

ENTREPRENEURIAL EMPOWERMENT OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF DALIT ENTREPRENEURS IN TELANGANA

Lavanyanjali Mukkerla

Asst. Professor

Email - lavanyamukkerla@gmail.com

Abstract: This paper will analyse to The Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives and instituted policy measures to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. This encouraging Dalit Entrepreneurship is a recent phenomenon, which has been recognized as an important tool for empowerment of socially depressed classes. It is felt that by encouraging establishing new ventures, dalit entrepreneurs can generate new jobs for themselves and also for others. The emergence of entrepreneurship among the scheduled castes may be understood as a result of the capitalistic development of the country, alongside their own initiative, hard work and innovativeness. The entrepreneurs are the creators of national wealth by way of mobilization of idle savings of the public through the issuance of industrial securities and investing these savings in industry and business activities would result in productive utilization of national resources leading to increase of capital formation which is essential for rapid economic growth. They also make efforts of conversion of resources like land, labour and capital into national income in the form of goods and services and contribute for the enhancement of per capita income of the country, which is considered as an important measuring rod for economic growth. Further, it is also opined that entrepreneurs contribute for the generation of employment and help to remove regional disparities in the economic development by way of setting up of service, business and industrial units leading to improvement in the living standards of people in the backward areas.

Key Words: Entrepreneurship, Dalit empowerment, National Resources.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Dalit empowerment may be defined as a process of gaining control by Dalits as a community over self, ideology, material and knowledge resources, which determine power relationship in a society. As a political process, Dalit empowerment challenges the prevailing power structure of subordination and involves three crucial elements-access to information, opportunity for participation and inclusion in political process and organizing capacity to influence and gain power. In outcome oriented paradigm, the process of empowerment involves four successive steps like, consciousness, Mobilization. Organization control, the consciousness refers to knowledge and awareness about group identity and interests. The distinction between a conscious group and a passive group is the same distinction what Kal Marx finds between a "class in itself and a class for itself". The mobilization means generating a desire and willingness to come forward to attain an objective. The tightening of government expenditure has limited 58 state services like health care, education, public distribution services, potable water, housing schemes, social security benefits and so on. The poor and marginalized communities depend upon the state for the fulfillment of many of the basic needs of life, any shortage in these services impact them negatively. Poor Dalit women, facing the drawbacks stemming from caste and class disadvantages, were often hard-pressed in making both ends meet. In addition to the cuts in expenditure, the government promoted labour market flexibility in line with the underlying principle to allow the free market to play a more important role in determining the level and form of wages and to remove institutional barriers

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Kancha Ilaiah, (2017). In other words of Kancha Ilaiah, it is 'social smuggling', which is coined by him in order to capture the idea of cultural and economic exploitation of Dalits. He argued, the Baniyas or Vaishayyas alone had that right, as per the Manusmriti. Smuggling is a 28 process of illegally taking away goods and commodities or wealth out of a nation's borders. He defines Social smuggling as, which draws wealth, grain, goods and commodities from all the

productive (agrarian and artisanal) lower castes, into the boundaries of the Bania or Vaishya castes. The Bania business often involves deceptive mechanisms while buying and selling. At higher levels, non-banias are either not allowed to enter businesses, or not allowed to survive in it. Bania social relations with others are very negative that leads to massive poverty among the lower castes and massive wealth in the hands of Bania businesses and industries.

Lakshmi Iyer (2013), the study mainly focused on caste discrimination in entrepreneurship across all the states in India and examines the two narratives of political economy. First narrative deals with growth rates of the economy in the last two decades, reveals that rapid growth rates may result in wide spread of inequalities. Rich benefits from poor, towns and cities more benefited than villages, oppressed section benefited more from suppressed section. Second narrative deals with socially marginalised group's entrepreneurship. The study has found that representation of Schedule caste (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) in the ownership of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector were very negligible, but OBC entrepreneurs have made positive trends in entrepreneurship. Most of SC and ST entrepreneurs had failed in start-ups due to lack of network.

Thorat and Pual (2005), their study examines the wage gap between upper caste and socially marginalised group's (SC and ST) regular salaries of labour market in urban area. The study based on the secondary data of 30th (1983), 50th (1993-94) and 55th (1997- 00) rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The study has found that schedule caste (SC) and schedule tribes (ST) were paid by 15 percent lower wages than other category workers with equal qualifications. Socially marginalised groups were discriminating more in private sector compare to public sector and also found that endowment difference is more than discrimination component.

