

# **Educational Schemes for Girls, SC, ST and Marginalized Group**

Article 46 of the Constitution states that, "*The State shall promote, with special care, the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of social exploitation*". Articles 330, 332, 335, 338 to 342 and the entire Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution deal with special provisions for implementation of the objectives set forth in Article 46. These provisions need to be fully utilized for the benefit of these weaker sections in our society. The following are the some Government schemes and programmes for the educational benefit of Girls, SC, ST and Marginalized Group:

## **District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)**

The thrust of the scheme is on disadvantaged groups. There are specific strategies for girls and SCs/STs; however, physical targets are fixed, in an integrated manner including coverage of these groups as well. According to a study by NUEPA, schools in DPEP districts had more than 60 per cent students belonging to SC/ST communities.

## **Mahila Samakhya (MS)**

MS addresses traditional gender imbalances in educational access and achievement. This involves enabling women (especially from socially and economically disadvantaged and marginalized groups) to address and deal with problems of isolation and lack of self-confidence, oppressive social customs and struggle for survival, all of which inhibit their empowerment.

## **National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)**

The NPEGEL under the existing scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides additional components for education of girls under privileged/disadvantaged at the elementary level. The Scheme is being implemented in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where the level of rural female literacy is less than the national average and the gender gap is above the national average, as well as in blocks of districts that have at least 5 per cent SC/ST population and where SC/ST female literacy is below 10 per cent based on 1991 census.



## **Shiksha Karmi Project (SKP)**

SKP aims at universalisation and qualitative improvement of primary education in remote, arid and socio-economically backward villages with primary attention to girls. It is noteworthy that in Shiksha Karmi Schools, most of the students are from SCs, STs and OBCs.

## **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas**

Under the scheme residential schools are being set up in difficult areas with boarding facilities at elementary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities. The scheme would be applicable only in those identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where, as per census data 2001, the rural female literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is more than the national average. Among these blocks, schools may be set up in areas with concentration of tribal population, with low female literacy and/or a large number of girls out of school.

## **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)**

The Scheme of JSS or Institute of People's Education is a multifaceted adult education programme aimed at improving the vocational skill and quality of life of the beneficiaries. The objective of the scheme is education, vocational and occupational development of the socio-economically backward and educationally disadvantaged groups of urban/rural population particularly neo-literates, semi-illiterates, SCs, STs, women and girls, slum dwellers, migrant workers, etc. Literacy campaigns have had an enormous impact on other social sectors. The campaigns have served the cause of promoting equity and social justice in society and fostering of a scientific temper and a sense of belonging to India's great composite culture and consciousness of unity in diversity.

## **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

The Mid-Day Meal scheme is a successful incentive programme. It covers all students of primary classes in all government, local body and government aided schools in the country with the aim to improve enrolment, attendance and retention while simultaneously impacting on the nutritional status of the children.

## **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)**

CIIL, Mysore has a scheme of development of Indian Languages through research, developing manpower and production of materials in modern Indian Languages including tribal languages. The Institute has worked in more than 90 tribal and border languages.

## **Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)**

15 per cent and 7.5 per cent seats are reserved in KVs for SCs and STs respectively in fresh admissions. No tuition fee is charged from scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students up to class XII.



### **Navodaya Vidyalaya (NVs)**

Reservation of seats in favour of children belonging to SCs and STs is provided in proportion to their population in the concerned district provided that no such reservation will be less than the national average of 22.5 per cent (15 per cent for SCs and 7.50 per cent for STs) and a maximum of 50 per cent for both the categories (SCs & STs) taken together. These reservations are interchangeable and over and above the students selected under open merit.

### **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)**

The SC/ST students are given concession in admission fees to the extent of Rs. 450 for Secondary Courses and Rs. 525 for Senior Secondary Courses. Under the Scheme of strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girls. Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools 100 per cent financial assistance is given to Voluntary Organisations to improve enrolment of adolescent girls belonging to rural areas and weaker sections. Preference is given to educationally backward districts particularly those predominately inhabited by SCs/STs and educationally backward minorities.

### **National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**

NCERT focuses on the development of textbooks, teacher guides, supplementary reading materials, evaluation of textbooks, vocational education, educational technology, examination reforms, support to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), and education of educationally disadvantaged groups. NCERT operates the National Talent Search Scheme for pursuing courses in science and social science up to doctoral level and in professional courses like medicine and engineering up to second-degree level subject to fulfillment of the conditions. Out of 1000 scholarships, 150 scholarships are reserved for SC students and 75 scholarships for ST students.

### **National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)**

Educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is an area of major concern of NUEPA. It carries out a number of studies relating to educational programmes and schemes for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It has also been generating material relating to educational institutions and development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

### **University Grants Commission (UGC)**

UGC provides financial assistance to universities/deemed universities for the establishment of SC/ST cells in Universities to ensure effective implementation of reservation policy for SCs and STs. The UGC has established SC/ST Cells in 113 Universities including Central Universities to ensure proper implementation of the reservation policy. The Standing Committee on SCs/STs monitors and reviews the work undertaken by the universities/colleges.

As per the reservation policy, UGC has earmarked 15 per cent and 7.50 per cent reservation for SCs and STs respectively in appointments, both in



teaching and non-teaching posts, admissions, hostel accommodation, etc., in universities/ colleges, professional and technical educational institutions administered by the Central Government. State universities follow reservation policy as prescribed by respective state governments. Apart from reservation, there is also relaxation in the minimum qualifying marks for admission for SC/ST candidates. UGC has been implementing the programme of Career Orientation to education (vocationalisation of education) to ensure that the graduates have knowledge, skills and attitudes for gainful employment in the wage sector in general, and self-employment in particular for all including SCs/STs.

It also provides financial assistance for Remedial Coaching to SC/ST students. It provides financial assistance to the existing coaching centres to prepare SC/ST candidates for the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by UGC/CSIR. The Commission provides financial assistance for extension activities. Under the scheme, all groups of the society are covered including SCs/STs.

In order to contribute towards social equity and socio-economic mobility of the under privileged sections of the society, UGC has introduced remedial coaching scheme at UG/PG level. The main objectives of the scheme are:

1. To improve the academic skills and linguistic proficiency of the students in various subjects.
2. To raise the level of comprehension of basic subjects so as to provide a strong foundation for further academic work.
3. To strengthen their knowledge, skills and attitudes in the subjects where quantitative and qualitative techniques and laboratory work are involved
4. To improve the overall performance of these students in the examination.

The Commission has created a Central Pool Database of eligible SC/ST candidates and recommends their candidature for teaching positions in order to fulfill the prescribed reservation quota in universities and colleges.

Periodic meetings of Registrars of Central Universities are organised to review the implementation of reservation policy in the Central Universities. A Special Monitoring Committee reviews the functioning of existing Cells.