

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

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Utilization of Hostel facilities
by
Scheduled Castes
and
Scheduled Tribes Students
in
Maharashtra State



BY

Tribal Research & Training Institute
Pune.

1977-78

1978

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TRIBAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

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PREFACE

Amongst other engagements of pioneering deeper studies in Tribal life and culture, as also the training and orientation programmes meant for various level personnel and Social Workers in the field of Tribal welfare, Tribal Research & Training Institute, Pune has the onerous responsibility of evaluating the schemes meant for the tribals.

Here is one such attempt to evaluate one of the schemes namely "B.C.Hostels". The programme of the uplift of the backward classes includes amongst many other schemes, the scheme of providing hostel facilities to Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and the Economically Backward Classes. Government of Maharashtra have progressively developed this scheme under the State sector as well as the private sector. By the end of March 77, there were 76 Government run hostels and 1227 hostels run by voluntary agencies. There was 117.48 lakh population of backward classes in the year 1971. It was a mute point of interest to understand to what extent the programme meets the over all want and to what extent the Backward Class population is availing of the facilities made available and hence this Research Project was undertaken by the Institute.

I hope, this evaluative study of one scheme would be of due interest and be useful to the Department of Social Welfare as well as that of

Tribal Welfare in locating their performance, achievement and shortcomings. We all know that full perfection in our endeavours is difficult to achieve. These departments, it is my pious hope, may find some clues to work upon towards further improvements. Similarly, the project may be of interest to Social Workers, Social Welfare administrators, students of Social and Tribal Welfare etc.

DIRECTOR

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Date : 24-7-78.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The Institute is continuously busy in -
undertaking the various Research Projects pertaining
to the problems of backward class in general and
tribes in particulars. Research is a continuous
process of fact finding and suggestion emanating
from it.

In this process, the Institute has to -
approach other Departments, institutions and the
individuals to obtain their valuable assistance.
For this Research Project, the Hostel Branch of
the Directorate of Social Welfare, Managements of
many voluntary agencies running the hostels and
some Social Workers and the Social Welfare Officers,
have rendered great help to our institute.

The institute is grateful to the Department
of Social Welfare, Maharashtra State, for providing
the necessary statistical and other documentary
information pertaining the hostel scheme. It is
thankful to the managements of the aided hostels
in general and the Superintendents of the concerned
hostels in particular for their Cooperation in
furnishing the information of their hostels. It
is also thankful to the wardens of the Government
hostels, the Social Workers and the Social Welfare
Officers of the concerned districts for their
cooperation.

We also look forward with earnest hopes
for the cooperation of these institutions, offices

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and individuals in future for the noble cause of the uplift of the backward classes.

This project was assigned to Mr. N. S. Hazari, Research Officer of the Institute. He has taken great pains in completing the work, in 1973 and I hope he did a pretty good job. Later on Shri D. T. Birari, Research Officer reviewed the work in the light of changed rules and regulations and redrafted the project wherever necessary, especially the last chapter.

Pune-1.

Date: 24.7.78

DIRECTOR

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

Educational development is the fundamental requirement for Social and economic development of any community. This is particularly true of communities like that of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India which are regarded as Backward.

It is in recognition of this basic need that in the Constitution of India, in the Directive Principles of the State Policy, the promotion of educational interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been made a specific responsibility of the Government, both of the Centre and of the States. Article 46 of the Constitution lays down that "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from Social injustices and all forms of exploitation,". To fulfill this objective some efforts have been made in this country since the attainment of Independence.

With this background and the constitutional provision, more and more schemes were introduced for the uplift of the Backward Classes by the Government of Maharashtra during the Five Year Plans.

The State Government of Maharashtra has made education of its people in general and Backward Classes in particular as a sheet anchor of its

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progress because the social and economic integration of the Backward Classes with the rest of the masses depends solely upon their educational development.

To attain the objective the following educational schemes are implemented in Maharashtra State:

1. Award of tuition fees, examination fees and payment of Scholarships for Pre.S.S.C. Courses.
2. Award of tuition and examination fees to one failure scholar undertaking post S.S.C. Courses (who are not in receipt of Government of India Scholarships)
3. Payment of grant-in-aid and recognition to aided Backward Class Hostels.
4. Building grant to aided Backward Class Hostels.
5. Study Homes.
6. Coaching Classes for I.A.S. and I.P.S. Students.
7. Training of Superintendents of aided Backward Class Hostels.
8. Opening and maintenance of Backward Class Hostels by Government.
9. Award of Government of India Scholarships to the students undertaking post S.S.C. Courses.

Of these one of the important educational scheme is the extension of hostel facilities to Backward Classes either through the hostel run by the Government or Voluntary Agencies.

After the attainment of Independence it was noticed that the number of Backward Class Hostels was inadequate and hence it was felt

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that the desired progress in education amongst the Backward Classes could not be achieved unless hostel facilities were provided to them. It was not possible for Government to start Government hostels for Backward Classes at all places where the Secondary Schools existed. It was, therefore, decided to encourage Voluntary Agencies to start Backward Class Hostels for Boys and Girls with the object of accelerating the pace of educational progress among Backward Classes.

The study on the subject has been taken to assess whether the efforts taken up in this direction are adequate or otherwise. Whether the facilities extended by the State and Centre are being actually utilized. If not, to what extent and what are the hurdles in it.

In order to collect the data regarding the Project, questionnaire and schedules were prepared and sent to all the institutions either run by the Government or by Voluntary Agencies. Besides this one district from each region having a considerable population both scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes viz., Nasik, Amraoti and Nanded were Selected for field study. The Research Officer alongwith an investigator visited 20% of the institutions in the interior as well as at the district head quarters in each of the selected district. The data compiled in this project has been obtained by interviewing the inmates, hostel

authorities and by way of collection through mail questionnaire.

In short the subject being of a statistical nature the findings have been derived from the statistical inferences.

Methodology

The subject "Utilization of hostel facilities for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Students" was taken for study because of the shortage of seats being felt by Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Pupils. The following Hypothesis were formed for identification of the problems

1. Hostel facilities are not fully utilized by the students of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.
2. There is no shortage of hostels in Maharashtra.

Firstly the subject being of evaluation nature much stress has been given during field study on statistical inferences. Besides for conducting case studies of the inmates and of the managements, a mail questionnaires as well as an interview questionnaire were prepared. On the basis of the Collected data the first hypothesis has been proved positively where as the second hypothesis i.e. the null hypothesis of the project has been proved negatively. Secondly the subject being partly of a diagnostic nature, suggestions to remove the - defects have been suggested in the last chapter of the report.

CHAPTER TWO

The Problem of Hostels

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes grouped together, forms the considerable percentage of the total population of our Country. If this large number of the Indian population is allowed to remain in the darkness of ignorance, the progress of the Country cannot move upward, the national integration cannot be achieved and democracy will be a failure. Education is the most effective means which can solve the vital problems of our Country. One of the aims of education in India is to promote integration in all fields. Without education it will be very difficult to secure lasting progress amongst the weaker sections of our population. The table, given below, shows the literacy percentage of total males and females of the general population and of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India and in Maharashtra as per 1961 Census.

Area	Percentage of literacy amongst general population.			Percentage of literacy amongst.					
	Male	Female	Total	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
				Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
India	34.42	12.95	24.02	-	-	10.27	-	-	8.5
Maharashtra.	42.04	16.76	29.82	25.46	5.70	15.78	12.55	1.75	7.21

Thus the percentage of literacy amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India is 10.27 & 8.54 respectively and in Maharashtra it is 15.78 & 7.21 respectively, as compared to the general percentage of literacy i.e. 24.02 & 29.8 respectively. To bridge this gulf various schemes for providing educational concessions to Backward Classes such as free studentship, lumpsum scholarships, Hostel facilities etc. are being implemented both in the plan and non-plan sectors.

Provision of hostel facilities to students belonging to the Backward Classes plays an important part in the promotion and spread of education amongst the Backward Classes. Because of the poverty it has been observed that many of the Backward Class Students give up their education as the parents cannot afford to send their boys outside their villages. This problem is more acute in respect of the tribals as they generally live in the inaccessible hilly areas where the schooling facilities are not available. To overcome this difficulty hostel facilities are provided for such students who find it difficult to prosecute their studies by leaving their villages. Thus a net work of hostels has been spread out through out the State. There were in ¹⁹⁷³ all (1097) Backward Class Hostels in Maharashtra catering to the educational needs of (47700) students. The table given below gives the position of hostels run by Government

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andvoluntary Agencies, both for boys and girls.