Surinder S Jodhka (2002), the study mainly focused on status of scheduled caste self-employed people in north-west India, caste act as a social capital in entrepreneurship development. The study starts with the question that what is the experience of Dalit entrepreneurs who were started their business? The study has looked into prejudice and discrimination in urban labour market of Dalits in Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh (UP). The study has revealed that caste act as a negative factor for the Dalit entrepreneurship. Most of Dalit entrepreneurs were lack of capital, but even if they had capital. They may not have social resource (social Capital). The study reveals that socially marginalised groups in Haryana more vulnerable circumstances than Uttar Pradesh. Even in such vulnerable situations entrepreneurship of socially marginalised groups has been rising.

Nigam (2002) the Dalit politics. Concentrating on the need for "Dalit entrepreneurs", a category conspicuous by its absence in India's business history, this narrative has its philosophical and political roots in the so-called Bhopal document of 2002. Getting together in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, under the sponsorship of Digvijay Singh, the then Chief Minister of the state, some leading Dalit intellectuals argued that "the imagination of the post-Ambedkar Dalit movement has been shackled ... within the discourse of reservations.

Ghani et al (2011) Our first major finding is that members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are under-represented in the ownership of enterprises. The Scheduled Castes accounted for 16.4% of India's population in 2001, but owned only 9.8 % of all enterprises in 2005 which employed 8.1% of all non-farm workers. We should note that since the majority of such enterprises are single-person enterprises (see next section), this measure of enterprise ownership is highly correlated with the extent of self-employment, and as such, might be a relatively crude measure of entrepreneurship). However, there is no universally accepted definition of entrepreneurship and in future work, we will investigate alternative measures. A similar pattern of under-representation is observed for Scheduled Tribes, whose members constituted 7.7% of the nation's population but owned only 3.7% of non-farm enterprises, employing 3.4% of the non-farm workforce.

Reddy (2005) has studied that entrepreneurial activities or awareness among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were generally low due to some reasons like lack of awareness of various procedures involved in starting of the unit, less education, lack of finance, lack of training etc. In this paper an attempt is made to study the role of these agencies in creating entrepreneurial awareness among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It was noticed that entrepreneurial activities and Government focus were more in the selected districts. The general opinion is that the entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was relatively lower in the state as compared to with other communities. Reddy has found that very few training programs were conducted for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by agencies. He has suggested that there should be an independent development agency with financial authority to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The objectives of the study are as given below:

- To study the socio-economic conditions of Dalit Entrepreneurs in India.
- To analyze the Problems and societal constraints faced by Dalit Entrepreneurs in Telangana.
- To study the Dalit participation in entrepreneurial activities.
- To identify the inter-generational occupational mobility.
- To study the availability of institutional finances to Dalit entrepreneurs in Telangana state
- To assess the impact of government machinery in promoting Entrepreneurship among Dalits.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study also focuses its attention on the problems being faced by these communities in taking up business and entrepreneurial activities and the support that required for them. The present study based on secondary source of data. The secondary source data was collected from books, Journals, magazines, unpublished thesis, reports. The personal visits to the sites would enable the researcher to identify and analyze the problems under study.

4. AMBEDKAR AND HIS MISSION FOR DALIT EMPOWERMENT:

Ambedkar himself was born in a Mahar caste, which was numerically a dominant caste in Dalit community of Maharashtra. He himself experienced numerous disabilities and deprivation associated with a member of Dalit community. He managed to get the advanced education at Columbia University with the help of scholarship granted by Sayajirao Gaekwad, the Maharaja of Baroda. Later with his own hard work he managed to study at London school of Economics. His western exposure enabled him to get the deep knowledge of economics and law among other things. Thus his ideological worldview was deeply influenced by his own experience as a member of Dalit community, ongoing social reforms undertaken by his predecessors like Jyotiba Phule and others to ameliorate the social position of Dalits, ideas of American philosopher John Dewey, British practice of parliamentary democracy, ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity propounded by French revolution, egalitarian and liberation theology of Buddhism last, but not least his deep rooted repulsion against the oppressive nature of hierarchical social order and Hinduism which sustained it. On the basis of the Ambedkar's

5. Government Initiatives taken for Dalit development

Educational Empowerment:

Various scholarships are provided to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) to ensure that education is not denied due to the poor financial condition of their families. These Scholarships are provided at both pre-matric and post-matric levels. Scholarships are also provided to SC students for obtaining higher education in India and abroad, including premier educational institutions. The Scholarships can broadly be classified into the following three types.

Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students (PMS-SC): The Scheme is the single largest intervention by Government of India for educational empowerment of scheduled caste students. This is a centrally sponsored scheme. 100% central assistance is released to State Governments/UTs for expenditure incurred by them under the scheme over and above their respective committed liability. Scholarships for obtaining Higher Education and Coaching Scheme: These include:

- **Top Class Education for Scheduled Caste Students :** The objective of the Scheme is to promote qualitative education amongst students belonging to Scheduled Castes, by providing full financial support for pursuing studies beyond 12th class, in notified institutes of excellence like IITs, NITs, IIMs, reputed Medical/Law and other institutions. Scholarship is awarded to the eligible SC students on securing admission in any of the institutions notified by the Ministry.
- **National Fellowship:** The Scheme provides financial assistance to SC students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil, Ph.D and equivalent research degrees.
- **National Overseas Scholarship:** The Scheme provides assistance to students belonging to SCs, de-notified, nomadic, semi-nomadic tribes etc for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and PhD programmes abroad.
- **Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students:** The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged SC and OBC candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Public/Private sector. The Scheme provides

central assistance to institutions/centres run by the Central/State Governments/UT Administrations, Central/State Universities, PSUs, Registered Private Institutions, NGOs, etc.

- **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC):** Set up under the Ministry, to finance income generating activities of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries living below double the poverty line limits (presently Rs 98,000/- per annum for rural areas and Rs 1,20,000/- per annum for urban areas). NSFDC assists the target group by way of refinancing loans, skill training, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and providing marketing support through State Channelizing Agencies, RRBs, Public Sector Bank and Other Institutions.
- **National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):** It is another corporation under the Ministry which provides credit facilities to beneficiaries amongst Safai Karamcharis, manual scavengers and their dependants for income generating activities for socio-economic development through State Channelizing Agencies.
- **Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP):** It is a policy initiative for development of Scheduled Castes in which 100 % assistance is given as an additive to SCSP of the States/UTs on the basis of certain criteria such as SC population of the States/UTs, relative backwardness of States/UTs, percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line.

6. CONCLUSION:

The effective implementation of development programmes meant for the development of scheduled caste needs to be linked up with encouraging entrepreneurial activities among SCs as it not only leads to the creation of self-employment but also provides employment opportunities for others, for the purpose of inclusive growth which is need of the post-globalization era. This is felt so as the governance processes are undergoing rapid change in the developing countries like India where the concept of more governance less government is on its rise. Thus the empowerment process is leading to entrepreneurial activities and contributing for the economic development of the country as it inculcates the spirit of professionalism in these SC entrepreneurs and also for building the confidence levels in business activities.

REFERENCES:

1. Ilaiah, Kancha, (2017), 'Living under house arrest, I'm losing hope in democracy and free speech', Times of India, Mumbai Ed., Sunday, October 1, 2017.
2. Lakshmi Iyer, L., Khanna, T., & Varshney, A. (2013). Caste and entrepreneurship in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 48(6), 52-60.
3. Thorat, Paul S. (2005). Caste, Social Exclusion and Poverty Linkages—Concept, Measurement and Empirical Evidence. Concept Paper for PACS, New Delhi, October.
4. Surinder., Jodhka. (2002). Caste and untouchability in rural Punjab. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 1813-1823.
5. Nigam, Aditya (2002): "In Search of a Bourgeoisie: Dalit Politics Enters a New Phase", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 37 (13).
6. Ghani, Ejaz, William Kerr and Stephen O'Connell (2011): "Promoting Entrepreneurship, Growth and Job Creation" in Ejaz Ghani (ed) *Reshaping Tomorrow: Is South Asia Ready for the Big Leap* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).
7. Reddy, M. Kasi (2005), "Role of institutional agencies in Training of SC & ST as Entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh: A Study", *Sedme*, Volume 32, No.2.
8. Uday Kumar, M A (2005), "Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP's) and the development of Entrepreneurs: A Study", *Sedme*, Volume 29, No.4.
9. Rajavel, N. (2005), "A Study on Entrepreneurial Awareness among the Education Unemployed Youths", *Sedme* volume 32, No.4, December.
10. Suresh, B.H. (2007), "Role of Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana in Entrepreneurship Development: A case Study of Mysore District." *Sedme* -Volume 34, No.4, December.