

# A Report on

## Evaluation of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes



सत्यमेव जयते

**Ministry of Tribal  
Affairs**

**Submitted to:**

**Statistics Division, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India**



**Submitted by:**

**Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi-110002.**

September 2019



## **EVALUATION OF CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME**

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Needy Scheduled Tribe Students Studying in Class IX & X, and Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to the Students belonging to Scheduled Tribes for Studies in India

(No. 11029/3/2017-Stats)

Name of Department/Name of Ministry

Statistics Division

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Government of India

# CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	4
List of Tables.....	7
List of Figures.....	9
List of Abbreviations.....	10
<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2. OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEMES .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>2.1 Background of the Scheme.....</b>	<b>31</b>
a) Scheme Objectives, Implementation Mechanism and Design .....	31
i. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme.....	31
ii. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	33
b) Name of the Sub-Schemes .....	34
c) Year of Commencement of Scheme .....	35
d) Present Status with Coverage of Scheme .....	36
e) Sustainable Development Goals Served.....	36
f) National Development Plans (NDP) Served.....	38
<b>2.2 Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure Pattern in the Scheme (in Rs. crores) .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>2.3 Summary of Past Evaluation Since Inception of Scheme.....</b>	<b>41</b>
a. Year of Evaluation .....	41
b. Agency Hired for Evaluation.....	41
c. Recommendations made and accepted .....	41
d. Recommendation made but not accepted .....	42
<b>3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>3.1 The approach of the Study .....</b>	<b>43</b>
a. Methodology Adopted .....	44
b. Framework for the Study.....	46
c. Division of Country into 6 Geographical Regions and Sample Drawn for the Evaluation Study of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	46
<b>3.2 Sample Size and Sample Selection Process, Tools Used .....</b>	<b>55</b>
a) Use of Software and Real-time Data Sharing with MoTA .....	56
b) Limitations of the Study and Recasting for Appropriate Findings .....	56
<b>4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY .....</b>	<b>58</b>

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Performance of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme based on the Output/Outcome Indicators.....</b>	<b>59</b>
a.	Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Tribal Students in India .....	59
b.	Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Tribal Students in India .....	60
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Specific Outcome/Output for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....</b>	<b>61</b>
4.2.1	Gender and Pre-Matric Scholarship.....	62
4.2.2	Socio-Economic Background of Pre-Matric Respondents.....	63
4.2.3	Publicity of the Scheme and Inviting Applications.....	69
4.2.4	Mode of Application in Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	71
4.2.5	Duration and Disbursement in Pre- Matric Scholarship .....	75
4.2.6	Effectiveness of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	77
4.2.7	Pre-Matric Scholarship and its Usage .....	79
4.2.8	Overall responses of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	80
4.2.9	Feedback of the State Nodal Officers on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	82
4.2.10	Feedback of District Level Officers on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	83
4.2.11	Feedback of Head Masters/Institution Heads on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	84
4.2.12	Feedback of Non-Beneficiaries on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	85
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Specific Outcome/Output for Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....</b>	<b>87</b>
4.3.1	Performance of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme based on the Output/Outcome Indicators ..	87
4.3.2	Gender and Post-Matric Scholarship .....	87
4.3.3	Socio-Economic Background of Post-Matric Respondents .....	89
4.3.4	Publicity of the Post-Matric Scheme and Inviting Applications .....	94
4.3.5	Mode of Application in the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	98
4.3.6	Category of Students eligible for Post-Matric Scholarship .....	100
4.3.7	Provision of Hostel Facility in Post-Matric Scholarship.....	100
4.3.8	Responses on Other than Post Matric Scholarship Benefit .....	101
4.3.9	Differently Able Beneficiaries Availing Post-Matric Scholarship.....	101
4.3.10	Mode of Disbursal of Post-Matric Scholarship .....	102
4.3.11	The usefulness of Post-Matric Scholarship .....	102
4.3.12	Impact of the Post-Matric Scholarship.....	103
4.3.13	Suggestions of Beneficiaries on Post-Matric Scholarship .....	104
4.3.14	Feedback of Institution Heads on Post Matric Scheme .....	105
4.3.15	Satisfied with the Performance of Post Matric Beneficiary Students.....	106
4.3.16	Awareness of the Structure and Procedure of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	107
4.3.17	Feedback of State Nodal Officers on Post Matric Scheme .....	108
4.3.18	Challenges faced by the Post-Matric beneficiaries.....	110
4.3.19	Feedback Shared by Non-Beneficiaries on Post Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	111
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Additional Parameters .....</b>	<b>112</b>
a)	Coverage of Beneficiaries .....	112
b)	Implementation Mechanism.....	116
c)	Training Capacity Building of Administrators/Facilities .....	117
d)	IEC Activities.....	117
e)	Asset /Service Creation & Its Maintenance Plan .....	118
f)	Benefits (Individual/Community).....	119
g)	Convergence with Scheme of Own Ministry/Department or of Other Ministry/Department .....	119