Name of the region	No. of hostals run by Govt.			Sanctioned streng- th in Govt. host- els			No. of hostals run by Vol. Age-ncies.
	Boys	Girls	Tot- al	Boys	Girls	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bombay Div.	2	10	12	225	525	750	285
Poona Div.	3	5	8	300	350	650	331
Nagpur Div.	5	12	17	420	750	1170	267
A'bad Div.	2	5	7	225	375	600	170
Total	12	32	44	1170	2000	3170	1053

Even though the number of hostels has been increasing every year yet it appears to be short compared to the growing population and enrolment of school going children. The subjoined table of school going children and the actual strength of hostels will substantiate the fact.

Statement showing the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students in (20) - districts of Maharashtra State.

No.	District	Scheduled Caste students	Scheduled Tribes students.
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhir	14,165	2,662
2.	Dhulia	12,219	39,057
3.	Nashik	21,134	33,717
4.	Kolhapur	21,011	177

1	2	3	4
5.	Kulaba	3,549	5,478
6.	Chandrapur	23,758	25,167
7.	Thane	10,890	31,141
8.	Pune	21,722	10,591
9.	Bhandara	3,359	1,029
10.	Ratnagiri	6,822	980
11.	Yavatmal	11,207	14,319
12.	Greater Bombay	48,749	6,520
13.	Osmanabad	37,972	4,057
14.	Nanded	17,166	5,980
15.	Wardha	3,275	1,406
16.	Akola	20,294	4,941
17.	Sangli	5,848	22
18.	Bhandara	3,359	1,029
19.	Amravati	2,575	473
20.	Sholapur	49,930	918

We have seen the position of hostels run by Government as well the voluntary agencies on page 7 and noted that the number of hostels and seats therein fall short of the requirements by the end of the year 1972-73.

However, it would also be interesting to review how far the position has undergone a change for the good or bad in the subsequent years by the end of the year 1976-77.

For the sake of clear understanding of the position of hostels and the extent of total

availability of seats for backward class children, the statement of particulars is given on the - next page.

From the statement, it is seen compared to position of March 73 that there are 76 Government hostels as against 44 and 1227 aided hostels as against 1053 by the end of March 1977, thus giving an addition of 32 Government hostels and 174 aided hostels, during a period of 4 years, or giving an addition of an average of 52 hostels in all, every year.

Similarly, taking into account the sanctioned strength, it is seen that there was a total of 47700 students, both boys and girls deriving benefits from 1097 hostels by the end of March 73. As against this, there were 72935 students both boys and girls and including E.B.C. students deriving benefits from 1303 hostels by the end of March 1977, thus showing that within 4 years an additional of a total of 25235 students are covered by the programme of expansion of hostels under the public and private aided sector under B.C. Welfare programme of the state. It is quite a sizeable figure in its absolute terms.

Statement showing the number of Government and aided hostels and available seats for Backward Class students in them in the State by the end of March 77.

Name of the Region	Government Hostels				Aided Hostels				Total			
	For Total strength		For Total strength		Sanctioned strength		No. of hostels					
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bombay	17	10	27	1850	265	61	326	11566	2221	13787	353	15637
Poona	4	6	10	800	325	47	372	16443	1981	18424	382	19224
Nagpur	15	12	27	1770	302	34	336	12577	1228	13805	363	15575
Aurangabad	7	5	12	925	176	17	193	8857	561	9418	205	10343
Total	43	33	76	5345	1068	159	1227	49443	5991	55434	1303	60779

Availability of seats to Backward Class population:

According to 1971 Census, the State's Backward Class population was 117.48 lakhs. Presuming it is unchanged and taking into account the total seats available in the Backward Class hostels in the State, we can deduce that there is one seat available to 193 Backward Class persons. Of course, we can conclude useful things from this ratio, only if we could work over it with relevant data regarding population of Backward Class - students for 72-73 desirous and eligible for admission. Even then if we want to generalise on broad terms, we may say that there is one seat for 77 Backward Class students, presuming that a family consists of five and two children from the family are desirous and eligible for admission in a Backward Class hostel. This manuscript highly generalised broader ratio may give us an inkling of the picture that the extent of availability of adequate seats to Backward Class students leaves much desirable to do done and it shows that the hostel facilities were much short of the requirements.

Ratio of boys' to girls regarding admissions:-

The following table gives us the position of admissions communitywise in the aided hostels:

Statement showing admissions of boys and girls communitywise during the year 1976-77.

Community	No. of students admitted		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Scheduled Castes	25169	3252	28421
Scheduled Tribes	9941	1272	11213
Nomadic Tribes	2617	161	2778
Vimukta Jatis	2369	134	2503
Economical Class Backward Class	9340	978	10318
Total	49436	5797	55233

In the 1227 hostels, there were 49436 boys and 5797 girls admitted.

The ratio of admissions sex-wise works out to 8.53 boys : 1 girl. It is doubtless evident that the ratio speaks of the imbalance in the ratio. It brings out the need for opening many more girls hostels as compared to the number of boys' hostels in the State.

Per Capita expenditure of Government on each inmate:-

The total expenditure incurred during 1976-77 on 55233 inmates including Economic Backward Class students in 1227 aided hostels comes to Rs. 206.28 lakhs which works out to the per capita Government expenditure of Rs. 37.70 excluding W.F.P. assistance. It only explains to us that Government expenditure on each inmate in an aided hostel is much less than Govt. expenditure on each inmate in a Govt. run hostel which is more than Rs. 100/- p.m.

CHAPTER THREE

Review of the Hostel Activities

One of the important educational activity conducted by the Social Welfare Department is the provision of Special hostels for Backward Class pupils. It is, therefore, felt necessary to take a review of the growth of hostel movement in the State.

As per the constitutional directives the State has already made education of its people as the pillar of progress. The State has already made its policy that all sections of its people must be brought within the compass of this fundamental need. Prior to this the Depressed Classes and aboriginal tribes committee of the then - Bombay province in its report had made a strong plea for the promotion of education among the Depressed Classes Aboriginal tribes at various stages of education. Besides advancing reasons for the setting up of schools for the benefit of these communities, it had struck as the prime necessity of affording the major facility of setting up hostels for such classes of students.

The task of promoting education among these classes has always been hampered by poverty. It required persuasion on one hand to educate these people and to find ways and means to enable these people to send their children to the schools

without the proposition being a burden on their economic life. It became obvious that for the promotion of education of the Backward Class children, the development of the hostel facilities was of a great essence to relieve the parents of the economic burden of maintaining the children.

The depressed classes and aboriginal tribes committee made a recommendation that a boarding school on a very simple lines, near to their own homes, needed to be started for the aboriginal tribes and that Voluntary Agencies should be encouraged to start them in large number. The State, therefore, accepted this as a responsibility and called on the Voluntary Agencies to start hostels for the depressed classes and the aboriginal tribes.

The District School Boards had also undertaken the responsibility of opening hostels for Backward Classes. The then Bombay Government took step in this direction and opened a Government hostel at Poona in the year 1931 then known as Government Depressed Class Hostel at Poona with an accommodation for 50 boys. At that time there were only 4 hostels run by Voluntary Agencies. Since then this number was constantly increasing with the increase of capitation grant originally paid as Rs. 20/- p.m. per boy. This movement fastly developed and in 1972-73 there were (1097) hostels catering to the educational needs of (47700)

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both boys and girls.

However this number increased and by the end of 1976-77, there were 1303 hostels giving benefit to 60779 Backward Class students. The fast expansion of the programme relevant to State's resources added 32 more Government hostels and 174 aided hostels. The increase in absolute terms is impressive for the 4 year period vis. 73-77.

In Vidharbha Region of the State, the activity of providing residential facilities to Backward Class students has gathered a momentum only in recent years. The Ex-Madhya Pradesh Government had set up Tribal Welfare Department. Under that department, schools for the tribal students were started and hostels were attached only to middle schools. Besides this some of the social workers set up hostels for Scheduled Castes at important educational centres like Nagpur, Amravati, Pusa and Chikhali. The State Government paid grants to these Scheduled Castes Hostels @ Rs. 12/- p.m. per inmate for ten months plus a maintenance grant @ Rs. 75/- of the expenditure on approved items.

