



AWARENESS LEVELS OF SCHEDULED CASTES ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES IN ANANTAPURAMU DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH: A STUDY

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Abstract

In the context of changed socio-economic, educational and political scenario, there is awareness about various Governments' developmental schemes and programmes are reaching as the people living even in the nook and corners of the society are benefited. Besides, the mass media such as radios, TVs, electronic and print media, newspapers and other Government, machinery have also been actively playing their role in bringing awareness among the SC respondents and benefits associated with the Government Schemes. These schemes/programmes include both from the Central and State government schemes. In this background, the present study highlights level of awareness on various developmental initiatives for social changes of Scheduled Castes in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Introduction

India is a caste-ridden society wherein the caste restricts or permits individuals to mix with other communities and socialize their customs, traditions, values and share their socio-economic development. It is a fact that in Indian caste system has been based on the factor of discrimination for centuries especially in case of socially weaker sections. In order to understand and gauge the attitude of select SC respondents on the given statements, an attempt is made in this chapter to know whether they are still caste-oriented or have an open mind of meeting, and participating actively with the people of other castes in all social activities in their villages. For the last four decades there has been a sea – change in all spheres of socio-economic conditions, orientations and the outlook of SC communities and other communities as well.

Systematic and scientific analysis of the social background of the respondents is a prerequisite to any meaningful understanding of the nature, structure and level of development of any community in general and Scheduled Castes (SCs) in particular. The social conditions and the level of social exposure and enlightenment of any community are the essential parameters to an orderly analysis of social change, transformation and mobility. The social mobility of any individual is mostly dependent upon the social circumstances in which the individual is born and brought up. Socio-economic conditions not only decide the ascription status, style of life, the process of positive and proactive thinking, development orientation and high expectations and aspirations in life but also the capacity to achieve and lead a better life on par with other communities. In ascription oriented society like India, the social existence and efforts for a happy life of people becomes all the more important and significant in nature and the process of their development.

Objectives of the present paper

1. To study the various development initiatives for development of Scheduled Castes in India
2. To analyse the level of awareness on various initiatives among the selected SC respondents in Anantapuramu district



Methodology

The present study is focusing on both primary and secondary data for fulfilment of the present paper objectives. The primary data was collected from the selected Scheduled Castes respondents in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. The sample size is 300. These samples were selected from Anantapuramu district, the district was classified in to five revenue division. For the purpose of study, three revenue divisions were selected, and each revenue division 100 sample respondents were selected.

The secondary data were also collected from various sources.

Based on the analysis, interpretation and presentation of present study some tools were used in the study like percentages, averages, weighted averages, graphical presentation were also made through bar charts, and pie charts.