4.5. Gaps in Achievement of Outcome .....	119
4.6 Key Bottlenecks & Challenges .....	120
4.7 Input Use Efficiency .....	121
i. Input Use Efficiency in Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	121
ii. Input Use Efficiency in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme .....	123
<b>5. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>125</b>
5.1 Thematic Assessment .....	125
5.2 Externalities .....	126
<b>6. CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>129</b>
6.1 Issues and Challenges .....	129
6.2 Vision for the Future .....	131
6.3 Recommendation for Scheme with Reasons .....	132
<b>7. PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIELD VISITS .....</b>	<b>135</b>

Annexure I- Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

Annexure II- Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

Annexure III – State-wise Funds Released, Funds Utilised and Pre-Matric Beneficiaries 2014-18

Annexure IV – State-wise Funds Released, Funds Utilised and Post-Matric Beneficiaries 2014-18

## **List of Tables**

TABLE 3.1:	STATES, DISTRICTS, INSTITUTES, ZONES AND BENEFICIARIES COVERED FOR THE PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME STUDY.....	48
TABLE 3.2:	LIST OF STATES, DISTRICTS, NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS, ZONES AND NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES COVERED FOR THE STUDY OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARY STUDENTS BY NSSO CLASSIFIED ZONES.....	50
TABLE 3.3:	STATES, DISTRICTS, INSTITUTES, ZONES AND BENEFICIARIES COVERED FOR THE POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP STUDY .....	51
TABLE 3.4:	LIST OF STATES, DISTRICTS, NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS, ZONES AND NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES COVERED FOR THE STUDY OF POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARY STUDENTS BY NSSO CLASSIFIED ZONES.....	53
TABLE 4.1:	COVERAGE OF PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS IN STATES BY GENDER.....	62
TABLE 4.2:	SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS .....	64
TABLE 4.3:	PERCEIVED RESPONSES ON PUBLICITY OF THE PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME BY BENEFICIARY STUDENT .....	69
TABLE 4.4:	AWARENESS OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BY RESPONSE .....	70
TABLE 4.5:	APPLICATIONS, ISSUES IN SUBMISSION AND ACCOMMODATION AND PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARY RESPONSES.....	72
TABLE 4.6:	FINANCIAL ISSUES IN PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME AND RESPONSES.....	76
TABLE 4.7:	EFFECTIVENESS OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATIONAL PURSUITS .....	77
TABLE 4.8:	USAGE OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT .....	79
TABLE 4.9:	OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE PRE-MATRIC SCHEME .....	80
TABLE 4.10:	FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM THE NODAL OFFICERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP .....	82
TABLE 4.11:	FEEDBACK OF DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRE-MATRIC SCHEME..	83
TABLE 4.12:	TRIAL BENEFICIARY STUDENTS RECEIVED /RECEIVING PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP IN THE SAMPLED INSTITUTIONS .....	84
TABLE 4.13:	DROPOUT BENEFICIARY STUDENTS BY SCHOOL TYPE UNDER PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	85
TABLE 4.14:	COVERAGE OF POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS IN THE STATES BY GENDER .....	88
TABLE 4.15:	SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS.....	90
TABLE 4.16:	PERCEIVED RESPONSES ON PUBLICITY OF THE SCHEME BY POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENT .....	95
TABLE 4.17:	AWARENESS OF POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BY RESPONSE .....	97
TABLE 4.18:	POST-MATRIC STUDENT CATEGORY AND THEIR RESPONSES .....	100
TABLE 4.19:	HOSTEL CATEGORY AND STAY OF POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARY .....	100
TABLE 4.20:	POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARIES RECEIVING OTHER SUPPORT.....	101

TABLE 4.21:	ABLE AND DISABLE POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS.....	101
TABLE 4.22:	MODE OF POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSAL .....	102
TABLE 4.23:	PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	103
TABLE 4.24:	ALTERNATIVE SUPPORTS IN POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP AND COMPLETION OF EDUCATION. ....	103
TABLE 4.25:	SUGGESTIONS OF BENEFICIARIES FOR POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP .....	105
TABLE 4.26:	CASE OF SUBSEQUENT FAILURE IN POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	106
TABLE 4.27:	PERFORMANCE OF POST MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS BY PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSE.....	107
TABLE 4.28:	AWARENESS ABOUT THE STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES OF THE POST MATRIC SCHEME .....	108
TABLE 4.29:	COMPLIANCE TO THE GOI AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	109
TABLE 4.30:	DESIGNATED GRO, RESPONSE SHARED BY STATE NODAL OFFICERS AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	109
TABLE 4.31:	RESPONSE ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE BENEFICIARIES.....	110
TABLE 4.32:	CONDITION FOR CONTINUATION OF POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP.....	110
TABLE 4.33:	CASES OF SUBSEQUENT FAILURES IN POST MATRIC BENEFICIARIES.....	111
TABLE 4.34:	STUDENTS UNDER CPL COURSE .....	111
TABLE 4.35:	FEEDBACK OF NON-BENEFICIARIES IN POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP .....	111
TABLE 4.36:	COVERAGE OF PRE MATRIC BENEFICIARIES IN DISTRICTS AND STATES BY GENDER.....	113
TABLE 4.37:	COVERAGE OF POST MATRIC BENEFICIARIES IN DISTRICTS AND STATES BY GENDER.....	115
TABLE 4.38:	TOTAL COVERAGE OF BENEFICIARIES IN 2014-18 FOR PRE AND POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.....	118
TABLE 4.39:	INPUT USE EFFICIENCY IN PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	122
TABLE 4.40:	INPUT USE EFFICIENCY IN POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME .....	123