In the Marathwada division of the State, under the Nizam's dominion no concrete steps were taken till the formation of the popular ministry towards the spread of education amongst Backward Classes. It was only in the year 1951 under the popular ministry that a Scheduled Castes trust

fund was created for furthering the cause of education of the Scheduled Castes. The ex-Hyderabad Government set up eight Government hostels in the districts of Marathwada. There were only a few hostels that were set up after independence in this region and these were paid grant @ Rs. 15/- p.m. for 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ - months on the basis of average number of students in a month. Thus there was a complete disparity regarding the grants, management and policies of the hostels in the different regions of the state till 1959. It was therefore, thought for the first time in the year 1959-60 of rationalising and unifying the various major concessions given to the Backward Classes. The State Government therefore, issued orders in the year 1959-60 bringing the scheme of hostel facilities to Backward Classes under unified pattern. Under this revised schemes grant in aid to recognised hostels run by Voluntary Agencies was being paid @ Rs. 20/- p.m. per boy for ten months and Rs. 25/- p.m. per girl for ten months. Building grant was also being paid @ Rs. 500/- per inmate on the basis of the availability of funds. Besides this 50% of Superintendent's, pay, hostel rent and other non-recurring grants were also being paid under the unified pattern. All this was done with the sole object of providing educational facilities to those who were unable to go out of their villages for getting further education..

Government of Maharashtra, subsequently enhanced the rates of capitation grant and from the year 1975-76 grant-in-aid @ Rs.45/- and Rs.50/- p.m. per inmate is being paid to Backward Class boys and girls hostels (Non-WFP) respectively. Similarly Building grant for the construction of the hostel building is now being paid @ Rs. 750/- per inmate instead of Rs. 500/- both for the boys as well as the girls hostels. The assistance is subsidy and not loan. So also, grant-in-aid on rented building is paid @ Rs.75% of the approved rent instead of 50%. This shows that Government has liberalised its policy to assist aided hostel to more extent than before.

As a consequence of the operation of this policy the number of Backward Class hostels rose in all the regions of the State. From this it is noticed that in terms of financial target, the hostel activity received a momentum, but on the basis of the survey conducted in three districts of the State viz., Nashik, Amravati and Nanded, it can safely be said that the movement has not progressed in a right direction as it ought to have been. The reasons for which are of course obvious. Besides the hostels started by Voluntary Agencies, the State Government have opened and developed the hostels. Adequate facilities both to the Boys and Girls are being extended in the hostels run by the Government.

CHAPTER FOUR
OBSERVATIONS

On the basis of the collected data and field study in the selected three districts, it is concluded that number of hostels run by the Government and Voluntary agencies are inadequate compared to the educational needs of the Backward Class students. From the statistical data it is revealed that as against the school going percentages of Backward Classes i.e. of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to their total population, the percentage of the availment of hostel facilities is low. The statement given below substantiates the findings.

Sr. No.	Name of district	Population as per 1961 census		No. of students availing facilities		No. of students availing hostel facilities	% of sch-go- ing stu- dents	% of sch-avail- ment of hostel facilities
		Sch. Castes	Sch. Tribes	Sch. Castes	Sch. Tribes			
1.	Nashik	67,845	4,53,707	21,134	33,687	4,133	10.53	7.5
2.	Amravati	48,702	54,881	2,575	473	1,260	2.94	41.7
3.	Nanded	1,18,879	40,597	17,166	5,980	2,696	14.51	10.4

The percentages of Backward Class students (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) in other districts are also very low. Thus there is a great need for the expansion of this movement in order to extend the opportunity of availing the educational facilities granted by the Government

to the Backward Class students.

Hostel Facilities: Besides being the low percentages of the students availing the hostel facilities, the real benefit is even not being actually - utilized by those^{for}/whom this facility is available. The actual number of the inmates present in the hostels visited in the selected three districts presents a gloomy picture. As against the sanctioned strength of 2423 inmates in 45 hostels visited only 1454 were present on the day of visit. Thus whatever the little facility given by the Government 60% of the students are actually utilizing these facilities and 40% of the students are being deprived of the facilities given by the Government. This quite a substantial amount required to be spent over there on 40% of the students is a Sheer-waste. The statement of the number of inmates present in the hostels visited is given below:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Sr. No.	Name of the hostel	District	Name of the voluntary agency running the hostel	Sanct- ion- ed strength	Act- ual pre- sentee sent to the sanct- ioned strength	% of the pre- sentee to the sanct- ioned strength
1.	Janata Vidyarathi Vastigrah, Dindori	Nashik	-	56	10	18%
2.	Girijan Vidyarathi Vastigrah, Wani	"	-	25	2	8%
3.	Kanya Chhatralaya Wani.	"	Adivasi Seva Samittee	20	7	35%
4.	Vidyarathi Vastigrah Surgana.	"	"	100	21	21%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Kanya Chhatralaya, Nashik Surgana.	"	Adivasi Seva Samittee	27	24	88%
6.	Mahatma Gandhi Chhatralaya, Nasik	"	Rashtriya Dalit Sudharak Sangh	144	95	60%
7.	Kuya Chhatralaya, Trimbak.	"	Adivasi Seva Samittee	39	15	38%
8.	Vidyarthi Vastigrah Trimbak.	"	"	215	88	41%
9.	Janata Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Nasik	"	Dang Seva Mandal	70	5	71%
10.	Janata Kanya Vastigrah, Peth	"	"	42	11	26%
11.	Ramabai Ambedkar Vidyarthini Vastigrah, Nasik.	"	Peoples education society.	210	3	-
12.	Sarvodaya Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Barhe.	"	"	72	64	89%
13.	Govt. Backward Class hostel for girls, Nasik.	"	Government	25	22	88%
14.	Sarvodaya Kanya Chhatralaya, Barhe.	"	-	30	30	100%
25.	Goutam Chhatralaya Nasik Road.	"	Government	51	17	33%
16.	Ramabai Ambedkar Hostel, Amravati	Amravati	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Shikshan Sanstha Amravati.	45	40	89%
17.	Govt. B.C. Hostel, for girls, Amravati	"	Government	75	39	52%
18.	Mahatma Phule Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Vikasnagar, Amravati.	"	Janata Midyamandal, Amravati.	75	55	73%
19.	Shri Shradhanand Mulinche Vastigrah Amravati.	"	Shri Shivaaji Shikshan Sanstha, Amravati.	45	44	98%

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Adivasi Chhatralaya Amravati Amravati		Dr. Babasaheb Shikshan Sanstha.	30	30	100%
21.	Eklavya Vastigrah	"	"	65	55	85%
22.	Dr. Babasaheb Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Amravati	"	Dr. Babasaheb Shikshan Sanstha.	70	51	74%
23.	Gout. B. C. Hostel for girls, Dharni.	"	Government	33	33	100%
24.	Dalitudhar Vastigrah, Paratwada.	"	Dalitodhan Mandal	35	24	69%
25.	Vidharbh Adivasi Seva Mandal, Paratwada.	"	Vidharbha Adivasi Seva Mandal Paratwada.	41	25	61%
26.	Dalitvarg Sangh Vidyarthi Hostel Nanded.	Nanded	Dalitvarg Sangh.	221	209	90%
27.	Milind hostel, Nanded.	"		30	19	63%
28.	Janata girls hostel Nanded.	"		32	27	75%
29.	Adivasi Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Nanded.	"		44	14	32%
30.	Sangh Mitra Girls hostel, Nanded.	"		25	21	84%
31.	Mehatma Gandhi Samaj Sudharak Vastigrah, Nanded.	"		54	42	78%
32.	Rambai Ambedkar girls hostel, Kinwat.	"		20	-	-
33.	Zilla Parishad hostel for B. C. Boys, Kinwat.	"		20	3	15%
34.	Dalitvarg Sangh Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Nanded.	"		185	109	59%
35.	Kasturba Milinche Vastigrah, Nanded.	"		20	14	70%
36.	Adivasi Janata Vastigrah, Kinwat.	"		25	21	84%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37.	Sarvagaya Boarding, Nanded Mandet.			39	26	67%
38.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vastigrh, Kinwat.	"		90	8	79%
39.	Bamabai Ambedkar Vastigrh, Kinwat.	"		20	12	60%
40.	Scheduled tribes hostel for Boys.	"		20	12	60%
41.	Govt. Backward Class hostel for girls.	"		75	73	97%
42.	Marathwada Pradesh Bhartiya Dalitvarg Sangh hostel, Wardha.	"		44	29	60%
43.	Dr. Babasaheb Vastigrh Loha.	"		30	25	71%
44.	Sidharth Mulinche Vastigrh, Loha.	"		34	26	76%
45.	Backward Class hostel, Nanded.	"	Vasant Sht- kshen Sangha Nanded.	44	8	18%
Total				2423	1454	-

Particularly in Nasik the picture is very gloomy. As against the sanctioned strength of 922 students in 14 hostels visited only (450) - students were found present. It means that only 48.9% percent of the students are availing hostel facilities and 51.1% are being deprived off the facilities given by the Government. Thus from the statistical inferences both the hypothesis of the project prove positively correct i.e. firstly the hostel facilities are inadequate compared to the

educational needs of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Secondly hostel facilities are not being fully utilized. Some of the commonly noted reasons for these are as follows: 1) Most of the Voluntary agencies running the hostels have made up their profession of opening and running the hostels as it provides them a good opportunity of earning money, maintaining there nearby relatives and enlisting them selves in the list of Social Workers doing the constructive activity. 2) In the present set-up of Zilla Parishad these hostels have become the tools of political influence. The persons on the management board are not interested in the educational advancement of Backward Classes, but consider this actively as a field to capture political status in Zilla Parishad. Marathwada region can be cited as best example of the above statement.