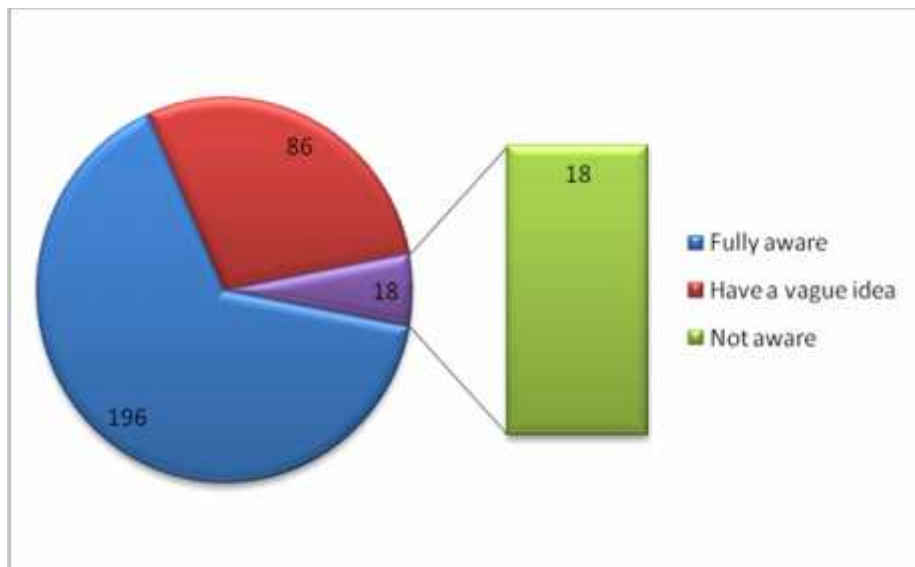
Data analysis and interpretation

Education is a one of the powerful tool for eradication of poverty, increasing living standards, empowered as socially in society. According to this background, people can be educated through various facilities like providing hostels, scholarships, cloths, books, and etc.

Table -1, Level of Awareness about welfare hostels for SCs

S. No	Level of aware	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total	Weighted average
1	Fully aware	196	65.33	0.65
2	Have a vague idea	86	28.67	
3	Not aware	18	06.00	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Field survey



The researcher has focused on awareness levels of selected sample SC respondents regarding welfare hostels for SCs in the study area. Based on this context, primary data was collected, analysed and presented. The present table reveals that the awareness levels of SCs on providing hostels especially for Scheduled Castes. It can be found that, 65.33 per cent of the respondents reported that they have fully

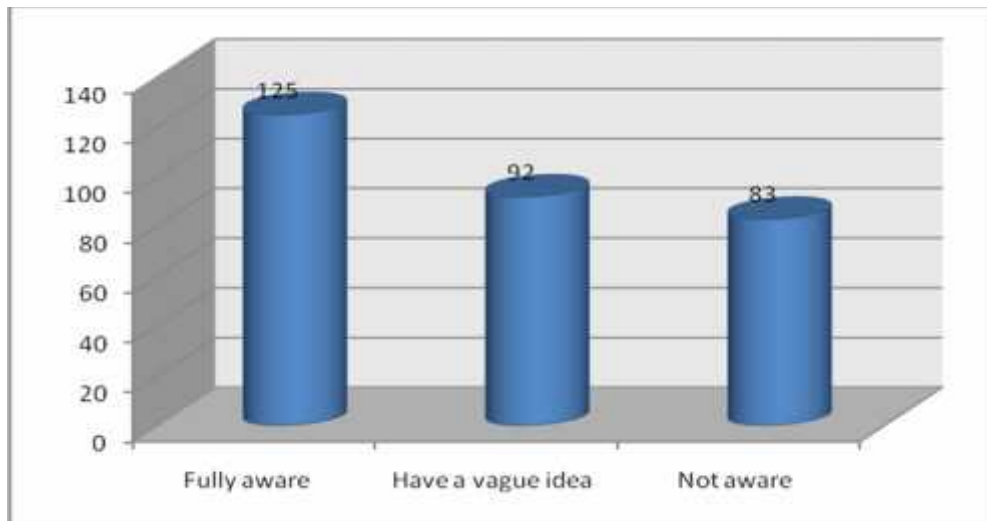


aware, 28.67 per cent of the respondents have stated that they have a vague idea and rest of them no aware and it reported only 6 per cent on the welfare programme like welfare hostels for Scheduled Caste in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Table-2, Awareness about reservations in education Institutions/Employment/Promotional matters

S. No	Level of aware	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total	Weighted average
1	Fully aware	125	41.67	0.41
2	Have a vague idea	92	30.67	
3	Not aware	83	27.66	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Field survey