## **List of Figures**

FIGURE 3.1: SURVEYED STATES/UTS BY NSSO ZONE	47
FIGURE 3.2: SURVEYED CONDUCTED FOR PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BY DISTRICT AND STATE/UT	51
<b>FIGURE 3.3: SURVEYED DISTRICTS AND STATES FOR POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>55</b>
FIGURE 4.1: DISTRIBUTION OF PRE-MATRIC RESPONDENTS BY RELIGION	67
FIGURE 4.2: FAMILY TYPES AMONGST THE PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARIES	67
FIGURE 4.3: OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARY PARENTS	68
FIGURE 4.4: PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARIES AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	68
FIGURE 4.5: PUBLICITY OF THE PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME AND BENEFICIARIES' RESPONSES	70
FIGURE 4.6: AWARENESS OF DOCUMENTS TO APPLY FOR PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP	71
FIGURE 4.7: COMPOSITION OF DAY SCHOLARS AND HOSTELLERS IN PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP	73
FIGURE 4.8: RESPONSES ON PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED BY PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS	74
FIGURE 4.9: PROBLEMS OF PRE-MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS BEING SOLVED BY AGENCY	74
FIGURE 4.10: ISSUES IN PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP AND RESPONSES OF BENEFICIARIES	76
FIGURE 4.11: EFFECTIVENESS OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	78
FIGURE 4.12: USAGE OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP BY IDENTIFIED ITEMS	79
FIGURE 4.13: MOTIVATIONAL FEATURES OF THE PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME	81
FIGURE 4.14: DISTRIBUTION OF POST-MATRIC RESPONDENTS BY RELIGION	92
FIGURE 4.15: FAMILY TYPES IN POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARIES	93
FIGURE 4.16: OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARIES PARENTS	93
FIGURE 4.17: POST-MATRIC BENEFICIARIES AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	94
FIGURE 4.18: PUBLICITY OF THE POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME AND BENEFICIARIES' RESPONSES	96
FIGURE 4.19: AWARENESS OF DOCUMENTS TO APPLY FOR POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP	97
FIGURE 4.20: MODE OF APPLICATION IN THE POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP	99
FIGURE 4.21: STATE-WISE MODE OF APPLICATION IN THE POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP	99
FIGURE 4.22: BAR CHART SHOWING SUPPORT IN POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP	104
FIGURE 4.23: SUGGESTIONS SHARED BY POST MATRIC BENEFICIARY STUDENTS	105
FIGURE 4.24: CASE OF SUBSEQUENT FAILURE FOR POST MATRIC BENEFICIARIES	106
FIGURE 4.26: FEEDBACK OF NON-BENEFICIARIES ON THE POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME	112

## **List of Abbreviations**

1. BE- Budget Expenditure
2. CPL –Commercial Pilot License
3. Cr - Crore
4. DBT- Direct Bank Transfer
5. DSWO - District Social Welfare Officer
6. FGD- Focus Group Discussion
7. FY –Financial Year
8. GOI – Government Of India
9. GRO- Grievance Redressal Officer
10. HP- Himachal Pradesh
11. HRD – Human Resource Department
12. IEC - Information, Education & Communication
13. IEDSS- Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage
14. ITDA - Integrated Tribal Development Agencies
15. IUE- Input Use Efficiency
16. J&K- Jammu And Kashmir
17. LPG- Liquid Petroleum Gas
18. MOTA-Ministry Of Tribal Affairs
19. NDP- National Development Plan
20. NER- North Eastern Region
21. NGO’S- Non Governmental Organisation
22. NIC- National Informatics Centre
23. NSSO- National Sample Survey Office
24. OTP- One Time Password
25. PMS- Post Matric Scheme
26. RE- Revised Estimate
27. SDG- Sustainable Development Goals
28. SHG- Self Help Group
29. UID- Unique Identification
30. UIDAI- Unique Identification Authority of India
31. UP- Uttar Pradesh
32. UT- Union Territory

