973	97,76,000	97.03%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Srinagar, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 550 applications received in District Srinagar in which 523 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 50 lakh and 83 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 95.09%.

The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 1000 applicants in which 973 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 97 lakh and 76 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 97.03%.

Table 5: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Ganderbal	200	175	44,09,900	87.05%
2009-10		150	114	14,44,000	76.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Ganderbal, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), total number of applicants was 200 in District Ganderbal in which 175 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 44 lakh and 09 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 87.05%.

The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 150 applicants in which 114 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 14 lakh and 44 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 76.00%.

Table 6: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Bandipura	10	03	24,000	30.00%
2009-10		50	41	4,89,000	82.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Bandipura, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 10 applications received in District Bandipura in which 03 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship which amounted Rs 24 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 30.00%.

The table also indicates that in the year (2009-10), there were 50 applicants in which 41 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 4 lakh and 89 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 82.00%.

Table 7: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Baramulla	400	371	46,41,000	92.75%
2009-10		410	389	36,40,000	94.87%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Baramulla, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), total number of applicants was 400 in District Baramulla in which 371 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 46 lakh and 41 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 92.75%.

The table also indicates that in the year (2009-10), there were 410 applicants in which 389 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 36 lakh and 40 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 94.87%.

Table 8: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Budgam	200	163	32,49,000	81.05%
2009-10		300	259	25,46,000	86.33%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Budgam, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 200 applications received in District Budgam in which 163 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship which amounted Rs 32 lakh and 49 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 81.05%.

The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), out of 300 applicants in which 259 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District worth Rs 25 lakh and 46 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 86.33%.

Table 9: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Anantnag	300	283	14,69,000	94.33%
2009-10		550	519	33,47,000	94.36%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Anantnag, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 300 applications received in District Anantnag in which 283 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 14 lakh and 69 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 94.33%.

The table also indicates that in the year (2009-10), there were 550 applicants in which 519 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 33 lakh and 47 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 94.36%.

Table 10: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Pulwama	100	66	3,99,000	66.00%
2009-10		300	289	17,16,000	96.33%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Pulwama, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), total number of applicants was 100 in District Pulwama in which 66 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 03 lakh and 99 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 66.00%.

The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 300 applicants in which 289 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 17 lakh and 16 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 96.00%.

Table 11: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Kulgam	40	28	3,06,000	70.00%
2009-10		50	31	87,000	62.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Kulgam, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), there were 40 applications received in District Kulgam in which 28 beneficiaries have

received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 03 lakh and 6 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 70.00%.

The table also reveals that in the year (2009-10), there were 50 applicants in which 31 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 87 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 62.00%.

Table 12: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Kupwara	25	19	1,03,000	76.00%
2009-10		35	21	1,23,000	60.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Kupwara, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), there were 25 applications received in District Kupwara in which 19 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 1 lakh and 3 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 76.00%.

The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 35 applicants in which 21 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 1 Lakh and 23 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 60.00%.

Table 13: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	Percentage
2008-09	Shopian	70	59	7,64,000	84.28%
2009-10		110	101	3,78,000	91.81%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the OBC students in District Shopian, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 70 applications received in District Shopian in which 59 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 7 lakh and 64 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 84.28%.

The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 110 applicants in which 101 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 3 Lakh and 78 thousand. Hence, the percentage of beneficiaries is 91.81%.

With regards to **Ladakh** division (**Leh** and **Kargil**), the Post-Matric scholarship scheme to Other Backward Classes (OBC's) has not been utilized during the years (2008-09 and 2009-10.)

Conclusions

On the basis of analysis, interpretation and discussion certain meaningful conclusions have been drawn which are given below:

1. It has been found that the scholarships are being distributed among the beneficiaries through payee's cheques and demand-drafts.
2. The beneficiaries have received their scholarships in the main offices of the project and District social welfare offices too.
3. The beneficiaries have utilized these scholarships for different purposes like for Academics, vocational and also for the attainment of technical courses or trainings.
4. The Post-Matric scholarship scheme to **other backward classes (OBC's)** during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10) has been utilized by all Districts of the Kashmir province except Ladakh Division (Leh and Kargil).

In general the facilities with regards to free-tuition, scholarships, reading writing materials, and hostel facilities etc. have been found accommodative with the above enlisted scheme. But shall be extended towards the benefit of the receivers. Simultaneously the various parents of such children have positive attitude towards the government policies for providing such scholarships and also recommended for the increase in the present amount of such scholarships and also in the policies of protective discrimination for their wards.

Suggestions

The following suggestions were recommended by the investigator:

1. The Social welfare Department may go for wider publicity while offering the various types of scholarships, in the state.
2. The Department should take up the evaluation of scheme at regular intervals that shall be focused towards the proper utilization, distribution and execution of the said scheme.
3. It is suggested that the Social welfare Department may take the corrective measures for the implementation of the scheme as is envisaged in the study and to improve the operational machinery to bring strength in the implementation.
4. The same study can be taken with the population of larger sample, and can be conducted throughout the state.

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