



To cite this article: Dr. Tejpal J. Moharekar and Dr. Tejashree T. Moharekar (2025). IMPACT OF SCHEDULED CASTE COMPONENT PLAN (SCCP) ON DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS, International Journal of Research in Commerce and Management Studies (IJRCMS) 7 (3): 464-474 Article No. 422 Sub Id 775

## IMPACT OF SCHEDULED CASTE COMPONENT PLAN (SCCP) ON DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

Dr. Tejpal J. Moharekar<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Tejashree T. Moharekar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Commerce and Management  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur

<sup>2</sup>YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN SCHOOL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.38193/IJRCMS.2025.7336>

### ABSTRACT

The socio-economic development of the scheduled castes and their respectful integration with the mainstream and bringing them on par with the others is a constitutional responsibility and a national goal. Achieving this noble goal calls for effective planning and implementation of the programmes for the development of scheduled castes. The special component plan strategy now it is known as Scheduled Caste Component Plan (SCCP) is essentially a means of earmarking benefits to the scheduled castes in physical and financial terms in each sector of the state plan/Central plan. In this article an attempt is made to analyse the various dimensions of scheduled castes development with special reference to Scheduled Caste Component Plan approach under which scheduled castes of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra taking various benefits for improving their socio-economic status in society.

**KEYWORDS:** Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste Component Plan,

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic development assesses individual, family, and community well-being. SES is determined by income, education, and occupation. According to the American Psychological Association, SES shows asset, right, ability, and dominance disparities. Their social setting is also described by socioeconomic level. In addition to income, education, and occupation, geographical areas, housing facilities, assets, family head member qualification, occupation, and others become relevant. SCs are lower in Indian society due to its hierarchical structure. SCs have challenges since their social stratum prevents them from improving their lives. Due to injustice and inequality, they remain impoverished and unable to flourish. Caste oppression and social customs affect them. SCs are suffering more than common castes in many ways. Compared to general castes (9%), 34% of SCs are

BPL. The overall SC population of India has 7% of the national wealth, 2.5 times less than their total population. General castes have 45% national wealth, roughly double their population. SC land ownership is also low (7.3%) compared to 42.2% of general category people. SCs have a far higher landlessness rate than the average caste (11%). (Thorat S., 2018, pp-3-29)

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Singh S. N. (1996) examined the Indian political system and society during difficult times in his research "Reservation Policy for Backward Classes". Its institutions, pluralistic and multi-cultural culture, welfare measures, and new political and economic liberalism are suffering. No well-accepted model exists to establish social justice in inequality-generating social, economic, and political systems to compare these developing problems. Socialism, Secularism, and Democracy—the Constitution of India's trinity—are threatened by market-oriented economy, communal, and casteist policies. Murthy (1999) wrote In "Impact of Special Component Plan on Socioeconomic Life of Scheduled Caste People in Karnataka," the author examined how specially developed and implemented plans and programs affect scheduled castes' lives. The researcher identified SCP usage and inadequate implementation in official reports. The study argues long-term economically viable schemes have helped reserved castes. Chennamma B. (2004) researched "Poverty Alleviation Programmes for Scheduled Caste- A Case Study of Scheduled Caste Corporation in Kulluru Mandal of Kurnool District" and its socio-economic, working, and programme conditions. The researcher found that the Land Purchase Scheme, Land Development Scheme, Self-Help Group, Minor Irrigation, Animal Husbandry, Youth Development Programmes, and Land Purchase Loan enhanced Scheduled Caste living standards and Self-Help Group income. Many Mandal initiatives have boosted recipients' employment and irrigated land. The study found that Scheduled Caste Finance Corporation village projects can boost beneficiaries' income and employment. Pathak S.N. In "Scheduled Caste Development-A Study of Special Component Plan," Pandey (2005) examined Uttar Pradesh's scheduled caste socioeconomic development. SCP is the most popular scheduled caste development initiative, so transparency is crucial, says researcher. Scheduled castes are uninformed about SCP, a government program. The program confused 85% of SCP beneficiaries. Few authorities and non-officials understand SCP and its schemes. SS Mahajan (2012) "A Role of State Development Agencies in Entrepreneurship Development Among Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra with Special Reference to Western Maharashtra." was the author's major research effort on government schemes for SC entrepreneurs. This research investigates liberalization's influence on SC entrepreneurs. This study covers 1998-99-2007-08. This survey found Scheduled Castes uninformed of financial schemes. People seeking project financing mess up paperwork. State Development Corporations foster SC entrepreneurship through government programs. Project viability renders it unsustainable. State development corporation initiatives don't help weaker entrepreneurs. Tamilselvan P. (2014) analyzed TAHDCO's development schemes to determine their perceived impact and empowerment of SC/ST

