



CURRENT STATUS OF GOVERNMENT HOSTEL FACILITY PROVIDED TO ST, OBC, SC STUDENTS AND ITS UTILITY AND USAGES: WITH REFERENCE TO PUNE

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Abstract

The population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes forms the considerable percentage of the total population of the country. Providing educational supporting facilities through the hostel scheme to this population is one of the significant factor that positively influencing on the educational development of scheduled casts and scheduled tribes people. Through the present article, an attempt has been made on the current status of tribal hostels and its utility with reference to Pune city. This article has also focused on the strength of the government hostels during the last four years, and focused on its intake capacity, actual admissions of ST and OBC SC students in the hostels in Pune.

Key word - Scheduled tribes, Scheduled casts, Backward class students hostel facility, Educational Development



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I) Introduction

The poor educational developments of ST, SC, and OBC in India can be known with reference to deeply embedded caste and social hierarchies, which enacted and explained in routine social interactions of the society, schools, other educational institutions and economic conditions. The history pertaining to exploitation and marginalization of ST, SC, and OBC have produced various engagements with education as an important source for social mobility. Easy access to education has been a significant task in their struggle for social and economic development and social justice. Various efforts to remove caste system and social discrimination have always proposed that education is the major instrument for removing the barriers in the socio-economic development of ST, SC, and OBC and also important to overcome caste oppression. The government is also understand that, the education is an

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important for social transformation, economic development and social Upliftment of ST, SC, and OBC people. It is proved that educational development of these people can bring expected changes in their socio-economic conditions. It is the most effective tool for empowering marginalized people lift themselves from the existing levels of poverty and socio-economic backwardness. Educational development of these people helps them to improve their socio-economic status in various ways. Education acts as a catalysts in development and improvement in other aspects of their life.

Actually, 'educational Upliftment' was not a critical demand of ST, SC, and OBC people; but the government policy pertaining to the education emphasized on education as the major source through which the ST, SC, and OBC people can be integrate into mainstream of the society. On this background, the schemes like Ashram schools (Residential schools) scholarship schemes, hostel schemes for ST, SC, and OBC student came into existence with a view to overcome the obstacles like difficult terrain, inaccessible locations and spatially dispersed habitations of scheduled tribes, and thereby to develop educational access for these people. To obtain equality in the education process for ST, SC, and OBC communities, experts and activists advocate a framework of social justice which is beyond the aggregative concerns of equity in access, involvement and outcomes.

II) Hostel facilities available for ST, SC, and OBC students in Pune -

With the help of the Ministry of Social Justice and Assistance Department and Regional Department of Pune, there is the implementing of hostel scheme at state level in Maharashtra. This department is helped by the District level social welfare officers. In Pune district and in city the implementation of hostel scheme is the responsibility of district social welfare officers. These officers are playing significant role in the management and maintenance of the hostels in Pune. These officers are responsible for the day to day maintenance of hostel builds. These officers are visiting hostel to observe whether the government rules are following in the hostels or not. They are having responsibility of making provision for hygienic food, releasing of funds for the salary, utilities, bill payments etc. The Department of Welfare at district level is also participated in monitoring and evaluation of the construction of hostel. Apart from these officials, the officials of Public Work Department (PWD) and Rectors of hostels are also responsible for monitoring the hostel construction.

Without completion of building construction the rectors of the hostels do not take incharge of their job. The role of social welfare department is to provide feedback of the

activities of the hostels to the higher authorities. For the maintenance and management of hostels there is a financial provision made by the state government. The funds is provided to the nodal department in the district and district social welfare officers provide the grants for staff and day to day routine maintenance of the hostel buildings and other ancillary activities and to the hostel wardens. The management and maintenance of the hostels is the responsibility of the state government. Thus, the state formulates the necessary guidelines to maintain inter-district uniformity in the maintenance of hostel.

The guidelines for maintenance of hostels are provided to the hostel wardens who take care of hostels on day to day basis. Through the observation it is found that, in the Pune city all the guidelines are provided to the wardens pertaining to the maintenance of hostels, admission procedure of students, staff appointment, mess management etc. It is also observed that all the guidelines are properly followed by the hostel staff. The hostel facility in Pune city provides free lodging and boarding to the SC, ST and OBC students on the basis of their merit. Handicapped and special candidates are also admitted in the hostels according to the government rules. Earlier, the admission process was being done manually and the Head office for admission was the Sant Danyaneshwar hostel in the campus of Directorate of Social Welfare Department, Church Road, Pune. In the 2014 online application and admission facility has been started in Pune. The following table indicates the strength of the government hostels in Pune city and blocks (tahasils) around Pune city.