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Scheduled Tribes are one of the most disadvantaged groups of our society. Due to uneven historical processes and geographical isolation, socio-economic development has not properly percolated. To mainstream them with existing socio-economic development, States/UTs and Central Governments have adopted many affirmative actions and systematic strategies for their safeguard, protection, welfare and inclusive development. With effective implementation of Tribal Development Schemes, the socio-economic gaps between tribal groups and the rest of the population are intended to be minimized. Article 46 of the Indian Constitution emphasizes to promote educational and economic interests of scheduled tribes, scheduled caste and other weaker sections. It is a universally accepted impression that quality education enables the overall development of any society, and tribal groups are no exceptions.
3. In the Post-Independence period, sincere and concerted efforts were made for the economic and educational development of the tribal population. Despite these efforts, the performance of the tribes in education is much lower than the general population. As per Census figures, the literacy rate for STs in India improved from 47.1% in 2001 to 59% in 2011. Among ST males, the literacy rate increased from 59.2% to 68.5% and among ST females, the literacy rate increased from 34.8% to 49.4% during the same period. Literacy rate for the total population has increased from 64.8% in 2001 to 73% in 2011. There is a gap of about 14 % in literacy rate of STs, as compared to the all India literacy rate. There is an increase of 11 % in ST male youth literacy rate. ST female youth literacy rate has shown a significant jump of 20 % in 2011 as compared to 2001. It has also been documented in the secondary sources that dropout rates in School Education for Scheduled Tribe Students have progressively declined for different classes during 2011-12 to 2013-14.
4. The social empowerment is being carried out through educational development and promotion by the implementation of various schemes. Two such schemes are Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for needy scheduled tribe students. Both schemes combined together are considered to be the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. The objective of Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme is to support parents of ST children for education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized, and to improve participation of ST children in classes IX and X of the Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of

progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education. Side by side, the objective of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe Students studying at Post Matriculation stage to enable them to complete their education. Both schemes are available to ST students for studies in India. The scholarships are awarded by the Government of State/Union Territory to which the applicant belongs.

5. The Pre-Matric Scholarship is paid out to the students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rupees two lakh per annum. On the other hand, the income ceiling of parents/guardians of the Post Matric candidates is Rupees two lakh fifty thousand annually.
6. The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme is provided to students with parental income of Rs. 2.5 Lakhs is non-refundable with tuition fees, maintenance allowance, additional provision for students with disabilities. The scheme categorizes educational courses into four types. Detailed table is attached in Annexure II.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Courses</b>
<b>Group I</b>	Degree and Post Graduate level courses including M.Phil, Ph.D. and post Doctoral research.
<b>Group II</b>	Graduate and Post Graduate courses degree, diploma and certificate.
<b>Group III</b>	All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group I and II
<b>Group IV</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> standard.

7. The scope of the study was as follows :
  - Whether Scheme's structure, design, features and or guidelines are appropriate to meet the objectives of the Scheme.
  - To identify bottlenecks in the implementation of the Scheme and changes required in the Scheme for improving the delivery mechanism.
  - Whether specific deliverables of the Scheme / Programme are appropriate for fulfilling the development needs of the communities, as on date
  - Whether measurable outcomes have been defined for the Scheme,
  - to what extent the scheme has percolated at the grass-root level for the benefit of tribal households, especially female households,
  - Whether the Scheme is gender-neutral or has gender-specific components and, in case of inherent gender imbalance, type of change required, to identify schemes with implications.

8. The Schemes were evaluated using mixed methodological approaches. Both primary and secondary sources were given due importance. The tools employed in the study were: interview schedules, focus group discussions, in-depth interaction, and observations. The interview schedules were framed separately for the evaluation of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes. The stakeholders considered for the study were implementing officials at Centre, State, District, College/ School levels and beneficiary students.
9. For the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, 1133 beneficiary students were drawn from 28 States, 56 districts, and 109 institutions. For the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, 1324 beneficiary students were drawn from 29 States, 55 districts, and 132 institutions.
10. There are three sub-goals of Sustainable Development Goals which are partly addressed by both Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes. Considering the income ceiling as an important criterion, the scheme with equitable financial support helps tribal students to complete their studies both at elementary-secondary and Post-Matric stages. After possessing a formal degree and diploma, the students may turn out to be knowledgeable citizens and get inducted in various gainful employment opportunities. The Schemes considerably help reduce poverty. In that sense, the scheme is meeting the set objective **1.b** of the SDGs.
11. In the 12th plan, the strategy for the development of Scheduled Tribes has categorically been mentioned. It stipulates that perpetuation of socio-economic backwardness among the STs, despite various efforts made so far, presents a formidable challenge demanding effective and result-oriented steps in every developmental sector. The effective steps suggested are relaxing the normative prescriptions about taking up a programme or a scheme in the tribal majority areas, emphasis to be laid down on education, health and livelihood support. The drop-out rates of both Pre and Post Matric tribal scholarship holders in last five years came out as negligible during the study. The institutions were found searching for competent and trained scholars of tribal language in Odisha and West Bengal. Jharkhand in particular and other sampled states in general, had remedial classes for tribal students, catering to improve skill and knowledge base of the tribal students. The scholarship scheme was found attracting tribal students for technical and vocational courses as well. However, their employability is yet to be ascertained. In fact, the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme was found boosting beneficiaries to progress to the Post-Matric stage on the one hand and the Post Matric Scholarship promoted tribal students to opt for technical and vocational courses, on the other. Thus, Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes embroiled together largely help tribal children and youth to

develop, fueled by academic buoyancy. The laid down framework for tribes in National Policy on Education 1986 was found largely being addressed.