beneficiaries in Salem District, Tamil Nadu. Ten elements affect recipients' economic, educational, political, social, cultural, environmental, and psychological empowerment, according to empirical evidence. These empowerments aid SC/STs. In "Labour Market Discrimination," Kamble P. S. (2015) examines labor discrimination's existence, extent, causes, and policy recommendations. This research paper uses only secondary data. It covers 1987–2005. The researcher recommends improving organized and unorganized sector employment. Government should control unorganized sector employment and play a major role. The researcher said gender, caste, class, and religion-based labor discrimination in India is the biggest issue, along with fixed mindsets, prejudices, blind beliefs, and erroneous reasoning. Tamilnadu's reservation policy is evaluated by Paramasivan C. (2016). Scheduled Caste Sub Plan literacy is examined. Sub-plan allocation and sector distribution look good but don't work. Various obstacles prevent sub-plan money from reaching beneficiaries. He advises the government to focus on Scheduled Caste sub-plan allocations and evaluate the sub-effectiveness plan's impact on socio-economic empowerment. Schemes and financial institutions are not adequate for marginalized people.

In Sixth Five Year Plan Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCCP) was initiated for upliftment of SC Community. It shows that SC community has not developed significantly by the SCCP. SC community is unaware about the SCP and programmes. Despite many efforts by the Government of India, the condition of SCs has not improved much. This social group continues to be among the poorest; most deprived (health, education) and most subordinated groups in human development, human poverty and social justice indices. To analyze the impact of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan on socioeconomic development of the SCs it is very much necessary to take up a research study. It is therefore the present study has been taken up.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Main objective of the study is to assess empirically impact of Special Component Plan on Socio-economic development of SCs in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra;

### **4. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY**

A SCP is significantly important in socio economic development of SCs in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

### **5. METHODOLOGY**

The necessary primary data for the study collected by using a questionnaire, personal interview, field survey and personal observation. For the purpose of the study, sample of 240 Scheduled Caste households under SCP were drawn from the twelve talukas of Kolhapur district viz., Hatkanangale, Shirol, Panhala, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Gaganbavada, Ajara, Chandgad, Gadhinglaj, Karrveer and

Shahuvadi. Two beneficiaries have been selected from ten different schemes of SCP. Prepared questionnaire for assessing empirically impact of the SCP according to the B.G. Prasad socio-economic development measurement scale and standard of living index (SLI). Primary data were collected from the randomly selected beneficiaries from each selected SCP scheme.

## 6. IMPACT OF SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

### 6.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT

Present research study respondent is beneficiaries of the schemes under SCP. Demographic profile of the respondent includes location of the respondent, sub-caste of the respondent from Scheduled Caste, age, sex, marital status, and head of the family, type of the family and size of the family. As per the planning commission a town whose population is below 15000 is considered rural which is taken care by Gram Panchayat. Based on the density of population, development, amenities, education, infrastructure and employment opportunities the respondents opted for Special Component Plan from various schemes are shown in Rural-urban distribution of respondents in Table 4.2.

**Table 1.1 Location of the respondents**

Sr. No.	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rural	167	70
2	Urban	73	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021, Note: Percentage were rounded off.

From Table No 1.1 it can be observed that 70 percent of beneficiaries who gets benefit of the Special Component Plan from the rural areas and 30 from urban area. From this table it can be inferred that maximum users of government schemes are from rural areas.

### 6.2 EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS

Education plays a vital role in the participation of development activities. It is the educated group of society, which comes forward to avail the various benefits that accrue out of the development programmes run by the Government.

**Table No 1.2 Educational level of the Respondents**

Sr. No.	Educational level of the Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	16	7
2	Can Read Only	21	9
3	Can Read and Write	21	9
4	Primary/Middle School	111	46
5	High School/Inter College	47	20
6	Graduation	18	8
7	Post Graduate / Professionals	6	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From Table 1.2 it can be observed that out of 240 respondents, 46 percent of the respondents were qualified up to primary education. 20 percent of the respondents had attained till high school level. 9 percent of the respondents can read and write. 9 percent of the respondents can read only. 8 percent of the respondent had qualification up to graduation level and only 3 percent of respondents were post graduates and professionals. And 7 percent of the respondents are illiterate. The literacy rate is a key metric for measuring a society's progress toward human development. Any country's development is tied to the quality of education provided to its citizens. The State shall support with special attention education and economic interests of weaker groups of people such as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and protect them from social injustice and social exploitation in all its forms (Article 46, Constitution of India). In reality, Scheduled Castes are denied access to higher education because of their low socioeconomic status (Singh H. , 2014, pp-121)

### 6.3 INCOME STATUS

Assessment of annual income is perhaps the most difficult part of any social science research. Information relating to annual income of the sampled beneficiaries was most difficult in the case of Schedule Caste families, particularly, because of their backwardness and illiteracy. The respondents, in many cases, failed to reply the questions properly. Therefore, informal discussion method was adopted for the assessment of the income of the beneficiary families.

