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ROLE OF MEPMA IN EMPOWERING URBAN POOR WOMEN IN TELANGANA

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Introduction

Unchecked urban growth has led to the creation of cities with two faces: one is that of modernity, advancements and wealth, and the other is that of poverty and underdevelopment. The cause of the urban poor, who are at the heart of cities but at the fringes of development is now being taken up by governments. To tackle the problem of urban poverty, the Telangana government has instituted MEPMA, the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas. The rural counterpart of MEPMA is the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP).

The focus of this article is the Telangana government's efforts to tackle the problem of urban poverty, with emphasis on urban poor women, through MEPMA. Women within the category of urban poor face a dual burden by virtue of poverty and their gender. The recognition that women's needs within policy planning and development are different from that of the mainstream, has spurred governments to give special attention to the needs of urban poor women.

In addition, the United Nations Development Programme's report Addressing Gender Concerns in India's Urban Renewal Mission said, "Experience has shown that women not only bear the brunt of poverty, but their empowerment is a precondition for its reduction." (Khosla, 2009, p. 7) Therefore, to succeed in the alleviation of urban poverty, it is important to empower and enable urban poor women.

Women as a Category of Urban Poor

As a segment of the urban poor, women face hardships distinct from the rest of the populace. They can be understood as issues with:

- **Sanitation and Waste Management**

Urban poor women who live in slums have little to no access to toilets. Slum dwellings are essentially illegal settlements, and as such, the people residing in them cannot build toilets. Further, any communal toilets that they may have access to are highly unsanitary, leaving them no other option but to defecate in the open. According to the study Addressing Gender Concerns in India's Urban Renewal Mission, "Where poor people dig toilet pits inside huts for safe and dignified defecation, women scavenge faecal matter from homes to drains." (Khosla, 2009, p.11) This, combined with the similar disposal of waste water poses serious health concerns for these women.

- **Health**

Poor women in urban areas were found to receive almost no antenatal care, did not have tetanus shots, and very highly likely to be anemic. Their low incomes do not allow them to have access to healthcare not only for themselves, but also for their newborns.

- **Occupation**

Their lack of formal education and skills leave urban poor women with highly undervalued work. Desperate to add to the family income, they take on informal sector jobs which are under regulated and not only offer abysmally low wages, but no benefits such as maternity leave or pensions. They take on jobs that pay on a

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14.

**REFLECTIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF WELFARE PROGRAMS
WITH REFERENCE TO LAND PURCHASE SCHEME****Dr. A Venkat Ram Narsimha Reddy**Asst. Professor in Public Administration
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad

The concept of growth with equity has been a buzzword in the third world countries for a long time now. Though India's economy has been growing at a healthy pace in the last decade, there have been various criticisms that there is jobless growth or that the chasm between the rich and poor is widening or that the growth pattern is causing further marginalization of the disadvantaged. This has resulted in policy approach favoring inclusive growth. Of the many programs meant to ensure fair degree of inclusive growth, land purchase scheme is considered to be the most effective one.

The present study is an attempt to understand the socio-economic implications of the welfare programs by the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation (APSCCFC) for the Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh. The chief aim of the paper is to examine the efficacy of the scheme in terms of its stated goals like improvement in living conditions of the scheduled caste beneficiaries besides reduction in their poverty and unemployment.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve the objectives and hypotheses 150 Sample respondents are selected from three villages, namely, Alur of Kurnool district from Rayalaseema, Dorepally of Maddur mandal of Mahabubnagar district from Telangana and Dundiralapadu of Gampalagudem mandal Krishna district from Coastal Andhra covered under land purchase scheme floated by the APSCCFC. The sample beneficiaries are selected mostly by adhering to the principles of stratified random sampling. The criteria of stratification are education and sub caste.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Table-1

Sub caste of the sample respondents

Sub caste	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Madiga	50	33.3	33.3
Mala	100	66.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Source: Primary data

Table-1 shows the distribution of the sample beneficiaries of the land purchase scheme floated by the APSCCFC by their sub caste. It is indicated that 33.3 percent are from Madiga sub caste and 66.7 percent are from Mala sub caste.

Beneficiary Perceptions on the Organizational Design and Development of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation (APSCCFC) With Reference to Land Purchase Scheme: Some Empirical Evidence

Dr. A. Venkat Ram Narsimha Reddy
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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad

Abstract: The broad objective of the paper is to generate some empirical evidence on the beneficiary perceptions on the organizational design and development of APSCCFC with reference to the land purchase scheme operationalized in Andhra Pradesh. It is found that the ways and means of identification of the beneficiaries of land purchase scheme adopted by APSCCFC are most democratic, the level of accessibility of the land purchase committee to the beneficiaries of land purchase scheme adopted by APSCCFC is moderate, level of transparency of the land purchase in terms of the procedures relating to land purchase is moderate, the land purchase scheme is simple to comprehend and to operate, the bureaucrats of land purchase scheme are accountable, responsive, responsible, the organization structure is semi centralized, management orientation is bureaucratic, beneficiaries are made part of the decision making and land size under the scheme is inadequate. It is suggested that Land purchase scheme floated by APSCCFC must provide an economically viable holding of land to the beneficiaries of scheduled castes, the administrative set up meant for the scheme must also explore the possibilities of implementing the contract farming system so as to augment the efficiency of resources by pooling their individual resources and in fact there should be a reverse pyramid structure in the APSCCFC to facilitate the beneficiaries of the scheme to be placed at the first step of the organization.