Besides the above two broad reasons leading to under-utilization of the existing hostel facilities, the researcher observed that there are unattended policy matters at Government level, unattended matters of implementation at district level and deep-rooted motives and methods at the management level which have aggravated the seriousness of the problems of under-utilization in question.

Under-utilization of the existing hostel resources in the private sector aided by Government

is the cumulative effect of the following:-

(A) The spreadover of the aided hostels which form the main chunk of the total available facilities in the state, is itself unbalanced in a sense that there is no direction, regulation and control in locating the successive opening of new hostels on the need-based criterion, although we may find directives of the Department that while recognising the newly set up hostels, preference should be given to those hostels which are being opened in areas or pockets wherein there is a great dearth of hostels. In practice, the directives remains mostly unobserved because the Department does not seem to have streamlined the procedure and the pre-requisites to the procedure to implement the directive. The old and new managements in the field have their own sweet reasons and motives to open hostels at places of their choice and the scrutiny of the proposals coming from them is the only inevitable operative performance of the District authority (S.W.O.) and his subject committee. The one precedes invariably the other and there is no planned advance give and take between the agencies and the district authorities. The District authority possess no survey reports of the District to brief him of the precise needs of hostel facilities in various areas or pockets of the District. He maintains no profile over the needs of each tahsils in broader terms and over the needs of particular

areas in each tahsil or the data regarding maladjustment of supply to demand of hostels in prominent towns or cities in his district. He has evinced no interest taking any survey; probably may be he is over worked to do it or is ill-equipped to get it done. The pertinent point here is that locating and the successive opening of hostels is a vital field of study, survey, planning, decision making and implementation. Unless the agencies in the field and the implementing authority of the district come together and exchange information relevant to the bringing about of the balanced spread over of the hostel facilities, the under-utilisation would be the natural result in the field. This requires giving attention as a policy matter at Government level out of which suitable workable guide-lines may percolate to the district authorities to help the voluntary agencies in alerting to the proper needs of the various localities of the district. District surveys to that effect are quite essential and may be undertaken on priority basis.

(B) There are also some unattended matters of implementation at the district level. Which prove causative factors to the phenomenon. For example, the Department expects the Social Welfare Officer to effect admissions in aided hostels in his presence. This is a logical expectation which if fulfilled would go a long way in providing admissions according to percentages of reservations

- for various Backward Class communities and Economically Backward Classes. Because it has already become evident even from our findings that particular management has vested interest in giving more admissions to students of a particular caste or community of their interest to the detriment of the interests of the other castes or communities. Had it been feasible and possible for Social Welfare Officer who has his own reasons, of his inability to implement this expectation, perhaps the mal-practices in giving admissions would not have assumed such large proportions with consequent result of mis-utilisation and under-utilization of hostel facilities. Under-utilization is much the result of freedom enjoyed by agencies in giving admissions with the supportive provision of ex-facto relaxation of Rule No.6 of the Eligibility cases of grant-in-aid. It is the observed inclination of the agencies to admit or show as admitted such students who are either local or hail from the neighbourhood of 2 to 3 miles radius. The 48.9% attendance marked during the research study speaks of the phenomenon of admitting students who really want hostel facilities, and the 51.1% speak of nominal enrolment of undeserved cases of admissions. Thus, effective, and timely and adequate supervision regarding admission is the only remedy.

Secondly, the agency bank on the "exception proviso" to rule No.6 most excessively and the Social Welfare Officer operates on their expectations rather

much freely barring exceptions, under the heavy pressure from either the influential agency workers or from the other non-official sources in the democratic set up of the Zilla Parishad. So long as this exception provision is over-drafted upon by the Social Welfare Officer, it gives forth a greater impression on the agencies that exception to the rule is nothing more than a rule itself.

Thirdly, relaxation cases under Rule No.6 are not attended normally during the very year of admissions in general and during the very one or two months of admissions, by the agencies and the Social Welfare Officer. Were it so, en-blot post-facto relaxation the following year in which grants are paid on last year's attendance would not have been a regular phenomenon. If Social Welfare Officer can effectively reduce the heavy reliance of the agencies on the exceptions to the normal rules of admission, the irregularities leading to mis-utilization and underutilization of hostel facilities would have been significantly reduced. It is only a matter to suggest and implement ways how Social Welfare Officer can do this.

(C) There are certain motives and methods of some managements in running the hostels. Some of the motives can be cited as Social work, securing rank in Social and Political leadership, and money-making. All the motives may not be present in every case; similarly the strength of the motive

may also vary in each case. Also, every management differs in its method of functioning. Some may run the hostel as a family affair involving family members/relative in the management, thereby trying to manipulate things. In some cases, hostel management is one man show in the disguise of management committee and local committees etc. Some entertain admissions without notifying in the papers for admissions, and without seeking help from social workers or teachers or parents who can possibly approach the agency for admissions to needy students. Some advertise in the papers but do not maintain a proper record of applications received and admissions given. Some give admissions only to such student who give donations and in many cases receipts are either not passed or receipts for lower amounts than paid are passed on. Almost all the agencies are not seen endeavouring to obtain applications through various sources of the students belonging to different Backward Class Communities, since they are motivated to give admissions to a particular community. All this is stated to make it clear that these various motives and methods of running the aided hostels result in either insufficient admissions in some cases (for example, in some case E.B.C. Students are inadequately admitted), over admissions to a particular community and mis-utilization of Government grants. Since, it results in not giving admissions according to percentages

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reserved for different communities, especially when agencies give in some cases admissions on paper to such local or neighbouring students who readily are not in want of the hostel facilities, their actions lead to, not only misutilization of funds because grants received on fictitious claims are grants misutilized but they also lead to underutilization of the facilities because deserving cases are not admitted to utilize the facilities.

The concept of creating a casteless society has been defeated by this movement. It has been observed that more and more hostels are being opened on sectarian basis. One particular group amongst the Scheduled Castes knowingly or unknowingly is dominating the present hostel movement in the Voluntary sector. In all such hostels the students belonging to the particular group are admitted. Towards such tendencies the Government vide resolution No. BCH-1271-1538-II, dt. 11th May 73 had fixed the following percentages for admission for various groups amongst the Backward Classes.

1. Amongst one of the group of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 10% -30%
2. Students belonging to Scheduled Tribes. -30%
3. Students belonging to Mang and Bhangi Community. -10%
4. Excluding the one group for other group of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes. -20%
5. For V.Hs. & N.Ts. -10%
6. For E.B.Cs. over & above the sanctioned strength. -20%

The intention of the Government in fixing the percentages of various groups amongst the Backward Classes for admission is that there should not be any disparity in the educational advancement amongst the various groups of the Backward Classes by providing them the hostel facilities. But during survey it has been found that percentages of admission prescribed by the Government is intentionally over looked on some pretext or the other.

The above system of reservation of seats in certain fixed percentages to various Backward Class communities on a uniform basis applicable uniformly to all the districts of the state, was found to be inadequate and less effective to suit the local needs of each districts. Since, there is a large variety of percentage of population of each community in each district, it was advisable to discard uniform percentage of reservation for all districts, and so Government accepted the recommendations made by the High Level Committee for the Welfare of Backward Classes.

Accordingly, the rules of admissions pertaining to reservations in percentages, were subsequently revised by Government in the light of the districtwise population variation of various Backward Class communities. From the year 1976-77, seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes

have been reserved in each district of Maharashtra on the basis of their population in the District.

In Government Backward Class hostels at Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad, the following percentage is prescribed.

