

Socio-Economic Development among Scheduled Caste: A Study of Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation in Select District of Maharashtra

B. R. Suryawanshi and Nishikant C. Dhande

Abstract—The ancient Indian social systems divides the society into four broad classes. The same system was followed till India was invaded by the Britishers driving the British India. After India won freedom, the new constitution has offered equal opportunity for all. As a result of which the country witnessed some progress among the weaker section of the society. To boost the pace of development various efforts have been made by the governments in the country. After the western impact and the capitalist mode of production introduced in the country opened new areas of accommodation, adjustment and opportunities to the backward class in India.

The M.P. Backward Class Development Corporation is one of such organizations aimed at the development of the socially backward class people in India. An evaluative research is made herein to assess the performance of the same in the light of the expectations of the beneficiaries as well as the Govt.

Index Terms—Backward Class, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Socio Economic Development, Finance Corporations.

I. INTRODUCTION

The social strata which is known as the backward class represents the down trodden classes of the society. BC has its origin in the ancient Indian social system. The ancient Indian social systems divides the society into four broad classes namely the *Brahmin*, the *Kshatriya* (warrior class) the *Vaishya* and the *Shudra* (serving class) in addition to this fifth class known as *Atishudras*, who were untouchable existed in ancient India [1]. This system is described a divine origin (vide Rigveda X.90,12 also Geeta.4) This system though it says that the classification is according the inherent aptitudes and activities adopted (*Guna* and *Karma*) but in practice the classification of the caste based upon birth thus in Indian society where the unwritten law still prevails the occupation of person is decided not by his skill and ability but by his birth the fourth class known as the servant class carried on occupations like black smith, gold smith, leather workers, merchant, physician, barber etc. [2]. The same system was followed till India was invaded by the Britishers driving the British India. The system received the first threatening as it has been rightly observed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad [3]. The ardent of British India concept of rule of law. Their empirical

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interest and the work of Christianity missionaries brought into contract with a new world of ideas and thoughts. The constitutional responsibility of Government of Maharashtra established various corporations for the backward class development. Such as Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation, Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe Development Corporation, Vasant Naik Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation, Leather Industries Development Corporation, etc.

These corporations are playing very dominant role for the development of backward classes by providing finance and creating self-employment opportunities for the backward classes.

The Indian economy was characterised by high degree of poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and social inequalities. To solve these problems five-year plans have been adopted from 1951 onwards.

The major objective of planning in India was acceleration of economic development with justice, for this process the State has been assigned a crucial role. Initially public sector was expected to control the commanding heights of the economy. Public sector would not only take into account economic goals like profit maximisation but also consider social aspects like providing access to deprived sections to participate in the development process and thereby provide justice. In case of socially and economically deprived section like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a variety of special development programmes have been launched in addition to general development programmes.

The western impact and the capitalist mode of production introduced in the country opened new areas of accommodation, adjustment and opportunities. Under the National scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependants (NSLRS) co-operatives of scavengers called sanitary marts have started functioning in various states in India. Sanitary marts enable the scavengers to take up alternate jobs and thus help in integrating them into the main stream of the society.

II. BACKWARD CLASS IN INDIA: A REVIEW

Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation Ltd. was set up by the Government of Maharashtra on 10th July 1978 to act as catalyst for the economic development of Scheduled Caste, Nav Buddha, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribe communities [4]. The corporation is incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. In the year 1984 the segment of VJNT community has taken away the part and work of their

economic development was entrusted to Vasant Naik Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

The segment of Scheduled Caste community namely Matang, Madgi and Mang was transferred to Lokshahir Annabhau Sathé Development Corporation Ltd. which was established in the year 1985-86. Since then the corporation is exclusively working for the development of scheduled Caste and Nav Buddha communities. At present authorized share capital of the corporation is Rs.100 crores and the paid up share capital is Rs.61.33 crores. The share capital is met from the contribution of State and Central Government in the ratio of 51:49.

The corporation has three-tier administrative machinery for the implementation of socio-economic upliftment programme for the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in Maharashtra. The Chairman of the corporation is the supreme authority and the Managing Director, who is the head of the corporation at the State level.

According to the Company Act 1956 provisions, the corporation has applied fifteen (15) Directors, including Chairman of the corporation. Corporation head office is located at Juhu Andhreri (West) Mumbai. The corporation has six regional level managers along with other ranks and six regional officers headed by regional managers assisted by other ranks at the district levels. District Manager is the head of the office in all the 35 districts of Maharashtra and he is assisted by adequate subordinate staff members. In view of reaching to beneficiaries residing in remote areas, the corporation has established offices in the office of BDO at the block level at the rate of one block in each district developing the fourth-tier administration.