BG Prasad scale was first introduced in 1961 and latest update in January 2021. It is calculated on the basis of per capita monthly income (per capita monthly income = total monthly family income/total family members) and is widely used in India. According to the modified B. G. Prasad socio-economic development measurement scale, income status of the beneficiaries' family classified into five categories as per consumer price index august 2021 Rs 1066 base year 1986-87. Social Class as per the income status, class I is Rs 24333 and above, class II is Rs 12166 – 24332, class III is Rs 7300 –

12165, class IV is Rs 3650 – 7299 and class V is Rs 3649 and below. Researcher has checked whether income status of the beneficiaries has changed or not after taking benefit of the scheme.

**Table No. 1.3 Income Status of the beneficiaries' family**

Sr. No	Income Status	Before taking benefit of the Scheme		After taking benefit of the Scheme	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	3649 and below	34	14	28	12
2	3650 – 7299	65	27	63	26
3	7300 – 12165	94	39	97	40
4	12166 – 24332	34	14	39	16
5	24333 and above	13	5	13	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table No. 1.3 shows Income Status of the beneficiaries' family. Out of total 240 respondents before taking benefit of the scheme 14 percent of the respondents earning 3649 rupees and below in a month but after taking benefit of the scheme this percentage decreases up to 12 percent. 27 percent of the respondent had been earning rupees 3650 to 7299 per month but this percentage also decreases by 1 percent after taking benefit of the scheme. 39 percent of the respondents had earnings between 7300 to 12165 rupees as their monthly income before taking benefit of the scheme these earnings of class had seen to be increased by 1 percent. 14 percent of the respondents before taking benefit of the scheme had their monthly earnings between Rs.12166 to 24332 and after taking benefit of the scheme these earnings of class had seen to be increased by 2 percent and reached up to 16 percent. 5 percent of the respondents had their monthly earnings from Rs 24333 and above and after taking benefit of the scheme this percentage is same there is no change seen in this class respectively.

## **7. STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Standard of living is measured by using standard of index (SLI). SLI scale can be applied in both rural and urban settings and is based on a scoring system which can be modified depending on the requirements. Thus, families classified under SLI are more in touch with reality.

Table No. 1.4 shows the standard of living of the respondents before and after taking the benefit of the scheme under SCP. The standard of living class as High, Medium and Low is formed by referring the Standard of Living Index (SLI). The parameters considered under SLI are the sources used for drinking water of the respondent, type of the respondent house, source of lighting applied at their

house, fuel used for cooking, toilet facility at their house and ownership of items of the respondents in terms of fan, radio, sewing machine, television, telephone, bicycle, motor cycle, car and tractor.

**Table No. 1.4 Standard of Living**

Social Class	Before taking benefit of the Scheme		After taking benefit of the Scheme	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
High	133	55	154	64
Medium	40	17	45	19
Low	67	28	41	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

It is observed from the survey that, out of 240 respondent's 55 percent of the respondents under high class before taking benefit of the scheme and increased to 64 percent after taking benefit of the scheme. Thus, the percent resulted in the improvement after taking benefit was seen to be increased by 9 percent. 17 percent of the respondents under medium class before taking benefit of the scheme and increased to 19 percent after taking benefit of the scheme under SCP. Thus, the percent after taking benefit was seen to be increased by 2 percent. 28 percent of the respondents belong to low class before taking benefit of the scheme and decreased to 17 percent after taking benefit of the scheme. Thus, the percent resulted in the improvement after taking benefit was seen to be decreased by 11 percent.

## **8. HYPOTHESIS TESTING**

**Hypothesis: A SCP is significantly important in socio-economic development of SCs in the Kolhapur district of the state.**

Through the presented hypothesis, the researcher seeks to check whether the economic and social development of Scheduled Castes in the research area (Kolhapur) has undergone a positive change due to the special component plan. For this, the researchers have considered the income level and living standard index of selected families in the research area. The researcher has divided the major hypotheses into two sub-hypotheses to study economic and social progress. The first is about social development and the second is about economic development.

<b>Z-Test: Two Sample for Means</b>				
		<i>SLI Score Before</i>	<i>SLI Score After</i>	
<b>Descriptive Statistics of First Sub-Hypothesis</b>	<i>Mean</i>	17.5833	19.7833	
	<i>Known Variance</i>	102.46	78.51	
	<i>Observations</i>	240	240	
<b>Descriptive Statistics of Second Sub-Hypothesis</b>			<i>Family Income Before taking benefit of the Scheme</i>	<i>Family Income After taking benefit of the Scheme</i>
	<i>Mean</i>	9715.158333	10080.15833	
	<i>Known Variance</i>	32107778	32423308	
	<i>Observations</i>	240	240	

The table above gives descriptive statistics of the first and second hypotheses. It mainly provides information about the variables used their mean, known differences and number of observations etc. The standard living index of the Scheduled Castes in Kolhapur is taken into consideration for the first sub hypothesis test, while the income of the surveyed families is used for the second sub-hypothesis.