1. Scheduled Castes 54%
2. Scheduled Tribes 32%
3. Vimukta Jatis & Nomadic Tribes. 14%

The provision of reservation of seats for Economically Backward Class continue to remain in force. For other places in the districts, the reservation of seats is fixed by Government. For example, we give below instances of five districts for clarification.

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>S.C.</u>	<u>S.T.</u>	<u>V.Js. & N.Ts.</u>
1.	Thane	14	86	-
2.	Nasik	26	74	-
3.	Pune	62	20	18
4.	Bhir	75	-	25
5.	Akola	64	11	25

It is now required to reserve 10% seats out of the seats for Scheduled Castes in each district for Mang and Bhangt community. In case of Scheduled Tribes preference is to be given to students from Katkari and Madia-Gond communities in the concerned districts. Similarly, not more than 30% should belong to one community for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes.

The revised rules again go into details to protect the Ex-servicemen. 5% of the E.B.C. seats are reserved for children of Ex-servicemen, from Scheduled Castes, Nav-Buddhas, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes.

Not only Ex-servicemen, even Government servants working in tribal areas are also intended to be benefitted because children of State Government servants in these areas are now eligible for admission in Government Backward Class hostels.

Nomadic Tribes and orphans of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Vimukta Jatis and E.B.C. who are local are eligible for admissions provided they are studying in standard V and onwards.

Thus, we observe that Government of - Maharashtra have recently liberalised the rules of admissions, with a view to suit the local needs and to benefit the cases of those of genuine needs of concessions.

However, despite Government efforts the availment of facilities by various communities presents a different picture.

The following statements reveal the availment of hostel facilities, castewise.

Statement No. (1)

Name of the hostel the District	Name of the Vol. agency. caste group	Sancti- oned strength	As per percentage fixed	Castes actual in Katal	Excess or shortage											
1	Mah-Mang STs. Ot-VJ ar Bha- inc-angi lud- ing Nav Budh.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mashik Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vastigradh.	Nav Budh	55	17	5	17	11	5	38	1	3	16	-	21Ex.	4sh.	8sh.	one short
-do-2. Janata Vidyarthi Vastigradh.	Land Seva Mandal	66	29	7	20	12	7	9	-	-	46	-	11sh.	7sh.	16Ex.	
-do-3. Sidharth Vastigradh, Chandor.	Nav Budh	75	23	7	23	14	7	62	1	6	6	-	39Ex.	6sh.	17sh.	
-do-4. Govt. girls hostel Mashik.	Govt.	25	8	2	8	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	Beng all STs.	-	-	-
-do-5. Ramabai Ambedkar Vastigradh, Mashik.	Sent Nav Shikshan Prasardik Mandal	200	60	20	60	40	20	65	2	5	10	1	5Ex.	17sh.	35sh.	50sh.
-do-6. Vidyarthi Vastigradh, Trimbak	Adivasi Seva Samiti	215 125	33	13	33	26	13	31	1	7	83	3	2sh.	12sh.	16sh.	53Ex.
-do-7. Kanyo Chhatralaya Trimbak.	-do-	39 36	11	3	11	3	8	4	1	4	27	-	7sh.	2sh.	3sh.	16Ex.

.34.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Neshik 8. Kanya Chhatraclaya Ncsik.			Hindu	40	12	4	12	8	4	4	1	2	23	- 8sh.	3sh.	6sh.	4Ex.	
-do- 9. Anand Vidyaarthi Ashram, Deola			Kalwan Ncu Taluka Budd Daitt- Shild- her	40	12	4	12	8	4	19	-	-	4	- 7Ex.	-	-	8sh.	

Ex. - Excess

Sh. - Shortage

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Statement II .35.

Name of the District	Total B.C. population caste-wise			Total population	Percentages total B.C. population caste-wise						
	Mahar	Mang	Bhangt Cham-Dhor bhar		S.Os.	S.Ts.	Mahar	Mang	Bhangt Cham-Dhor bhar	S.Ts.	
Nashik	21,323	17,891	22,887	347	67,845	4,53,707	31.45	26.38	-	33.73	0.51
Nanded	42,964	66,143	171	4,817	892	118,879	11.45	30.70	4.95	20.06	4.73
Amravati	5,579	18,929	2415	9,793	2306	48,702	5.05	0.22	0.20	0.08	-
contd.											
Total No. and students availing Hostel facilities											
Percentage caste-wise											
Mahar	Mang	Chambhar	Dhor	Bhangt Cham-Dhor bhar	Sche- duled Tribes	Total	Mahar	Mang	Dhor	Chambhar	Bhangt S.Ts.
443	27	120	-	-	1044	2.08	0.17	%	0.52	-	0.23
4099	165	6	2	-	128	0.95	0.25	0.09	0.12	-	0.31
282	43	8	-	5	40	5.54	0.22	-	0.33	0.20	0.08
1134	235	134	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

From the statements given above, it is evident that educationally advanced group amongst Backward Classes is deriving the maximum benefit depriving off the educationally backward and - neglected groups. Since the management of most of the institutions have been captured by this dominant group; Number of persons and already established voluntary agencies began setting up hostels for Backward Classes in such a quite succession that it appears that the task of setting up of institutions is not so difficult. Infact it is seen that acquisition of some kind of accommodation with a collection of 10 to 15 boys or girls paves the way for earning recognition and grant in aid for Government. There is of course an obvious need for setting up of hostels for Backward Class students. But during survey it is observed that at quite a number of places hostels have been set up at the same place where hostel facilities already existed. Besides this a tendency also came to the notice that few hostels sprang up in the spirit of rivalry. The result is that by and large the accommodation some how secured by the voluntary agencies is deficient and unwholesome. Besides this it resulted in the sectional approach in selecting and giving admissions to the students. The persons who are appointed as - superintendents of the hostels are those who seem to be handy and who enjoy the favour of the -

chief entrepreneur of the business of hostel management. It is observed by and large that the hostel owes its existence to an enterprising - individual. The managing committee, which can not be dispensed with, under the rules, is a nominal body of the members collected by the chief sponsor only to serve the requirement of the rules. Consequent upon the educational policy adopted by State Government more and more schools are being opened in centrally situated villages. Thus the educational facility up to the secondary stage is almost available in every big village and thus the students residing in these villages or near about are getting educational facilities even without the hostel facilities. The voluntary agencies who have made up their profession as running the hostels, admit either the local students or from the nearby villages within a radius of four to five miles. This serves two fold purpose for the management. Such students being local as from nearby villages are often asked to go to their houses on every holiday and on every ordinary festive occasion and on the day of return they are instructed to bring their tiffins for a day. Thus in every week the management saves considerable amount by marking false attendance for all such inmates in the muster roll of the hostel. The parents of all such students think it obligatory on the part of the management for admitting their

children against the rules laid down by the Government and also for giving food to their children at least for few days in a week.

Students Coverage:-

Out of the collected data of 2732 students 1134 students (41.51%) are from Mahar community or Mahars convert to Buddhism; from Chambhars 134 i.e. 4.09% ; and amongst Mang 235 bringing the percentage to 8.63%. The percentage of Bhangt community is negligible i.e. 0.01% as only (3) student were found in the hostels. The percentage of Adivasis as per enrollment comes to 45% since there are 1222 inmates in the hostels. Thus it is clear from this sample survey that the dominant group amongst the Backward Classes is deriving maximum facilities given by the Government depriving off the neglected and Backward groups.

Besides these drawbacks, it has been observed that violation of rules and regulations are being purpose fully done by the management to secure maximum benefit of the grants paid by - Government, particularly in respect of attendance, admission, diet, accommodation etc.

Bogus attendance:-

In the existing Rules, it has been laid down to check up the hostel attendance of the inmates with the school attendance to check and minimise the marks of the bogus attendance in the hostel. The very purpose of this Rule is being

defeated in most of the cases. It has been observed during field study that many of the voluntary agencies running the hostels, have also started the educational institutions of their own and they very often compel the inmates of the hostels to join the educational institutions started by the management. This facilitates the management in marking false attendance both in the schools as well as in the hostels. Besides this such a compulsion deprives the students of joining the other educational institutions of their choice. As a result of such restrictions, the educational standard of the inmates is worsening. The statement of S.S.C. results of few hostels for the preceeding years indicates the fact.