The corporation has established vocational training centre at Jambhul in Thane district to provide training in various trades, exclusively to the liberated scavengers and their wards.

The corporation has established survey, monitoring, recovery and evaluation cell at Aurangabad. The cell is having six recovery officers at six regional head quarters. Three district managers along with five subordinate staff members are stationed at Aurangabad for the survey and monitoring work.

Considering the needs of the Scheduled Caste to rehabilitate them and to provide alternative job opportunities and training programmes like repairing, steel binding, automobile mechanic, motor driving, tailoring, etc. This training project is being implemented by Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation Ltd. Special central assistance is received from the Government of India under Special Component Plan.

During the plan period, corporation has selected 80 blocks one from each district. The selection of the block has been made on the concentration of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes population in descending order. The project of the plan is to cover all the families who come under poverty line and income generating assets in the block for them [5].

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study makes an effort to determine how far

Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation has successfully worked in achieving the formulated objects and for that matter to perceive the subject from all possible angles that are perceptible with the tools of statistics, logics and reason. Thus the objectives are - study the socio-economic background of backward class beneficiaries, examine the performance of backward class beneficiaries, Study the views and aspirations of backward class beneficiaries regarding the backward class development by Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation Ltd, and examine the problems and difficulties faced by the backward class beneficiaries.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present researcher thinks it necessary to explain the economic development of the backward class defined by the Government of Maharashtra and according to Indian Constitution. The present research work is based on the evaluation and assessment of the primary and secondary data, collected from the beneficiaries of MPBC development Corporation through questionnaire from Nanded district. The data about economic development of the backward class people was collected by the researcher himself with the help of questionnaire [6].

V. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA

While preparing the questionnaire an attempt was made to have as many structured questions as possible. While filling the questionnaire the interviews were largely conducted at the residence of the beneficiaries and thereby questionnaire was filled. At the time of interviews with beneficiaries and while filling the questionnaire researcher attempted to explain the purpose and importance of the study to the beneficiaries, National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation, Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation Ltd. Statistical Abstracts of Maharashtra Govt, Other Government of Indian and Government of Maharashtra publications and journals, books, etc, National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation, Reports of National Scheduled Caste Commission, New Delhi [7].

VI. OBSERVATIONS

TABLE I: AGE OF THE BENEFICIARIES [8]

Age (In Years)	Frequency	Percentage
Upto 20	10	10
20 – 30	15	15
30 – 40	48	48
40 – 50	24	24
50 – 60	03	03
Average Age = 35 Years		
Total	100	100

In this chapter an attempt is made to present a profile of the backward class beneficiaries. The parameters like age,

education, occupation, marital Status, Caste of the beneficiaries, other earning hands, monthly savings, income tax, monthly saving, activities selected by the beneficiaries, infrastructure provided, channels used to approach the MPBCDC, schemes selected, are taken into consideration in presenting the profile of the beneficiaries.

Table explains the age of the beneficiaries (about the average age of the sample is 35 year's). 48% of the beneficiaries are from the age group of 30 to 40 years, and 24% belongs to the age group of 40 to 50 years. There are hardly 15% and 10% of the beneficiaries in the age group of 20 to 30 and upto 20 years respectively. Whereas just 3% belongs to the age group of 50 to 60 years. The average age of the sample comes to 35 years.

TABLE II: EDUCATION OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	40	40
Primary	08	08
Matriculate	10	10
Higher Secondary	20	20
Graduate	15	15
Post-Graduate	07	07
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

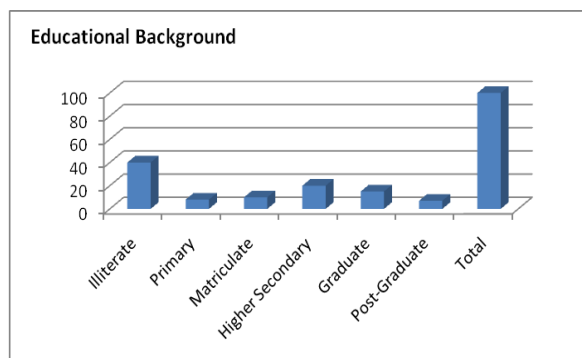


Fig. 1. Educational Background

Table gives the details about educational qualification of the beneficiaries. 40% of the total sample is illiterate. 20% beneficiaries belong to the higher secondary qualification and 15% of the beneficiaries are graduates, there are 10% and 8% of the beneficiaries in the education group of matriculate and primary level respectively. Whereas 7% in the sample of the beneficiaries belong to the education group of the Post-Graduate level.