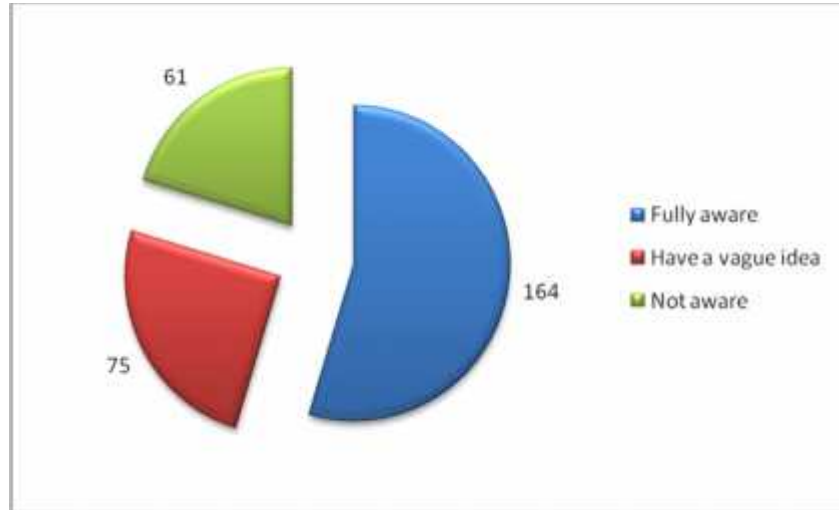


Reservation was provided by the constitution for upliftment of weaker section in developing countries like India. Especially some of the communities have been facing number of problems in working places and society. Based on this, the government have been providing implementing various reservation policies in educational institutions, employment and also promotional activities. According this background, the researcher collected opinion from the sample respondents about the reservation policies in the study area. It is found that, 41.67 per cent out of 300 respondents, have fully aware, 30.67 per cent have a vague idea and rest of them not aware about the reservation.

Table -3, Awareness about scholarship for development of SCs

S. No	Level of aware	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total	Weighted average
1	Fully aware	164	54.67	0.54
2	Have a vague idea	75	25.00	
3	Not aware	61	20.33	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Field survey



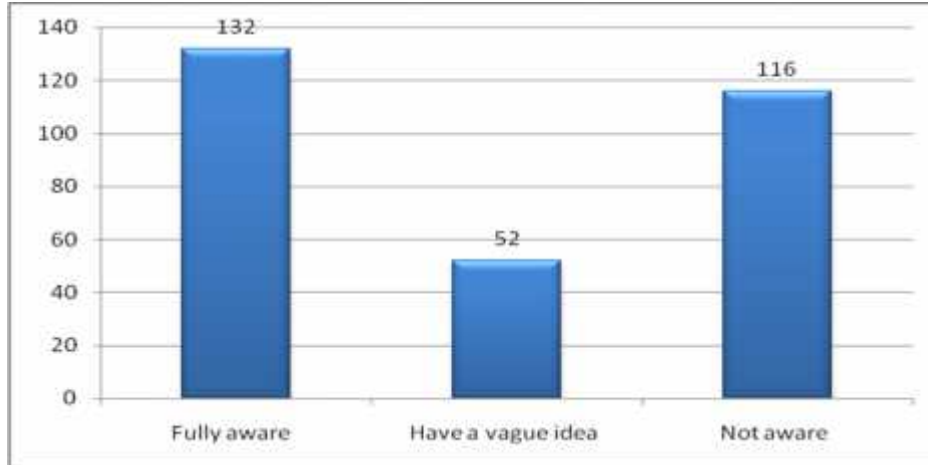
Scholarship have been sanctioned to the every educating students by the state government. But present government has not sanctioned scholarship for rural students but only sanctioned a lumpsum amount to the every students like Jagananna Vasati Devena etc. The present table demonstrated that level of awareness on scholarship for SC students. It is stated that 54.67 per cent of the respondents have stated that they have fully aware about scholarship sanctioned for SCs, and 25 per cent of them have a vague idea and rest of them not aware about scholarship.

Real democracy can be possible only when the proper of administration is decentralized and distributed among all sections of people in the society. Awareness about the constitutional privileges provided, being participated and availed by the people belonging to lower sections of the society. The three tier system of panchayat Raj is an attempt in this direction aiming to reserve 15 per cent of seats starting from ward member at village gram panchayat level to Member of Parliament of national level. The government has been enough and accordingly the reservations of seats are provided as per the constitutional provisions.

