

A CASE STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CAST IN ANDHRA PRADESH NEAR GUNTUR REGION

Y. RAVI CHANDRASEKHAR BABU 1*

1. SKBR GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE MACHERLA. GUNTUR DIST. ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Abstract

Expansion in the economic and business activities depends on the availability of finance and its volume. Increase in the income and employment are necessary conditions for economic development and growth that determine the levels of consumption and the pattern of the consumption. Moreover, still nearly 30 per cent of the people are living with incomes below the poverty line. Majority among those who are below the poverty line are scheduled castes (SCs) people. SCs due to centuries old social, religions, practices and deep rooted and divided castes are excluded from the rest of the society and remained poor for centuries. . For overall economic development, an opportunity should be given to the people those who are willing to participate in economic activities[1].

1.Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Development and Co-operative Finance Corporation

Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Development and Co-operative Finance Corporation (APSCDCFC) was established in the year 1974 with a purpose of economic development of SCs in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It was registered under the A.P. Co-operative Societies Act with a share holding pattern of 51:49 between the State Government and the Government of India respectively. The main objectives of the corporation are; to provide financial assistance for creation of income generating assets, to offer training programmes for skill up gradation leading to self or wage employment, to empower women self-help groups for taking up economic support activity and to plug

critical gaps of finance in economic support schemes[2].

2. Guntur District Scheduled Caste Development and Finance Co-operative Society

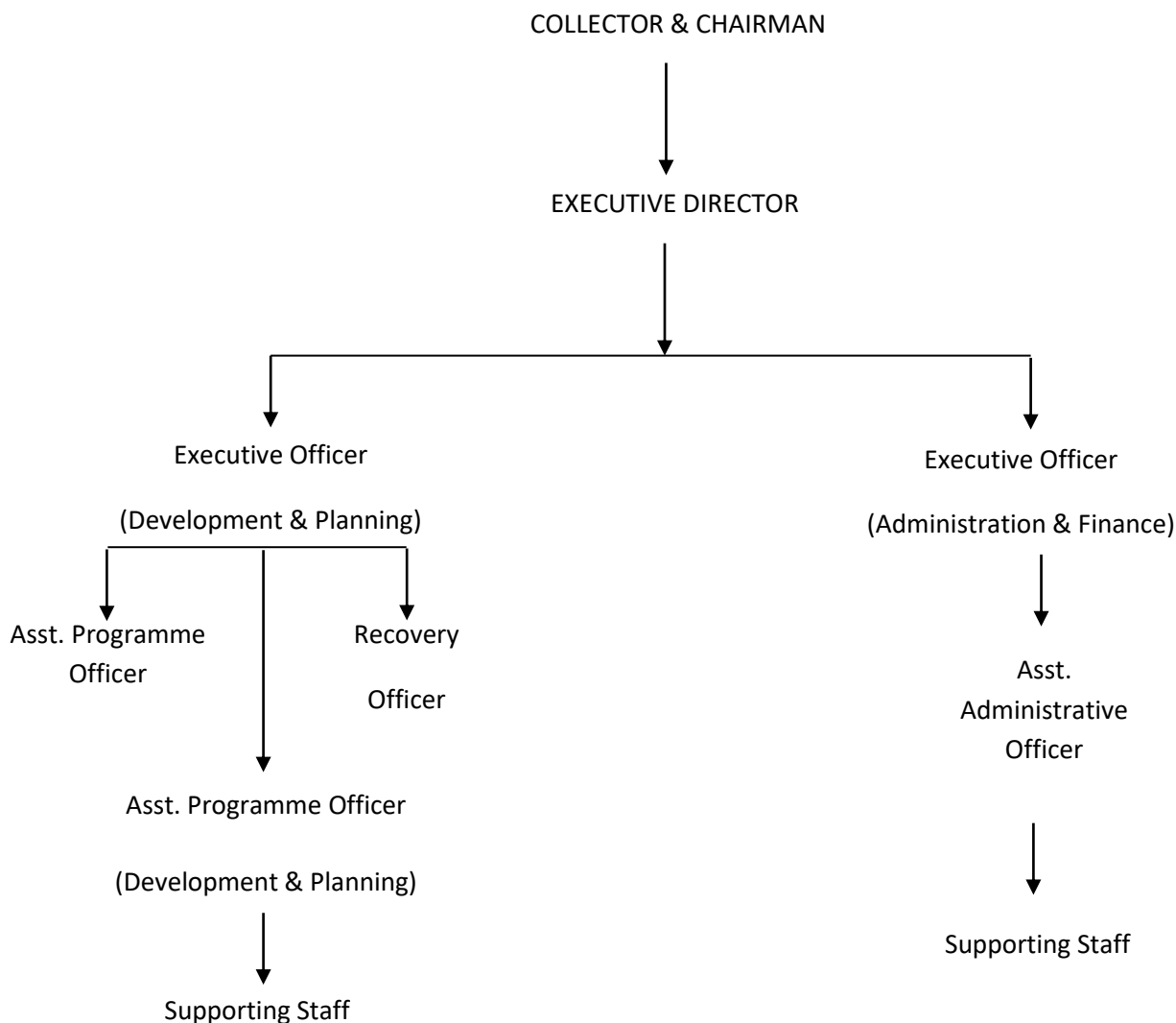
The corporation is governed by a committee appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Managing Director is the chief executive of the APSCCFC and the Executive Directors at district level are responsible for implementation of the programmes in consultation. In between 1974 and 2008 the GDSDFC has disbursed Rs. 20316.21 Lakhs and 1,88,067 SC households got benefited from the programmes of GDSDFC in the district. Moreover the GDSCDFC has been providing institutional finance to the poor among SCs to take up economic development programmes that includes agricultural, animal husbandry, manufacturing and tertiary sectors[3].