TABLE III: OCCUPATION OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Professional	03	03
Traders	15	15
Farmers	07	07
Agricultural Labour	18	18
Non-agricultural Labour	27	27
Unemployed	30	30
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

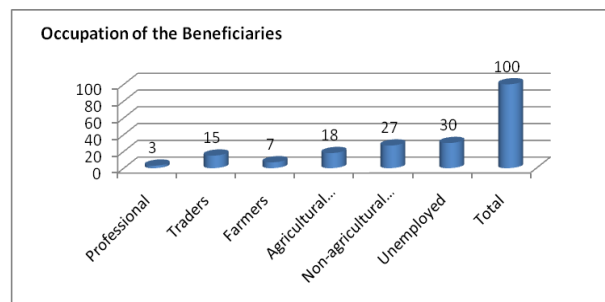


Fig. 2. Occupation of Beneficiaries

Table reveals the details of the occupation of the backward class beneficiaries. 30% beneficiaries of backward class are unemployed. 27% of the beneficiaries belong to the non-agricultural labour. 18% and 15% of the beneficiaries falls in the occupation group of agricultural labour and traders respectively. Whereas 7% and 3% in the sample of beneficiaries belong to the occupation group of farmers and professionals.

TABLE IV: MARITAL STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	84	84
Unmarried	16	16
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

It can be observed from the above table that 84% backward class beneficiaries are married. Only 16% beneficiaries of the backward class are unmarried. It can also be said that after getting married the backward class beneficiaries opted the business activities but not before marriage.

TABLE V: CASTE OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Name of the Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Mahar / Nav Buddha	60	60
Burud	06	06
Bhangi	10	10
Mehatar Bhangi	05	05
Walmik Bhangi	08	08
Chambhar	11	11
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

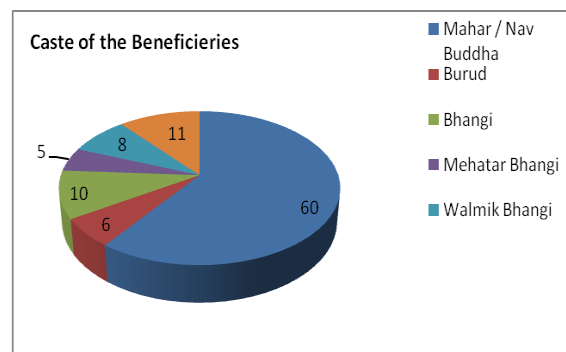


Fig. 3. Caste of the beneficiaries

It can be observed from the above table that out of the total sample of the backward class beneficiaries only 60% belongs to Mahar/Buddha Scheduled Caste. 11% beneficiaries from Chambhar Scheduled Caste. 10% beneficiaries belong to Bhangi caste. 8% and 6% of the beneficiaries are in the caste

of Walmik Bhangi and Burud Scheduled Caste respectively. Whereas 5% in the sample of beneficiaries belong to the Mehatar Bhangi Scheduled Caste.

TABLE IV: OTHER EARNING HANDS OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Other Earning Hands	Frequency	Percentage
Wife	16	16
Father	10	10
Mother	06	06
Son	15	15
Daughter	02	02
No other earning hands	51	51
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

Table indicates the details of other earning hands of the beneficiaries. Accordingly 51% belong to the backward class beneficiaries do not have any other earning hands. 16% beneficiaries have wife's as there other earning hands while 15%, 10%, 6% and 2% beneficiaries have son's, father's, mother's and daughter's as other earning hands.

TABLE VII: MONTHLY SAVING OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Monthly Savings	Frequency	Percentage
No Saving	42	42
Below 200	20	20
200 – 400	14	14
400 – 600	09	09
600 – 800	07	07
800 – 1,000	04	04
1,000 and above	04	04
Total	100	100

Average Monthly Saving Rs.236/-

Source: Field Survey.

Table exhibits the details of the monthly saving policy of the backwards class beneficiaries is Rs.236/- but 42% beneficiaries do not have monthly saving. 20% of the beneficiaries belong to the monthly saving group of below Rs.200/- and 23% beneficiaries belong to the monthly saving group in between Rs.200 to 600/-. 7% and 4% belong to monthly saving group of Rs.600/- to Rs.800/- to Rs.1000/- respectively. Whereas just 4% beneficiaries belong to monthly saving group of Rs.1000/- and above. The average monthly saving of the beneficiaries comes to Rs.236/-.