Table-4, Awareness about Reservation in Panchayat Raj, State Assembly and Parliament

S. No	Level of aware	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total	Weighted average
1	Fully aware	132	54.00	0.44
2	Have a vague idea	52	17.33	
3	Not aware	116	38.67	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Field survey



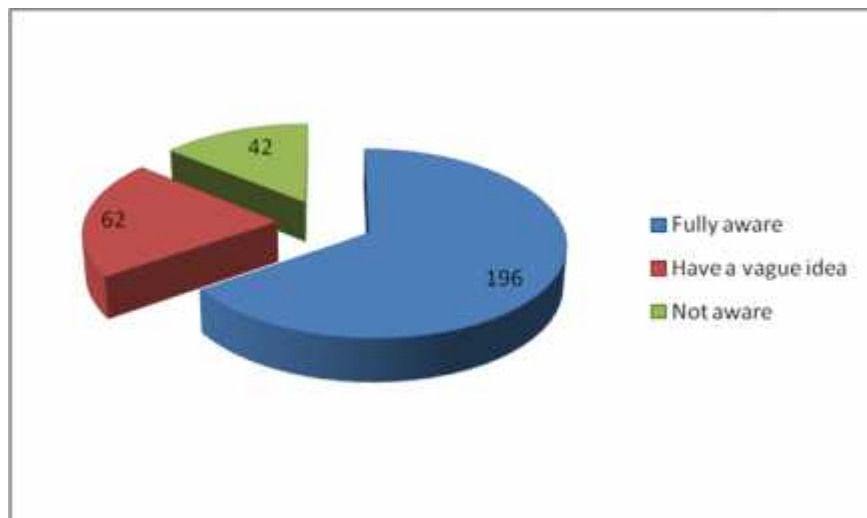
It is observed from the above table that the awareness about various reservations in panchayat levels, state levels and nation levels by which are facing untouchability in the society. The researcher has put statement and collected awareness levels from the sample respondents in Anantapuramu district. It is found from the above table 54 per cent of the sample respondents have well aware about the reservation at various political positions, 17.33 per cent have a vague idea and rest of them, not aware and it indicates nearly 40 per cent.

It clearly indicates that, selected sample respondents do not have much knowledge and political phenomena due to low education, low awareness, drought and soon.

Table-5, Awareness about SC Corporation loans by the government

S. No	Level of aware	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total	Weighted average
1	Fully aware	196	65.33	0.65
2	Have a vague idea	62	20.67	
3	Not aware	42	14.00	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Field survey





The constitution was implementing various developmental schemes were taken by the central and state government for empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is primary responsibility for every government for empowering all weaker section of the society. Based on this various corporations were established, and rendering their services to the needy people. According to this importance of SC Corporation, the researcher put a question to the respondents regarding SC Corporation and their services in Anantapuramu district. It is found that 65.33 per cent of the respondents have fully aware, 20.67 per cent have a vague idea and 14 per cent of them not aware.

Table-6, Awareness about loans and advances from the financial institutions

S. No	Level of aware	No. of Respondents	Percentage to total	Weighted average
1	Fully aware	215	71.67	0.71
2	Have a vague idea	62	20.67	
3	Not aware	23	07.66	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Field survey

Loans and advances were played a predominant role in case of increasing economic status, fulfil needs and wants, agricultural purposes, industrial purposes etc. The above table portrayat that the financial institutions have been providing various loans and advances to the weaker section for the purpose of agriculture, petty shops, brink industry, agricultural inputs, etc. Based on this backdrop, 71.67 per cent of the respondents have stated their opinion was fully aware, 20.67 per cent of the SC respondents have stated have a vague idea, and rest of the percentage have not aware and it represents 7.66 per cent respectively.

Conclusions

The present paper have been concluded and analyse the social conditions and level of awareness about various select social and developmental orientations of select Sc respondents in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. It can be found that all the sample respondents have well aware about government both central and state implementing various developmental initiatives in Anantapuramu district. But based on the conclusions, selected sample respondents have well aware but not reaching all developmental initiatives to the Scheduled Castes in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

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