APPENDIX E

Sr. No.	Name of the hostel	Name of the voluntary agency.	Whether the management is having a school of its own.	No. of hostel inmates admitted the sch-ool.	No. of students appeared for S.S.C. Exam. 70-71	71-72
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Gautam Chhatralaya Nasik.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Gyanu Vikas Kendra Nasik.	Yes	51	70-71-8-0	Nil
2.	Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Trimbakeshwar.	Adivasi Seva Samiti, Nasik.	Yes	215	70-71-44.30	68% 71-72-37-19-51%
3.	Kanya Chhatralaya, Trimbakeshwar.	"	Yes		70-71 ---	-3-3-
4.	Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Surgana.	Adivasi Seva Samiti.	Yes		70-71-21-10-	47.61% 71-72-17-5-29.7%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Vidyarthi Vasti- Kalwan	Adivasi Seva Samiti.	Yes		70-71- 12-3- 71-72- 8-5-	25% 60%
6.	Jathind Vidyarthi Vastigrah, Nasik.	"	Yes		70-71 8-2- 71-72- 5-3-	25% 50%
7.	Kannya Chhatralaya Nasik.	"	Yes		70-71- 6-2- 71-72- 6-5-	33% 73%
8.	Kannya Chhatralaya Surgana.	"	Yes		70-71- - - 71-72- 2-0-	- 0%
9.	Kannya Chhatralaya Kalwan	"	Yes		70-71- 2-2- 71-72- 2-0-	100% 0%
10.	Ramabai Ambedkar Vastigrah.	"	Yes		70-71- 19-4- 71-72- 19-6-	21% 32%
11.	Kasturba Kannya Ashram.	Kasturba Sarvadaya Mandal, Amravati.	Yes		70-71- 4-0- 71-72- 12-5-41.	0% 66%
12.	Lokseva Chhatra- laya, Chikhaldara.	-	Yes		70-71- 3-1- 71-72- 4-2-	33% 50%
13.	Janata Vastigrah Asegaon Purna.	-	Yes		70-71- 7-4- 71-72- 7-6-	57% 85%
14.	Karmveer Vithal Ravji Shinde Vastigrah Anjan- gaon Surji.	-	Yes		70-71- 12-5- 71-72- 9-4-	41.7% 44.47%
15.	Shradhagand B.C. Girls Hostel, Amravati.	-	Yes		70-71 -7-1- 71-72- 2-	14-28% Nil

Admissions:-

The general tendency has been observed particularly in Nanded district in respect of admitting new students every year in the hostels run by voluntary agencies. This procedure is purposefully

followed every year firstly because the new entrants remain fully under the control of the management and do not complain to the officials about the mismanagement, in adequacy of food, grants etc. Secondly the management while giving admissions bind all such students for the payment of donations either in cash or in kind beyond the admissable limit - prescribed. This system in fact defeats the purpose of providing educational facilities till the completion of particular stage of education. On many of such occasions it has been observed that the old continuing students who are refused admissions either give up their education or seek admissions in some other new hostels. Thus there is a considerable wastage in education as well as of public money. The cases of such type of admissions noticed during field visits are given in the subjoined statement.

The Social Welfare officers also do not take any cognizance of this fact during their inspections. 2) As per the ~~existing~~ ^{existing} ~~upto 75-76~~ Rules of admissions existing upto 75-76 local students belonging to Mang, Bhangi & Kathkaris are given admission in the hostel irrespective of the class in which they are studying. This Rule had been framed only to provide education facilities to the neglected groups amongst Backward Classes and there by to remove the imbalance in the educational sphere. It has been observed that the

voluntary agencies particularly in Nanded district admitted the local students in lower classes on the pretext that they belong to Mang community. On enquiry from the inmates it is revealed that they belong to some other castes rather than Mang. It appears that to derive the maximum benefit of the rule false caste certificates are obtained and admissions are given. The Social Welfare Officers do not verify the caste certificates during their inspections. The statement of such few students is given below:

Sr. No.	Name of the hostel	District	Name of the students	Caste entered in the hostel register	Actual caste of the inmate
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rama Mata Ambedkar Vas-tigrāh, Kinwat	Nanded	1. Padmini Venkana	Yelmalwar (Mang)	Telgu Weaver
2.	-do-		2. Lalita Venkana	"	"
			3. Shobha Narsur	"	"
2.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vas-tigrāh for Boys.	Nanded	1. Gangadhar Narayan	Wanurwar (Mang)	Komti
3.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Kanya Chhatralaya, Kinwat.	"	1. Sushila Moshya Jangilwar	Telgu Mala	Koshti
	-do-		2. Chandrakala Krishnarao Kasture.	Mang	The parent is unaware of his caste
	-do-		3. Shobha Krishnarao Kasture.	"	"

There are certain ingredients of a hostel. It is the responsibility of the management as well as of the Government to see that they are satisfactorily met. Among these more important are 1) sufficient and nutritive food; 2) satisfactory and adequate amenities; 3) an atmosphere in which development of moral and cultural part of the students personality is facilitated; and 4) facilities for periodical medical check up. During the field visit it has been observed that the voluntary organisation as well as the Government agency has totally failed to meet out all these essential ingredients of the hostel.

Problem of accomodations:

In almost all the hostels visited, with the exception of a few, it has been observed that the inmates are accomodated in over-crowded rooms and hardly there is any space in the existing hostels for starting any reading room, recreation hall etc. In Nasik district at Wani one hostel for boys is housed in a dark unventilated room. Even during day time one cannot move freely without the assistance of light. In spite of such unhygenic conditions, the hostel is being inspected and grants are regularly being paid.

Dietory conditions:-

In all the hostels visited it has been noticed that a standard limited diet is given to the inmates. In Nasik and in Nanded district a

a glowing incidents appeared to the notice i.e. ~~the~~ the voluntary agencies having some political backing and the patronage of prominent leaders do not provide even the minimum bare necessities to their inmates such as food, water, light etc. The hostel run by Dalitvarg Sangh at Nasik proper can be cited as best example of this type. The present hostel appears to be more as a beggers camp rather than hostel. The inmates are given inferior type of limited food twice in a day i.e. one thin Jawar bread of inferior millet and Dal with sufficient ~~an~~ quantity of water without oil or chilly powder, mixed in it. It is evident from the record that non recurring grant for the purchase of utencils and carpets was paid to the management. It is surprisingly observed that the stock register is being regularly checked by the Social Welfare Officer during inspection and a certificate is also recorded to the effect that all the utincils purchased such as stainless plates, glasses Katories etc. are found correct. All transactions of the articles purchased are seen but the physical - existence of all these dead stock articles appear to be dead. The inmates take their limited share of food in the alimunium plates of their own and eat whatever the food is distributed either by sitting or standing in some corners of the hostel. After meals the inmates go to public tap for water for taking bath and other necessities they go to

river Godavari which is about a distance of four to five furlongs from the hostel. The floor of the hostel was full of dust having insects. On the whole the condition of the hostel was more like a beggar's shelter rather than that of a hostel. In spite of such worst conditions prevailing, the management is being patronized by the officer. Out of the sanctioned strength of 144 inmates, 50 fictitious names have been entered in the Muster Roll and a regular present~~ed~~ is being marked for all such fictitious inmates.

The reasons in support of this is given that the grants are inadequate to meet the living index with the rising costs. Some of the managements justified their action by saying that generally the students in all such hostels come from poor families and that what they get in the hostels is much better than what they normally get in their houses. It is a matter of great concern that how all these students manage to live and apply their mind to their academic pursuits. It is an admitted fact that the intellectual development of children and youth to a large extent is determined by the quality and nutritive contents of food intake during the formative years of the children. It is, therefore, suggested that there should be binding on the voluntary agencies to supplement the food to the inmates in the hostel under the world food programme and also to give whole some and sufficient

food. From the collected data it has been observed in respect of Backward Class students the percentage of enrolment decreases as we ascend to the educational ladder and is very low at the stage of higher education. Enrolment of girls is far from satisfaction.

Performance of the budget:-

The comparative figures of the literacy percentage amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1951 and 1961 indicates that the progress was below the expected targets as compared to the amount spent for achieving the object, strictly speaking in financial terms it can be said that the performance in respect of educational progress is far from satisfaction since the desired objectives have not been achieved - during the last four plan periods.