TABLE VIII: REMARKS ABOUT PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX BY BENEFICIARIES

Sr	Remarks about Income Tax	Frequency	Percentage
1.	YES	04	04
2.	NO	96	96
	Total	100	100

It can be observed from the above table that out of the total sample of the backward class beneficiaries 96% beneficiaries are not income tax payers. Whereas only 4% beneficiaries were income tax payers. Therefore it can be said that 96% are non tax payers among the backward class beneficiaries.

TABLE IX: ACTIVITIES SELECTED BY BENEFICIARIES

Sr.	Activity	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Farming	03	03
2.	Trading	49	49
3.	Manufacturing	16	16
4.	Service	28	28
5.	Others	04	04
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

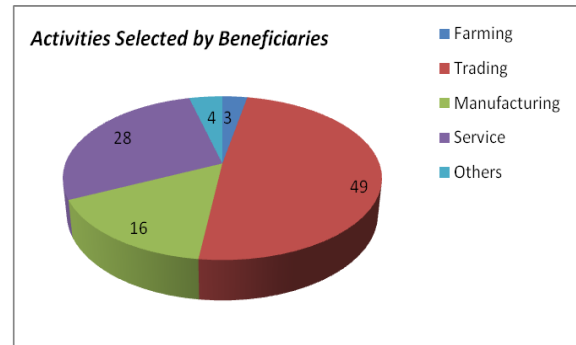


Fig. 4. Activities Selected

Table highlights all the details of activities selected by beneficiaries. Out of the total sample of 100. 49% beneficiaries have selected trading activities, whereas 16% of the beneficiaries have selected manufacturing activities and 28% beneficiaries have selected service activities from the backward corporation. 4% and 3% beneficiaries have selected other activities and farming activities. Thus it can be said that the majority of people from backward class beneficiaries have selected trading activities.

TABLE X: INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDED BY CORPORATION TO BENEFICIARIES

Sr.	Infrastructure	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Shed	19	19
2.	Building Construction	--	--
3.	Land	--	--
4.	Machinery	15	15
5.	Service	21	21
6.	Not Provided	45	45
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

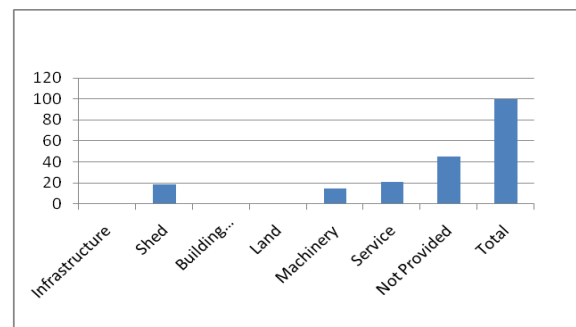


Fig. 5. Infrastructure

The above table shows the infrastructure provided by the corporation. Out of the total sample of the beneficiaries 45% beneficiaries are in favour of Infrastructure is not provided by the corporation. 21% beneficiaries are in favour of service is provided by the corporation for the beneficiaries. Whereas 19% beneficiaries are in favour of the shed is provided to the beneficiaries for their business units and 15% beneficiaries are in favour of infrastructure of machinery given by the corporation.

TABLE XI: CHANNEL USED BY BENEFICIARIES

Sr.No	Channel	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Personally	65	65
2.	Middleman	08	08
3.	Relatives	12	12
4.	Friends	03	03
5.	Newspapers	02	02
6.	Persuasion Programme by Corporation	10	10
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

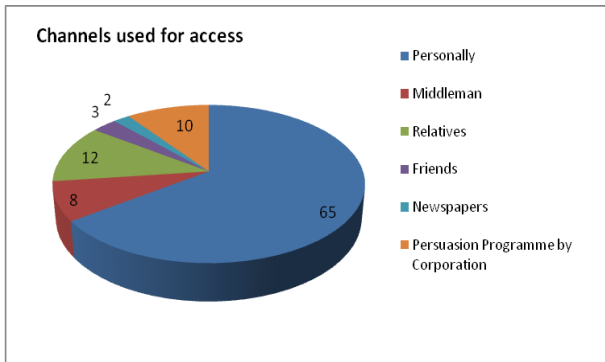


Fig. 6. Channels used for access

It can be seen from the above table that 65% of the beneficiaries have personally approached to the corporation. Whereas 12% have approached through relatives. 10% beneficiaries have used the source of persuasion programme by the corporation. 8% beneficiaries approached through middleman. 3% and 2% beneficiaries approached to the development corporation through, their friends and newspapers respectively.