Table No. 1: Strength of the Government hostels in Pune city and Pune district during 2015 to 2018

| Area (Blocks) | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Government Hostels | Aided Hostels | Government Hostels | Aided Hostels | Government Hostels | Aided Hostels |
| Junnar | 0 | 26 | 0 | 27 | 00 | 27 |
| Ambega | 0 | 12 | 01 | 11 | 00 | 11 |
| Shirur | 01 | 03 | 01 | 03 | 01 | 03 |
| Khed | 02 | 08 | 02 | 08 | 02 | 08 |
| Maval | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 |
| Mulashi | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 |
| Pune city | 07 | 10 | 08 | 08 | 07 | 08 |
| Haveli | 00 | 03 | 00 | 06 | 00 | 06 |
| Daund | 01 | 07 | 01 | 08 | 01 | 08 |
| Purandar | 01 | 01 | 02 | 01 | 01 | 01 |
| Velhe | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 |
| Bhor | 01 | 01 | 01 | 01 | 01 | 01 |
| Baramati | 02 | 02 | 03 | 02 | 03 | 02 |
| Indapur | 02 | 06 | 02 | 09 | 02 | 09 |
| Total | 17 | 82 | 21 | 87 | 18 | 88 |

Source - socio-economic review, Pune for the years 2015-2016 to 2017-2018

The above table it is depicted that, in 2015-2016 there were in total 17 government hostels, which have increased up to 21 in the year 2016-2017 and in the year 2017-2018 the number of government hostels has been reduced up to 18. It means, till the year 2018 a total number of government hostels were functioning in Pune district. The majority of the government hostels are located in Pune city only.

The strength of the government and the aided hostels are indicated in the above table. In the government owned hostels there are all the facilities to the students, at free of cost, whereas, in the aided hostels, which are run by private institutions, NGOs, the students have to take care of their mess facilities, the state government only provides, the salary of the hostel staff in the form of hostel grants. Therefore, these hostels are called as Grant - in - Aid or Aided hostels.

According to the information mentioned in the above table, there were 82 aided hostels functioning in the Pune district out of which 10 aided hostels were situated in Pune city in the year 2015-2016, and which is decreased by 2. In 2017-2018 there were only 8 aided hostels functioning in the Pune city. It is also found that, aided hostels are more in number compared to the government hostels in Pune city. The following table, the Intake capacity of the government hostels in Pune city and Pune district during the year 2014 to 2018.

Table No. 2: Intake capacity of government hostels in Pune city and Pune district (2015 to 2018)

| Area | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | 2016-2017 | | 2017-2018 | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Ambegao | 00 | 00 | 42 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| Shirur | 00 | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 100 | 00 | 100 |
| Khed | 75 | 75 | 100 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 100 | 75 |
| Pune city | 470 | 210 | 400 | 220 | 680 | 240 | 515 | 220 |
| Daund | 00 | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 100 | 00 | 75 |
| Purandar | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 10 | 00 | 50 | 00 |
| Bhor | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 100 | 00 | 75 | 00 |
| Baramati | 75 | 75 | 125 | 75 | 150 | 100 | 150 | 100 |
| Indapur | 75 | 75 | 80 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 100 | 80 |
| Total | 845 | 585 | 897 | 595 | 1180 | 690 | 990 | 650 |

Source - socio-economic Review, Pune for the years 2014 to 2018

The above table indicates the intake capacity of government hostels in various blocks of Pune district and Pune city for the years from 2014 to 2018. It is observed that, the intake capacity of the government hostels has increased at block level and Pune city level also during the 2014 to 2018. It is observed that, the intake capacity of government hostels is highest during

these years in Pune city and Baramati Block of Pune district. In Pune city the intake capacity of hostels was 470 (Boys) and 220(Girls) in the year 2017-2018. At district level it also showing the increasing trend in intake capacity of government hostels. It was 845 (Boys) and 585 (Girls) in the year 2014-2015; which was increased up to 990 (Boys) and 650 (Girls) in the year 2017-2018.

From the study point of view it is very important to focus on the actual admissions given in the government hostels during the year 2014 to 2018. The following table indicates the facts in this regard.