The reasons for the poor performance are varied:

- 1) Lack of guidance or coaching facilities to the Backward Class students has been one of the major factors responsible for their frequent failures and relatively low performance at the S.S.C. and university examinations resulting ^{into} drop outs and stagnation at various levels.
- 2) Particularly amongst the tribals it is the common notion that education in schools may disrupt their family life by bringing in conflicting values.
- 3) The general trend amongst Backward Classes is not in favour of female education.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

1) Mushroom and unbalanced area-wise growth of hostels:

Broadly speaking, it has been observed that there is a mushroom growth of Backward Class hostels. The spreadover of the hostels in the state could not be brought about to justify regional balance or areawise balance from the point of view of need of the hostel facilities regionwise or areawise, and it is mainly because of the lack of precise and effective state policy to permit the location and development of aided hostels in the state; secondly, the District Level authority attending to recognition of hostels too possesses no short-term or long-term plan to locate the new and up-coming aided hostels on the basis of any district survey of needs of hostels related to the opening to new schools and enrolment data, location of schools, location of previous hostels, demands of the people etc. It has been the policy of the Education Department to open secondary schools in the centrally located big villages. These schools will cater to the educational needs of the students residing in the vicinity of 4 to 5 miles.

It is suggested that the mushroom growth of aided hostels may be halted as soon as possible by adopting a well thought-out policy at Government level to bring about an areawise balanced growth

of hostels in the state thereby correcting the top-sided development of the movement and directives to that effect may be given to all the Social Welfare Officers. However it is necessary to chalk out the short-term and perspective plans to locate the new hostels on the basis of a survey findings. The Divisional Social Welfare Officer has a hostel squad at his level. This squad can be employed to work over the survey of the Districts and the concerned Social Welfare Officers in the Division may give every cooperation to the squad to conduct the survey in their districts. The short-term plan must indicate the exact locations in specific areas or pockets including hilly and intractable areas of the Districts where the new hostels need to be started on priority basis. The voluntary agencies desirous of opening new hostels may also be consulted in the work of the preparation of this short-term plan. Similarly, the relevant details of the short-term plan may also be circulated amongst these agencies to intimate them in advance about the likely places where the Zilla Parishad intends to recognise hostels. If possible yearwise indication of likely quota and likely places of hostels for recognition in that year may also be indicated. This is suggested only to reiterate the necessity of a planned and phased growth of the hostel movement henceforth.

It would not be out of place to suggest

that Government should dare where Voluntary agencies fail to open hostels. In the interests of educational advancement of backward classes in general and the tribals in particular, it is absolutely necessary for Government to utilise its resources in making available hostel facilities at difficult places. It is further added that at times, Government may also encourage the most reputed voluntary agencies to start hostels at such places by evolving a special supplementary grant to such agencies for running hostels at such places. For example, there are still no hostels catering for villages into the depth alongside the dams of Bhatghar and Mula in Pune District. Such areas may be picked up in the short-term plan for opening of hostels on priority basis.

We have also observed in case of hostels for girls that the state requires to start more hostels for girls. The ratio of boys to girls for enrolment in hostels is 8.5:1. Wherever and whenever voluntary agencies do not come forward for adequate number of hostels for girls, Government should take up the task. Government may suitably think over the broader suggestion that they should give priority in the state sector, to opening of girls hostels over the programme of opening of boys hostels for the time being till the imbalance is adequately repaired. They may leave to the private sector the programme of boys' hostels.

(2) Inadequacy of Hostel facilities:

Besides the lop-sided growth of hostels in the state, we have observed that the total number of hostels run by Government and the voluntary - agencies is far inadequate compared to the educational needs of the backward class students in the state. There is, in broader terms as explained earlier, only one seat available to 77 Backward Class students.

It is, therefore, suggested (A) to earmark adequate budgetary provisions to enable the Director of Social Welfare to allot adequate quota to the districts to recognise more hostels of the voluntary agencies. Special attention, as a matter of policy, needs to be given to opening of more hostels for Scheduled Tribes students in tribal areas and in hilly and intractable pockets of the Tribal Sub Plan area. (B) Reputed voluntary agencies may be particularly encouraged by sanctioning special supplementary grants, to entice them to open hostels in such areas. (C) Thirdly, the Zilla Parishads may also be asked to divert part of their resources (15% of their own resources are earmarked for - Social Welfare at present) for opening model hostels for Backward Class students on the pattern of Government hostels for Backward Classes and such hostels to remain as model, may possibly be located at each place of a Panchayat Samiti so that the aided Backward Class hostels may try to emulate

them in improving their hostels. However, in order to enable the Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samittis to run these hostels as models, it is worth suggesting that Government may assist them by sanctioning - 75% grant on all the approvable items of expenditure as applicable to Government hostels. The Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitties may bear 25% expenditure from their own resources. This arrangement would satisfy the following demands.

(a) There is a popular demand that Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitties are not putting in adequate financial resources for the cause of backward class welfare. Taking this into account, if Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitties could spend on Backward Class hostels as suggested above, the result would be visible and convincing to the people of the efforts of the local bodies for Backward Class Welfare.

(b) Aided hostels in the interior parts of the rural areas would be benefitted directly and indirectly by the exemplary hostels at Panchayat Samitti places. Good things in management of exemplary hostels will percolate to aided hostels in due course through seminars which can be arranged at such hostels.

(c) There is an expectation to make local bodies more responsive to the needs and hopes of backward classes. This would be fulfilled.

(d) There are limits to State's financial and other resources, to cater sufficiently to the educational needs of backward classes. This - kind of involvement of the local bodies will come to the rescue of the state Government.

(e) Lastly, since Zilla Parishad is ^astatutory body, it would be very convenient to regulate and control the management of such hostels thus eliminating mal-practices in running the hostels at least in these hostels.

Perspective Plan:-

In order to wipe off the inadequacy of hostels in the near future of 10 years, it is suggested to draft a Ten year or Fifteen Year Perspective Plan during which the plan should aim at locating hostels in the State in such an extensive and intensive manner that there should be a hostel within every 10 mile radius. So also, during this plan period, the strategy to identify badly run hostels and to merge them with well-run hostels should also be adopted. This merger strategy has an advantage of avoiding waste of Government resources and concentrating use of public funds on good hostels. In order to prepare the perspective plan, it is essential to conduct and complete district-wise surveys as explained earlier, and operate effectively over them.

(3) Under utilization of hostels facilities:-

We have observed that there is under -

utilization of hostel facilities in the existing Backward Class hostels, on account of the low percentage of students availing the hostel facilities. Secondly, besides the low percentage of students availing the facilities, the real benefit is not being derived by cent percent students. It has been observed that 40% of students shown on the attendance of the aided hostels are being deprived of the facilities provided. It amounts to waste of 40% resources. This percentage is comparatively higher among Scheduled Tribe Students.

The following suggestions are made to overcome the weakness of the movement on the said count:

(a) Evolution of the definite state policy in locating the hostels in the state to check the mushroom growth of hostels.

(b) Encouraging reputed voluntary agencies and Zilla Parishads to start new hostels as explained earlier.

(c) Government to promote and develop in state sector hostels for girls till the time the imbalance as explained earlier is corrected.

(d) Strict enforcement of rules of management of hostels by all possible means including strengthening of ^{Inspectorate} ~~the~~ and ministerial staff at the district level.

In this connection, the following two points deserve due consideration by the Department.

Admissions(i) There are admissions only on paper of some inmates. There are also admissions of inmates who are local and from the neighbourhood not in genuine need of hostel facility. Such fictitious and undeserved admissions need to be checked by authorising only the Social Welfare Officer of the District to effect admissions in all the aided hostels in his jurisdiction. For this purpose, in order to minimise the burden of this assignment, the voluntary agencies should not be allowed to remove the old inmates without the permission of the Social Welfare Officer. The new admission will be effected by him. All applications for new admissions will be received by him either directly from parents/ their wards or through - Social workers, teachers, hostels and any other agency. He would scrutinize them thoroughly in the light of rules of admissions and the demands of the applicants and the vacancies in the hostels. He should be given additional staff of one Inspector and one Senior Clerk to help him in scrutiny, decision making, communication of decisions in time and deciding on complaints.

(ii) Superintendents: We observe malpractices in running the hostels in many cases. The sub-standard and limited food and other facilities are provided in many hostels, helping to retard the much needed physical and intellectual development of the inmates. Adequate and nutritive food intake is a must during

the formative years of the inmates. Secondly, inadequate and unhygienic clothing and bedding provided to inmates, neglect of the requirement of inculcating in inmates healthy habits and attitudes etc. are also observed. Thirdly marking of false attendance of inmates is the perennial incidence in many hostels. To check all these irregularities and tendencies, one of the remedies, we visualise, is the appointment of superintendents on these hostels, as Government employees, whose pay and allowances are to be borne by Government. Their appointments would ensure the following things:

Firstly, the agencies which are financially weak will be spared of the financial burden of paying for the Superintendent's services.

Secondly, these would be full-time, resident and trained Superintendent available in each hostel as against the present fraudulent practices in showing the appointment of so-called Superintendents in many cases. Such Superintendents would be effective in implementing the provisions of the scheme to much extent. Effective control on the hostels would be ensured.