<b>Z-Test: Two Sample for Means</b>							
<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Sub-Hypothesis</b>	<b>Observations</b>	<b>Z-Calculated Value</b>	<b>T-Critical Value</b>	<b>P-Value</b>	<b>Mean Difference</b>	<b>Decision (Accept or Reject)</b>
1	H <sub>0</sub> - A SCP is not significantly important in social development of SCs in the Kolhapur	240	2.533	1.96	0.011 (P<0.05)	2.20	H <sub>0</sub> - Reject

	district.						
	<b>H<sub>a</sub></b> - A SCP is significantly important in social development of SCs in the Kolhapur district.						<b>H<sub>a</sub></b> - <b>Accept</b>
2	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> - A SCP is not significantly important in economic development of SCs in the Kolhapur district.	240	3.926	1.96	.001 (P<0.05)	1800	H <sub>0</sub> - Reject
	<b>H<sub>a</sub></b> - A SCP is significantly important in economic development of SCs in the Kolhapur district.						<b>H<sub>a</sub></b> - <b>Accept</b>

The researcher has used the z-test for both the above hypotheses. The first sub-hypothesis is whether the special component scheme has resulted in the social development of Scheduled Castes in the Kolhapur district. It has been proposed. The statistics of this assumption show that the Z-calculated value (2.533) is greater than the Z-critical value (1.96) and the P-value (.011) is less than this significant level of 0.05 percent. In such a case the researcher accepts the alternative hypothesis. From this it follows that the Special Component Scheme has an important place in the social development of Scheduled Castes in Kolhapur district.

Similarly, second sub-hypothesis result show that the Z-calculated value (3.926) is greater than the Z-critical value (1.96) and the P-value (.001) is less than this significant level of 0.05 percent. In such a case the researcher accepts the alternative hypothesis. It is clear from this that the special component scheme in the district has had a significant impact on the economic development of the Scheduled

Castes.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The researcher in this chapter analyzed the impact of the schemes implemented under the Special Component Plan (SCP) on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Scheduled Caste people in Kolhapur district during the period of study. Socio-economic status is used to describe the societal context in which people live. Apart from income, education and occupation other aspects that become relevant were geographical areas, housing facilities, assets possession, qualification of the family's head member, occupation etc. had taken into account. Based on the empirical study, the author has concluded that the income generating programmes/schemes initiated under the Special Component Plan for the economic development of scheduled castes are not making desired level of impact on their socio-economic status due to various lacunae at policy and implementation level. There is a urgent need to enhance the budgetary allocation with effective monitoring and evaluation of physical and financial targets of SCCP programmes so that intended benefits could reach the poor SC families.

## **10. REFERENCES**

1. Singh S N, (1996), Reservation Policy for Backward Classes, Rawat Publication, Jaipur.
2. Murthy T. H. (1999), "Impact of Special Component Plan on Socio-Economic Life of Scheduled Caste People in Karnataka" With special reference to agricultural activities.
3. Chennamma B (2004), "Poverty Alleviation Programmes for Scheduled Caste – A Case Study of Scheduled Caste Corporation in Kallaru Mandal of Kurnool District".
4. Pathak S. N., (2005) "Scheduled Castes Development – A study of Special Component Plan". ISBN:8186771557
5. Mahajan, S. S., (2012), "A Role of State Development Agencies in Entrepreneurship Development among Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra with Special Reference to Western Maharashtra".
6. Tamilselvan P (2014), "Impact of TAHDCO Scheme and Empowerment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes – A study with special reference to Salem District of Tamil Nadu"
7. Singh, H. (2014, pp-121). A Study on SocioEconomic Status of Scheduled Caste People of Kangra. Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies, Vol. 2, Issue 12, pp 118-132.
8. Kamble Prakash (2015), "Labour Market Discrimination", book edited by Jagan Karade, Rawat Publication
9. Paramasivan, C, (2016), "An Evaluation Study on Sub Plan for Scheduled Caste in Tamilnadu" SELP Journal of Social Science ISSN: 0975-9999 (P) 2349-1655 (O) Research Impact Factor: 1.056 Vol. VII, Issue. 27
10. Prabhakar. (2017, pp-364). Problems and Prospects of Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes at present political Situations in India. International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT) , | Volume 5, Issue 2, pp-362-366.



11. Thorat S., M. S. (2018, pp-3-29). Graded caste inequality and poverty: Evidence on role of economic discrimination. *Journal of Social Inclusion Studies*, Vol. 4 (1), pp-3-29.