Thus it can be said that majority of the backward class beneficiaries have approached in person to the corporation.

TABLE XII: SCHEME SELECTED BY BENEFICIARIES

Sr.No	Name of the Schemes	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Loan subsidy scheme	51	51
2.	Margin money scheme	14	14
3.	National scavengers scheme	10	10
4.	Training scheme	09	09
5.	N.S.F.D.C. schemes	16	16
6.	Others	--	--
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey.

The data presented in table shows the schemes selected by beneficiaries. Out of the total sample of 100, 51% beneficiaries have selected loan subsidy schemes of the concerned corporation. Whereas 16% beneficiaries have

selected national Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation Schemes and 14% beneficiaries have selected margin money scheme.

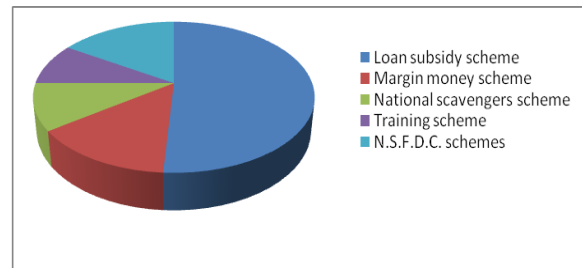


Fig. 7. Scheme Selected by Beneficiaries

VII. CONCLUSION

In an attempt to evaluate the performance of the MPBCDC in Maharashtra, it is found that, the performance is not up to the mark of the success. The majority of the beneficiaries are among the age group of 30 to 40, whereas according to the suitable age of development point of view, the ideal age group should have been 20 to 30. This highlights the scope for the publicity of the scheme among the backward class people in Maharashtra. If the scheme is opted by the beneficiaries at the proper age, the results would go better towards the upliftment of the economical status of the people. The average age is found to be 35 which is late start. It should have been 25.

On the criteria of the educational qualifications, there is peculiar observation as 40% among them are illiterate and as only 15% are graduates, it means that the illiterates are more aware than the Graduates. Hence, the scheme should be made popular among the graduates too.

The scheme opted in handsome number by the unemployed and the Non agriculture labours. In a sense, the scheme has benefitted the weaker section of the society who are deprived from the financial support otherwise. It can be stated that the implementation is in right direction, though not up to the mark.

From the caste point of view of the benefits, Mahar and the Nav Buddhas are in majority (60%) among the all. The status of the Mahetar Bhangi and the Walmik Bhangi is comparatively low. This needs to be looked in to seriously and new promotional ways are to be found out to cover the weaker section under the same umbrella of benefits.

In response to the criteria of saving as a measure of economical status indicator and indicator of financial awareness, the data reveals that the performance is very poor as 42% of the people do not earn enough so that they can do some saving. Similarly, only 4% of the beneficiaries are able to save an amount in four digits.

Among the all beneficiaries the trend indicates that ‘Trading ‘ is chosen by many, next to service followed by Manufacturing. The scenario will be better if the Manufacturing would take a front seat to create more employment among the society through the MPBCDC schemes.

On the grounds of the provision of the infrastructure to the beneficiaries by the MPBCDC, it is found that, MPBCDC is not providing any infrastructure to majority of the people.

To the brighter side of the performance, it is found that the

people have preferred to approach the Corporation personally to get the benefits of the schemes. The support of the channel like news paper has gathered very feeble response.

The subsidy on the loan and the Margin Money schemes are found to be more popular among the beneficiaries, whereas, the Training schemes are not taking roots yet. Accordingly 51% belong to the backward class beneficiaries do not have any other earning hands. Average monthly saving is Rs. 236/-. Only 4 among the samples are income tax payers meaning there by 96% samples are non-income tax payers. Out of the total sample of 100. 49% beneficiaries have selected trading activities. Most of the total sample of the beneficiaries 45% beneficiaries are in favour of Infrastructure is not provided by the corporation. 21% beneficiaries are in favour of service is provided by the corporation for the beneficiaries.

In overall the schemes are definitely benefitting the underprivileged and the weaker section of the society in Maharashtra, yet there is scope to improve the performance of the schemes by making creative and innovative modifications in the scheme so that schemes would be more popular to reach to major class of the people with a rapid pace.

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