Table No. 3: Actual admissions given to the SC, ST and OBC Boys and Girls in the government hostels.

| Area | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | 2016-2017 | | 2017-2018 | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Shirur | 00 | 21 | 00 | 50 | 00 | 50 | 00 | 40 |
| Khed | 75 | 75 | 85 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 66 |
| Pune city | 470 | 210 | 400 | 220 | 400 | 220 | 421 | 189 |
| Daund | 00 | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 65 |
| Purandar | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 00 | 75 | 36 | 00 |
| Bhor | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 48 | 00 |
| Baramati | 75 | 75 | 125 | 75 | 125 | 75 | 127 | 78 |
| Indapur | 75 | 75 | 80 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 96 | 78 |
| Total | 485 | 531 | 840 | 570 | 825 | 570 | 803 | 516 |

Compared with the intake capacity of students and actual admissions of the SC, ST and OBC students in the government hostels it is observed that, in the year 2014-2015 the admission given in the government hostels were less than the actual intake capacity, though not much gap is seen in the year of 2014-2015. A wide gap between intake capacity and the actual admissions is found in the year 2015-2016. In the year 2014-2015 compared to total intake capacity, 100% admissions have been given to the SC, ST and OBC in the government hostels. It is observed that, 100% of admitted and 95.80% girls were admitted in the hostels 100% of admissions were given to the boys whereas 90.7% girls were admitted in the government hostels at district level. In the case of Pune city observed that, 100% admissions against the total intake capacity of government hostel were given. Therefore, comparing with the year wise intake capacity of government hostels, it was fully utilized from the year 2014 to 2016.

Table No. 4: Category wise strength of the students

| Category wise strength of the students in 4 boys hostels | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Year | SC | ST | VJN T | SBC | OB C | OPEN | Special Reason | Handicapp ed | Orpha n | Total |
| 2011-12 | 89 | 39 | 34 | 05 | 34 | 01 | 05 | 08 | 00 | 215 |
| 2012-13 | 80 | 44 | 32 | 05 | 37 | 03 | 04 | 08 | 00 | 213 |
| 2013-14 | 98 | 50 | 55 | 06 | 38 | 01 | 08 | 08 | 05 | 269 |
| 2014-15 | 110 | 42 | 40 | 06 | 47 | 10 | 09 | 12 | 05 | 281 |
| 2015-16 | 116 | 52 | 52 | 03 | 45 | 10 | - | 07 | 06 | 291 |
| 2016-17 | 93 | 61 | 04 | 14 | 46 | 09 | - | 09 | 06 | 284 |
| 2017-18 | 129 | 52 | 32 | 03 | 53 | 07 | - | 12 | 11 | 299 |
| 2018-19 | 118 | 41 | 38 | 01 | 53 | 10 | - | 12 | 11 | 284 |

SC = Scheduled castes, ST = Scheduled Tribes, VJNT = Vimukt Jati and Nomadic Tribe, SBC = Special Backward Class, OBC = Other Backward Class.

Source – Information collected from the District Social Welfare Department Pune.

The above table reveals that during the 8 years of period that is from the year 2011-2012 to 2018-2019 the total admissions for the all categories of students have been increased specially. The number of SC, ST and OBC students were increased during these years. The number of seats allotted to the SC, ST and OBC students were varying every year. In the year 2011-2012 there were 215 students belonging to all categories of castes have been given admission in the government hostels, the number of such students have been increased up to 299 in the year 2017-2018. It was again decreased up to 284 in the year 2018-2019.

III) Conclusion –

Through the present article an attempt has been made to focus on the hostel facilities provided to the SC, ST, and OBC students in Pune. The information about number of SC, ST, and OBC students admitted in the hostels, intake capacity of the government hostels and actual admissions given to the SC, ST, and OBC students etc. has provided through this article. It is observed that the number of admission for the SC, ST, and OBC students in the government hostel have been increased every year. Therefore, it is concluded that, due to good hostel

facilities available for these students, there is an improvement in their academic performance, and their overall development. It is also observed that, there is an effective implementation of this scheme in the Pune and there is an optimum usage and utility of this scheme in Pune.

IV) Suggestion –

1) According to the rules, percentages of reservation of seats for different categories of backward classes are fixed. But many voluntary agencies have the tendency to violate them on this or that pretext, resulting into misutilisation and underutilization of hostel facilities and Government grants. The reservation should be based on the district wise population of backward class communities. The concerned Social Welfare Officer should only be authorized to receive and scrutinize the applications for fresh admissions in the aided hostels and without his specific permission no old student be remove from the roll of the voluntary agency. The Social Welfare officer should be given staff for this work.

2) In order to minimize the irregularities and undue pressures for release of grants, inspections must be regularly carried out by the Social welfare Officer or his inspectors of hostels and assessment of grants should be done by the clerk in his office under the guidance of the Social welfare Officer or his inspectors only.

3) There should not be impositions on the students to join any particular school of the managements interest.

4) The Social welfare Officer or the inspector should inspect the attendance of student and necessary cognizance taken about fictitious cases.

5) The present rate of capitation grant should be revised in the light or requirements of adequate and nutritious food suggested in the dietary scale by the Haffkin Institute. More grants should be made available for the construction of buildings for the aided hostels.

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