12. The implementation of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been found in 13 states during the year 2014-15 with an outlay of 200.70 Cr. covering 12,13,318 beneficiary students. The utilization of the fund has been 100 %. The scheme continued to be implemented in the same number of states during the year 2015-16 with a financial outlay of Rs. 228.68 Cr. reaching out to a total of 12,62,068 beneficiary students. 5.54% (Rs. 12.68 cr.) of the total released amount Rs. 228.68 Cr. remained unspent. In 2016-17, the money was released to only 9 states (i.e. four states less than the previous 13 states) with fund release of Rs. 84.16 Cr. and unspent balance of Rs. 3.21 Cr. which is 3.82% less than the envisaged, covering 11,34,167 beneficiary students. In 2017-18, the coverage of the scheme was expanded in 17 states with fund released to the tune of Rs. 294.08 Cr. with the unspent balance of Rs. 2.67 Cr. which is 0.91% less than the expenditure envisaged, covering 14,05,227 beneficiary students. In 2018-19, the coverage of scheme has been found in 18 states in terms of the fund outlay to the tune of Rs. 311.5 Cr. of which 88.50% (275.66 Cr.) was utilized till 31<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
13. It is worth mentioning that as per the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme status report of the 30 states, there are only three states, namely Chhatisgarh, Gujarat and Odisha where fund release has been found in throughout the five years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Interestingly, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh did not avail central support to Pre-Matric scholarship Scheme in the last five years. However, in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the States have their own resources to run the scheme. Daman & Diu UT had not availed the scholarship 2016-17 though they had 356 beneficiaries which increased to 468 during 2017-18 and funds to the tune of 8.04 lakh were availed and utilized. Similarly Andaman & Nicobar Islands had beneficiaries since 2016-17 but they started availing the scholarship only in 2018-19.
14. The implementation of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been found in 29 states and UT's during the year 2014-15 with an outlay of 720.98 Cr. covering 20,37,448 beneficiary students. The utilization of the fund has been 100 %. The scheme continued to be implemented in the 23 states during the year 2015-16 with a financial outlay of Rs. 857.14 Cr. reaching out to a total of 20,33,741 beneficiary students. In 2016-17, the money was released to 26 states with fund release of Rs. 1555.67 Cr. and unspent balance of Rs. 14.99 cr. which is 0.96% of the envisaged, covering 18,51,338 beneficiary students. In 2017-18, the coverage of the scheme was expanded in 28 states with fund released to the

tune of Rs. 1463.87 Cr. with an unspent balance of Rs. 14.30 cr. which is 0.98% less than the expenditure envisaged, covering 19,31,117 beneficiary students. In 2018-19, the coverage of scheme has been found in 27 states in terms of the fund outlay to the tune of Rs. 1646.98 Cr. of which fund utilized till 31<sup>st</sup> September 2019 was 92.3% (Rs 1520.05 Cr.).

15. It is worthwhile to mention that as per the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme status report of 29 States and UTs, funds have been released in all 29 states for the year 2014-15. In 2015-16, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Daman and Diu, Jharkhand, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh did not receive the central financial assistance. In 2016-17, States like Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar and West Bengal did not receive the central assistance. In 2017-18, Andaman and Nicobar have been the states not receiving the fund from the centre. In 2018-19, Bihar and West Bengal did not receive the fund.
16. On the basis of figures furnished by the Ministry on Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme, a total of Rs. 807.64 cr. was released in four years (2014 to 2018) to different states as central assistance of which Rs. 789.09 cr. was utilized with the coverage of 50,14,780 beneficiary students. A total of Rs. 45,97.67 cr. was released for the same period to different states as central assistance of which Rs. 45,68.38 cr. was utilized with the coverage of 78,53,644 beneficiary students for the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The study reveals that out of the total number of beneficiary students studied (636 girls and 497 boys), 88.9% of them were found satisfied with the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme.

#### **PRE MATRIC BENEFICIARIES**

17. In the sample of ST students, 74.5% believe in Hinduism, 16.5% associate with Christianity, 4.9% follow their specific sect, 2.9% follow Buddhism and 1.1% believe in Islam. The sample of students includes 65.1% of girls and 43.9% of boys. The sample consists of students mostly in the age group of 14-17. 90.5% beneficiary students are in the age group of 14-17, 4.8% in 17-20 and 4.7% beneficiary students are in the age group of 11-13. Most of the students contacted during the study were found receiving the scholarship on the renewal basis. 56.1% sampled beneficiary students were receiving the scholarship on renewal basis whereas 43.9% beneficiary students found receiving for the first time. The observations of the study team suggest that the proportion of first-timers were less than beneficiaries receiving scholarship on renewal basis. An average of 40.46 beneficiaries has been drawn from the 28 states against the set target of 40. The