Thirdly, the scheme would go a long way in reducing unemployment among the educated lot in rural areas.

Fourthly, Government is in a position to get them trained suitably through a phased training

programme at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Social Welfare Administration, Pune.

(4) Unequal opportunities to different communities:

It is observed that educationally advanced group amongst the backward classes is deriving the maximum benefit under the scheme to the detriment of the interests of educationally backward and neglected groups amongst the backward classes.

Just about few years back Government of India had appointed a committee for the revision of list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India under the Chairmanship of Justice Lokur. One of the important recommendations of this committee was that Buddhist community in Maharashtra being educationally advanced may be deleted from the list of Scheduled Castes. This recommendation has not been accepted by Government so far. Without going into the merits of Government decision or that of the recommendation our finding regarding unequal opportunities in availabing hostel - facilities by different Backward Class Communities, prompts us to suggest the following.

Government and community resources in catering to the overall quantitative and qualitative demands of the hostel facilities, will always fall short. Taking this into account, it should be an indebatable thing to accept the strategy of selection and rejection in admitting beneficiaries under the scheme of hostels. Even amongst backward

classes, the criterion of "means test" need to be applied at the admission stage, with a view to bar effectively any Backward Class family which is well-placed financially to try to take benefit of the scheme at the cost of poorer Backward Class families. We cite here the policy adopted by Government in case of other schemes for backward classes. Backward class students reading in Sainik Military Schools are granted special maintenance allowance for eleven months at the rate of Rs. 40/- p.m. for Sainiki School at Satara and at Rs. 150/- p.m. for Military Schools at Nasik and Pune, provided their parents income is not more than Rs. 750/- p.m. Government of Maharashtra has already accepted and implemented this strategy of selection on the basis of means test in this scheme of stipend. It is, therefore logical and practical to extend the same strategy in giving benefits to the most deserving cases under the hostels programme, with a view to remove the inequalities in opportunities to various communities under the programme.

Opportunities to O.B.Cs. and advanced communities towards harmonious integration of various communities:-

At present, 20% seats over and above the sanctioned strength are reserved for students who are economically backward irrespective of caste, or religion, subject to availability of adequate living space in the hostel. In many cases, since,

adequate living space in hostels is not available, E.B.C. students are either not admitted or admitted not upto 20 B.C. This has defeated the objective of securing conditions to facilitate integrated community spirit in living and working together to bring about communal harmony. Hostels are also the best avenues for building the national character and nursing the spirit of unity amongst various groups and classes. The seeds of unity and oneness can be sown amongst the students only at the tender age.

It is, therefore, suggested that students who can be classified as Other Backward Classes at present and also students from the advanced communities like Brahmin, Jain etc. may also be admitted invariably in the hostels, on the basis of the same means test as pointed out above and the condition of availability of living space should be removed. The voluntary agencies should be made to secure adequate space for all. Liberal grants for the construction of buildings will help to resolve the difficulties of space. Secondly it will also be worthwhile to increase the present percentage of reservation of seats from 20 to 30 P.C. or other higher percentage. This measure would work towards reducing the aggrieved feelings of non-backward class people towards the programme. It is now officially admitted that 40% of India's population live under poverty line. The said

measure will come to the aid of these people to some extent more. Thirdly, it is further suggested that out of the total percentage for E.B.Cs. 5% seats may also be allotted to students from - Advanced communities to achieve communal harmony.

(5) The Educational progress of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

The comparative figures of literacy percentage among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes indicate that the progress is below the expected target as compared to the finances spent. In other terms, the performance budget in respect of educational progress is far from satisfactory.

This position needs to be improved and vigorous efforts through suitable campaign and programmes need to be made to improve the literacy percentage of these communities in general and the tribes in particular. The Education Department may take the initiative in this regard.

(6) Hostels and Political influence:-

It has been observed that in the present set up of Zilla Parishad, running the hostels by some voluntary agencies has become the tool of creating political influence rather than catering to the educational needs of the backward class students.

It is not the objective of this Research Project to offer any solution over this situation nor it is easy to offer one.

(7) Recognition of hostels:-

During the field visit, it has been observed that some hostels have been housed in cattle sheds or in such buildings which are not fit for human habitation. This is being done to avoid the payment of rent. Besides this, the voluntary agencies having no sound financial position have entered this field. All this results in deteriorating the conditions of the hostels.

In order to check this deterioration of the movement, we have already made out proposals in the suggestions No.1 and 2 above in this chapter.

(8) Percentages of reservations and the tendency of violating rules:-

According to the rules, percentages of reservation of seats for different categories of backward classes are fixed. But it has been observed that many voluntary agencies have the tendency to violate them on this or that pretext resulting into misutilization and underutilization of hostel facilities and Government grants.

It was suggested that reservations for admission to various groups of backward classes should be based on the districtwise population variations of various Backward Class communities. It was accepted and now from the year 1976-77 seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes have been reserved

in each district on the basis of their population in the District. This has been explained in - details earlier.

We, now propose that in order to remove any scope for irregular and fraudulent practices in admissions and to give due opportunities for admissions to various communities, the Social Welfare Officer of the concerned district should only be authorized to receive and scrutinise applications for fresh admissions and decide the admissions in the aided hostels and that without his specific permission, no old inmates be removed from the roll by the voluntary agency. His - hands should, however, be strengthened by additional staff as explained earlier.

(9) Assessment of grants:-

It has been observed that influential social workers very often bring pressures and obtain grants. Besides this in Nasik and Nanded, it is observed that the final inspections of the hostels for the assessment of grants are done by the subordinate executive staff. These persons being local and ignorant about the rules and regulations of the department favour the management with some motive and thus undue grants are sometime released.

To minimise the irregularities and undue pressures for release of grants, inspections must invariably be carried out either by the Social

Welfare Officer or his Inspectors of hostels and that assessment of grants should be done by the clerk in his office under the guidance of the Social Welfare Officer or his inspectors only.

(10) Elevating the educational standard of the inmates:-

The prime motive of provision of hostel facilities is to facilitate the students to prosecute their studies by developing their standards. But the conditions imposed by some managements for joining particular institutions of their interest, have put obstacles in achieving good educational standard.

It is suggested that there should not be any impositions on the inmates in respect of joining the schools. The Social Welfare Officer, during his visits to hostels, should make it a point to verify if inmates are coerced to join particular schools and take suitable cognisance of erring agencies. This procedure, if followed scrupulously will also put a check in recording bogus attendance of inmates in the hostels, indirectly. Secondly the Department may also consider seriously the proposal of sanctioning grants to some good managements in their efforts to elevate the educational standard of the inmates who are poor in their performance in subject like English, Science and Mathematics by appointing part-time teachers to guide these students. This practice of appointing teachers to coach students is found in hostels xxxxxx

run by Social Welfare Department and it is suggested that the same may be extended in some cases of - voluntary agencies on experimental basis in the initial stages by giving supplementary grants for the purpose.

(11) Grant-in-aid pattern:

It is an admitted fact that the cost of living index has considerably increased during the past five to six years and it is practically difficult for the sincere and reputed voluntary agencies to maintain the hostels within the present grant-in-aid pattern. Besides this because of the - continuous droughts in some areas of Maharashtra the people and the parents of the inmates are also not in a position to help the managements by giving contributions and donations. In rural areas, there is a general feeling against backward classes in general. Under these circumstances, it is also difficult for many good managements to run hostels in the best possible manner within Government grants.

It is, therefore, suggested that the present rate of capitation grant should be revised upward suitably in the light of the requirements of - adequate and nutritious food suggested by the - dietary scale laid down by Haffkin Institute. Per capita Government expenditure of Rs. 37.70 per inmate is inadequate for this purpose. Government spends not less than Rs. 100/- per inmate in a Government run hostel. This wide gap needs to be minimised

by raising the capitation grant suitably taking into account the state resources. At the same time, it is advisable to increase suitably the budgetary provisions under the hostel programme. Secondly more funds should be made available for sanctioning grants for the construction of buildings for the aided hostels.

In the end it is concluded that though the number of hostels is being increased every year, with the increase of budget, yet the real purpose is not being achieved to the expected standard.

Thus, the hypothesis formed in the -
Research design have been proved. In short our findings are (i) The existing hostel facilities are not fully utilised by the backward class ~~xxx~~ students in general and the tribes in particular and (ii) There is still an over all shortage of hostels, taking into account the total needs of backward class students in the state.

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