3. Development Programmes for Scheduled Castes in the District

As per the Census of 2001, an overwhelming majority of SCs live in the

rural areas. Approximately, three-fourth the population of SCs are agricultural labourers and the remaining one-fourth of them are small and marginal farmers and artisans etc. In the beginning, during the period of First Five year plan, Government of India had initiated land reforms and distributed to the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the society. More importantly, an act was enacted abolishing bonded labour. These programmes are intended to generate additional employment to the agricultural labour. In the Fifth Five Year Plan period, Food for Work programme (FWP) was implemented for the benefit of the poor[4]. But lack of coordination among the programme implementing agencies, these programmes failed in generating additional employment and eradicating poverty particularly among the rural poor

4. Organization of Guntur district Scheduled Castes Development and Finance Co-operative Society



Responsibilities of Executive Director:

- Executive Director shall be overall in-charge of the affairs of District Society under whose guidance Credit Plan Draft, Annual Action Plan and Mandal-Village wise plans are prepared[5].

Responsibilities of Executive Officer (Administration. & Account)

- Maintenance of funds, release of funds and maintenance of accounts and all other matters related to administration and finance.

Responsibilities of Executive Officer (Development & Planning)

- E.O shall be over all in charge of grounding, inspection and recovery in the district.
- Supervises the performance of the field staff and ensure 100% grounding of the scheme and proper remittances of recovery amount in the bank account of the Society[6].

- **Funding Pattern of the Programmes:**

In the present study the following four programmes related to agriculture development are selected. The corporation provides assistance in the pattern followed as under.

- 1. Bore Well:** Bore wells are being taken up in the lands of small and marginal SC formers with electricity feasibility.
- 2. Oil Engine:** Oil engines are provided to the small and marginal SC farmers who have of 2-3 acres of arable land.
- 3. Open Wells:** The objective of the scheme is to identify the small and

marginal SC formers having unirrigated land in compact blocks

3.6 Objectives of the Study

The following objectives are set for the study:

1. To assess the impact of the programmes on the beneficiary households in terms of increase in income, employment, and asset formation.
2. To know the cost benefit relationship of these programmes.
3. To find out the responsiveness of the beneficiaries towards these programmes.

3.7 Hypothesis of the Study

The hypothesis of the study is that the programmes result as following.

- 1 H1. The programmes generate additional employment and income.
- 2 H2. Asset formation takes place in all the programmes.
- 3 H3. The improved irrigational facilities change the cropping pattern and increase the

productivity of the agricultural activity.

5. Research Method

The study is based on the empirical analysis explanatory in nature. The analysis of the study is based on the behaviour data.

6. Sampling Techniques

Taking note of the time and resources constraints into account, besides methodological and theoretical strategies, stratified proportionate random sampling is employed to select the total sample of 245 were selected from among the beneficiaries. First of all, detailed information of all the beneficiaries of different programmes of agricultural development was collected from the records of the Guntur district Scheduled Castes Development and Finance Corporation

7. Importance of the Study

1 Since the beginning of the planned economic development strategy a good

number of programmes of poverty eradication have been evolved.

2 There were some studies conducted on the working of the programmes of self-employment by the APSCDFC. But no reasonable research work is done on the working of the agricultural related development programme exclusively.

8. Conclusion

The primary data collected from the sample beneficiary households is subject to certain limitations and so the findings and conclusions based on the opinions and information given by the sample beneficiaries.2. Since, the size of the sample is small and is drawn from the rural areas. The finding and inference drawn from the study may not equally be applied to the rest of the areas in the district as well as in other parts of the State[7].

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