beneficiary drawn in tandem with sample size fixed, the states in descending order are Uttarakhand (95), Daman and Diu (70), Andaman and Nicobar Island (57), Gujarat (57) West Bengal (56), Tamil Nadu (50), Madhya Pradesh (49), Odisha (42), Rajasthan (41), Kerala (40), Andhra Pradesh (40), Assam (40), Bihar (40), Goa (40) and Nagaland (40). The states from where below the number of average calculated or target fixed beneficiaries could be drawn in ascending order were Meghalaya (9), Jammu & Kashmir (11), Sikkim (21), Arunachal Pradesh (22), Himachal Pradesh(24), Manipur (27), Telangana (27), Chhatisgarh (35), Karnataka (38), Jharkhand (39), Mizoram (39), Tripur (39), and Uttar Pradesh (39). In the total sample of beneficiary students, the representation of girls and boys were 56.1% and 43.9%, respectively. On average 22.7 beneficiary girls have been drawn in the sample from all 28 states. There are 13 states from where more than the average number of girl students has been drawn in the evaluation study. The states are: Daman and Diu (46), Uttarakhand (41), West Bengal (35), Andhra Pradesh (32), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (31), Madhya Pradesh (31), Tamil Nadu (30), Karnataka (28), Gujarat (26), Uttar Pradesh (26), Tripura (25), Mizoram (23) and Odisha (23). However, in the states where the satisfactory number of girl respondents has not been drawn, they have outnumbered beneficiary boys. It reveals that due to the availability of Pre-Matric scholarship, the beneficiary girls feel more attracted to the participation of IX and X of the Pre-Matric stage. Therefore, they are expected to have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education.

18. The beneficiary students have responded the parameters like parents' religion, family types, head of the households, occupations, items available at the households. The believer in Hinduism is predominantly high (74.5%) in sharp contrast with Christianity (16.5%), Islam (1.1%), Buddhism (2.9%) and others (4.9%). Though most of the tribal households stay in nuclear type family (55.5%), the joint and extend type families constitute 44.5% of the total households. The reasons assigned to the 'jointness' is their orientation to collective life and engagement with agriculture and informal/private works. However, the practice of nuclear family type informs that they are also under the impact of urbanization driven resettlements. We found most of the men headed households to which the beneficiary students belonged. However, women-headed households have scored 9.5% of the total households. The reasons for women-headed households are triangular in nature. First, due to matriarchal practices, the women-headed household was identified. Second, since either men had moved on in search of a job or they did not exist at all, therefore women came to fill those places. Third, women

enjoy more respect in select tribal communities and therefore, they were entrusted to lead the family. Side by side, a total of 3.6% of households were led by guardians. It is worthwhile to mention that guardian headed households seemed to have not provided effective attention to the upbringing of children.

19. Most of the parents were engaged with agriculture (55.8%) in sharp contrast with informal labour (19.25 %), private worker (14.4%) and others (10.7%). In the focus group discussion, it was made clear that most of the parents were marginal landowners who limited their land use to production of vegetables or cereals on the side. Mostly, their parents were reported to have been engaged with private works. Thus, they have been identified as informal or private wagers. Some of the parents were reported to have engaged with seasonal contractual govt. jobs as well.
20. Availability of usable items at the households informs about the economic strength of the family. It was reported that 70% of the beneficiaries' parents owned land, followed by 54.5% with property (cash and immovable). Astoundingly, 89.8% of the tribal households owned internet-enabled mobile phones. 52.7% of the tribal households had colour televisions, 54.5% of households owned vehicles, and 79% of households had LPG connections. The access on washing machine and radio with tribal households was found 5.7% and 7.3%, respectively.
21. The fact that there were 30% landless parents, 44.5% without property, 9.2% with inaccessibility to mobile phones, 47.3% without television, 44.5% devoid of vehicles, 94.3% without washing machine, 74.6% without a refrigerator, 92.7% without radio and 21% without LPG connections in the study area. It is also to be considered that landless parents working either as an informal worker or as a private worker experienced acute duress to meet their ends. It was reported that such parents treated drugs and intoxicating pills as a shock and stress absorber. However, with the financial support of scholarship, their children were found improving with their learning outcomes.
22. 79% of the total responses are in favour of having proper information about the scheme in connection with the required documents. Out of the total responses, 17% responses are in tandem with the lack of proper information. Poor advertisement and insufficient motivation have scored 4% of the total responses with regard to ineffective feedback on the publicity part of the scheme.
23. 73.3% of beneficiaries applied their applications online, 26.7% did manually. The major share in the help is institutional (90.1%). However, the beneficiary students have received help from parents (12.4%), government Officials (5.6%) and other family members

(1.5%). There are issues identified with the filling up of the applications. The issues related to a proper comprehension of the applications have been raised by 1.9% of the respondents, 0.2% related document procurements like caste and income certificates. 1.7% of respondents suffer from language problem of the applications. Problems related to the stipulated time frame, insufficient information, operational have been identified by 0.2%, 0.2% and 0.5%, respectively.