KEY WORDS: APSCCFC, Land Purchase Scheme, Organizational Design, Economically Viable Holding, Reverse Pyramid

Introduction

The objective of land purchase scheme floated by the APSCCFC is to provide agricultural land to the landless Women Agricultural Laborers from rural areas with the objective of providing sustainable income besides empowering them enhance their Social Status. Only landless agricultural women laborers of SC households who do not own or possess any land are eligible. The broad objective of the paper is to generate some empirical evidence on the beneficiary perceptions on the organizational design and development of APSCCFC with reference to the land purchase scheme operationalized in Andhra Pradesh. Towards this end, 500

beneficiaries of the said scheme are selected by adhering to the principles of stratified random sampling from three districts namely Krishna, Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts of erstwhile districts of Andhra Pradesh. The criteria of stratification are place and sub caste of the beneficiaries. The relevant data are collected directly from the respondents by administering a structured questionnaire.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table-1
Identification of land beneficiaries

beneficiaries	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Per
Most democratic	397	79.4	
Bureaucratic	103	20.6	
Total	500	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-1 deals with the relevance of administrative framework of APSCCFC which is meant towards its land purchase scheme with reference to identification of land beneficiaries. It is found that the ways and means of identification of the beneficiaries of land purchase scheme adopted by APSCCFC are most democratic as endorsed by 79.4 percent of beneficiaries and 20.6 percent have stated that the said ways and means are bureaucratic.

Table-2
Accessibility to the land purchase committee for the beneficiaries

Level	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low	61	12.2	12.2
Moderate	289	57.8	70.0
High	150	30.0	100.0
Total	500	100.0	

Source: Field study

Table-2 deals with the relevance of administrative framework of APSCCFC which is meant towards its land purchase scheme with reference to level of accessibility of the land purchase committee to the beneficiaries. It is found that the level of accessibility of the land purchase committee to the beneficiaries of land purchase scheme adopted by APSCCFC is low as endorsed by 12.2 percent of the sample beneficiaries and the same is moderate as endorsed by 57.8 percent of beneficiaries and high in case of 30 percent of the beneficiaries.

GANDHIAN APPROACH TO INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & TRADE UNIONS

Dr G Sreenivas Reddy, Dean, Aurora's Business School, Hyderabad (srinivas.gangidi@gmail.com) &
Dr AVN Reddy, Associate Professor of Public Administration, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad.

Abstract

This article sketches the Gandhian vision of industry and industrial relations. It highlights the suggestions of Mahatma Gandhi to solve the trade union problems and to establish industrial peace. The purpose of this paper is also to develop a framework of Industrial Relations system which could be regarded as Gandhian. The article is based on his numerous lectures, letters written to or editorials in the periodicals Young India and Harijan outlining an ideal industrial relations system for India. Gandhiji rejects both the western and Marxian models of industrial relations and posits a uniquely Indian model based on and consistent with his philosophic world view of truth, non-violence and non-possession (aparigraha). He has, through his advocacy of trusteeship theory, conceived a non-antagonistic way of securing industrial peace between labour and capital. He demonstrated its practicality by personally providing leadership to the Ahmedabad Textile Mill Strike in 1928. The outcome of this strike had significantly defined the state and tendency of policy on industrial relations in India.

Key Words

Trusteeship, Marxism, Capitalism, Satyagraha, Aparigraha, Sarvodaya, Strike, Lockout, Jurisprudence, Arbitration, Bipartism, Tripartism

Introduction

Nineteen twenties and the thirties in India witnessed the emergence of a new ideology in the field of industrial relations and trade union movement. Labeled as the Gandhian ideology it emphasized that the ideologies of socialism and communism were inadequate to address the problems of industrial peace and economic development. Besides, Gandhi also felt that they were essentially alien to the Indian tradition. Gandhi had developed a new vision or approach to industrial relations and trade unionism in keeping with the Indian ethos.

Philosophic Basis of Gandhian Approach

Gandhiji's views on industrial relations are based on his larger philosophy based on the principles of truth, non-violence and aparigraha i.e. non-possession. Based on these principles he evolved his concepts of non-co-operation and trusteeship, which form the basis of his model of industrial relations and trade unionism. Gandhiji developed a method to create possibilities, to conquer violence and to involve oneself in acts of "ethical existence" within the context of relationships transforming them toward a new, restructured and reintegrated pattern.

The Gandhian ideology of industrial relations advocates a system of conciliation and arbitration in resolving industrial disputes. In this ideology, capital and labour are not regarded as antagonistic but as complementary and interdependent. This interdependence is justified on the basis of morality and ethics. It is no wonder that it had been branded as a reactionary ideology by the Left-wingers since it potentially restricts the development of class forces.

Industrial peace, according to Gandhi, cannot be built on vague slogans or pious programmes. There can

**GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT -
A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN FUNCTIONARIES
IN LOCAL BODIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH**



Dr. A. V. R. Narsimha Reddy

Good Governance and its Implications for Political Empowerment: A Case Study of Women Functionaries in Local Bodies in Andhra Pradesh

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Dr. A.Venkat Ram Narsimha Reddy
Principal Investigator & Asst. Professor

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I am here with submitting the final report of Major Research Project in Public Administration on "Evaluation of Organisational Design and Development of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance Corporation (APSCCFC) on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh with Focus on Land Purchase Scheme". Hence I am requesting you kindly accept my report and reimburse the balance amount of project which I incurred.

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely,

Venkatram
(A. VENKATRAM NARSIMHA REDDY)

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