24. It is striking to notice that student beneficiaries, state officials and district level officials were not fully aware of the provision that scholarship amount is to be paid out on a monthly basis. 94.4% of respondents were found with own bank account whereas bank account was to be ascertained with 100% beneficiaries. 89.6% of beneficiaries wanted the amount to be increased because the scholarship amount was not sufficiently catering to their required educational needs. However, late payments to beneficiaries (95.5%) have not been found as an important concern. 99.1% of beneficiaries found that time is not a constraint in receiving the benefits.
25. 91.4% of beneficiary students would have pursued their education, had they not received the scholarship. Only 8.6% of beneficiaries find the scholarship instrumental in their career building. They have used the scholarship as a safety window to their studies because without the support they would have left the schools. Though the percentage is not substantial, its impact is fathomless on the economically vulnerable tribal students. 5.6% of beneficiaries would have taken family support in the absence of scholarship. It implies that tribal people are convinced by the significance of formal knowledge. Though in most of the tribal schools, the infrastructure facilities were in scarce, with limited support base 40% of beneficiaries have been taken to study tour. However, more than half of the beneficiaries have not been taken to educational tours. Interestingly, 59.1% of beneficiaries have participated in debates and discussions organized by schools on different academic occasions.
26. 91.6% of beneficiary students use the scholarship amount on studies. The study includes the purchase of books, notebooks, private tuition, pen, pencils, etc. They also deposited school fee, if required, from the scholarship amount. Only 5.6% of beneficiary students let their scholarship amount to be used on household items. 3% of beneficiaries shared their amount in medical needs. Astoundingly, 99.6% of beneficiary students did not spend their money on leisure-oriented activities.
27. 1.9% beneficiary students expressed lack of motivation without the scholarship. This is to say that the scholarship amount is not an effective factor which provides motivation

to the beneficiary students across 28 states. The reasons attributed to these issues were untimely payment, the problem in procurement of certificate, ineffective level of awareness of scholarship scheme, inability to address the financial needs required to continue the education and so on. However, 88.9% of beneficiary students are of the view that the Scholarship Scheme boosts them in the transitional phase from elementary to the secondary stage. This is the important trait which the scheme is bestowed with. If the scheme boosts, that itself can trigger the will power of children to reach their academic destinations. Indeed, the scheme shows a ray of hope for the vulnerable tribal students but its efficacy needs to be improved by escalating quantum of support given to them.

28. Of the 28 states, feedback from 193 ITDAs/ITDPs functioning in 20 states was collected. The maximum number of ITDAs/ITDPs was found in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Odisha (22), Chhattisgarh (19) and other states. State officers from Andaman, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh opined that Radio was not used as an effective medium for publicity. It is worth mentioning that dedicated GRO at the district level to redress students' scholarship-related grievances were not found. However, the District Social Welfare Officers/Project Officers were found taking care of such issues. 71.4% of the State Nodal Officers responded that institutional mechanism involving the display of information on notice board, distribution of pamphlets, informal information; institutional announcements and so on were used for publicity of the scheme. Select states have also given publicity through Radio (64.3%), social media (46.45) and other sources (35.7%).
29. The quarterly report including the data of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred have been sent to the Centre by 57.1% of States/UT's. 35.7% of states have placed institution wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for the award of scholarship to be displayed on the web-site of NIC at district level till the information was collected.
30. The Utilization Certificates have been sent to the centre by 89.3% of States. The dedicated GROs were found in all states surveyed. The reasons assigned by the Nodal Officers were like online monitoring, tribal officers seeking the information from schools, student union directly interacting with State Nodal Officers, telephonic redressal of issues at the state level, implementation of toll-free numbers, Pathshala Portal and so on. However, to ensure the effectiveness of the scheme, the laid down norms should have been strictly adhered to. The suggestions shared by the State Nodal officers to meet

the implementation challenges of the scheme were: to increase the amount of scholarship, timely release of amount to the beneficiaries' accounts, central assistance to be timely disbursed, income ceiling to be enhanced, banks should be instructed to facilitate scholarship holders, zero-balance account of beneficiaries to be allowed and continued, institutions to be empowered to verify students' database.

31. The district-level officers were found instrumental in the beneficiaries' shortlisting as well as disbursement of amount through DBT in the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Out of 56 districts, the views of 22 district level officers could be documented. 13.6% of the district level officers were confronted with Pressure in shortlisting the beneficiaries at the local level. The same percentage of officers faced political pressures. The social pressure scored 9.1%. 90.9% of district level officers expressed that potential beneficiaries were covered in the scheme. The beneficiaries raising concerns against the multiple issues related to the scholarship accounted for 63.6%, as shared by district level officers. The maximum concerns have been recorded against the delay in fund disbursement (40.9%), difficulty in document procurement (13.6%), and awareness related (13.6%) and insufficient fund to meet the beneficiary-pool (54.5%).
32. The headmaster is an important stakeholder in the implementation of the scheme as he/she ensures that the student is regular and maintains satisfactory progress. Maximum scholarship holders have been identified with Govt. Schools, followed by Govt. Aided and Private Unaided Schools. The rate of registered girl scholars has improved over the years in govt. aided schools. However, during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, the slowdown in government and private unaided schools has been registered. 62.8% of beneficiaries were from Government schools; followed by 30.3% from govt. aided and 6.8% from private unaided. The trend of registration is symmetrical on the beneficiary boys and girls for the year 2016-17 and 2018-19. It is interesting to note that out of 24 Govt. aided schools, 13 schools with over 90% attendance was recorded, 3 schools with 80% and 90%, 5 schools with 70%-80%, and remaining 3 recorded attendance of students between 40% and 60%. In case of Govt. schools, the number of schools with above attendance percentage was 28%, 19%, 24%, and 3% respectively. These numbers for private schools were as follows 2, 2, 4 for the first three attendance range. The overall academic performance of beneficiary students, it was reported that 100% satisfactory performance in private unaided schools, 92% in Govt. Schools, and 87.5% in Govt. aided schools were found. It appears that private schools are doing fairly well in improving the academic performance of beneficiary students.

33. In the past three years, the maximum number of dropout students has been recorded in Govt. Schools, followed by Govt. aided and private unaided schools. After calculations, it has been found that in the overall dropout of 1.9% of the total student beneficiaries, 2.5% dropout in Govt. Schools, 1% in Govt. aided schools and 0.04% in private schools has been recorded. The Head Master/Mistress expressed their concern on bank account opening, document procurement, mismatch of names in Aadhar, congestion in the network connectivity, and lack of mobile number on which OTP was sent to generate password as critical issues.
34. Non-beneficiary students were also covered on issues related to attendance, procurement of certificate, awareness, application procedures, GRO, and institutional support. Non-beneficiaries drawn from Jammu and Kashmir (11), Manipur (7), Karnataka (6), Telangana, West Bengal & Andhra Pradesh (2 each), one each from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala and Odisha thus totalling 35. 15 girls & 20 boys constituted the non-beneficiaries. 20 students were studying in IX class and 15 in X class. 45.7% of the non-beneficiaries expressed having no awareness of the scheme as the advertisement put up through print media was inaccessible to them. 11.4% non-beneficiaries opined that they did not receive support from school and others in applying for the scholarship. As a result, 28.6% non-beneficiaries could apply for the scholarship but did not pass through. It can be concluded that the non-beneficiaries find that the publicity of the scheme was improper. The linking of Aadhar with bank account remained a tough job. It was also emphasized that schools should ensure the wider publicity of scholarship information. Side by side, schools should also help prospective beneficiaries while applying the scholarship application. The perception of non-beneficiaries reveals that the mode of publicity should effectively be selected which could be accessible.

### **POST MATRIC BENEFICIARIES**

35. The efficacy of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme in terms of structure, design, features, coverage, management and perceived impact etc., have been assessed by taking up the sample of 1324 beneficiary students from 55 tribal concentrated districts of 29 states. An average of 41 beneficiaries has been drawn from the 21 states against the set target of 40, and 57 beneficiaries have been drawn from the 8 States & UTs against the set target of 60. The target of 60 samples was to be drawn from the eight States & UTs, namely Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Daman & Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh,

- Kerala, Sikkim and Uttarakhand. Slightly less than the target, the sample was drawn from States/UTs like Kerala (59), Sikkim (50), Daman & Diu (47) and Himachal Pradesh (42).
36. About half of the beneficiary students (50.5%) were from Govt. Aided Institutions, 31.8% from Government Institutions, 14.8 % from private institutions and 2.9% from others, like Open School, Government Autonomous and Panchayat run institutions.
  37. The sample comprised of 54.7% girls and 45.3% boys. 90% students were in the age group of 15-23 of which 38% were in the age group of 15-17, 25% in 18-20, 27% in the age group of 21-23, only 8% and 2% beneficiary students were in the age group of 24-26 years and 27 & above, respectively.
  38. In the total sample of beneficiary students, the representation of girls and boys were 54.7% and 45.3%, respectively. On average 25 beneficiary girls have been drawn in the sample from all 29 States and UTs. There were 15 States & UTs wherefrom, more than the average number of girl students have been drawn in the study. These being: Uttarakhand (38), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (36), West Bengal (34), Goa & Tripura (32) each, Kerala & Tamil Nadu (30) each, Assam (29), Karnataka, Sikkim, Daman & Diu, Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh (28), Uttar Pradesh (27), and Odisha (26).
  39. Beneficiary students who believed in Hinduism were 67.9 %, followed by Christianity (18.05%), Specific sect (6.72%), Islam (3.78%), Buddhism (3.47%) and Sikh (0.08%). Though most of the tribal households were in nuclear type family (52.3%), the joint and extended type families constituted 47.7% of the total households. Most of the parents were engaged with agriculture (62.5%) in sharp contrast with informal labour (14.7%), private worker (11.9%) and others (10.9%).
  40. Availability of usable items at the households informs about the economic strength of the family. It was reported that 67.5% of the beneficiaries' parents owned land, followed by 54.4% with the property. Astoundingly, 87.4% of the tribal households owned internet-enabled mobile phones. 57.7% of the tribal households had colour televisions, 50.2% of households owned vehicles, and 79.1% of households had LPG connections. The access on washing machine and radio with tribal households was found 5.7% and 9.4%, respectively. The fact that there were 32.5% landless parents, 45.6% without property, 12.6% with inaccessibility to mobile phones, 42.3% without television, 49.8% devoid of vehicles, 94.3% without washing machine, 78.5% without a refrigerator, 90.6% without radio and 20.9% without LPG connection in the study area.

41. Most of the students (67.7%) surveyed were found receiving the scholarship on a renewal basis and 32.3% could receive for the first time. It can be inferred that the scholarship was enabling them to complete their education.
42. Publicity of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and inviting application regarding scholarship was mostly (93%) furnished through Institutions concerned, followed by around 9% each through information from social media, print media and friends. Few respondents opted for more than one option. The absence of print media impacted on beneficiaries in almost all 29 States, evident more prominently in Andaman & Nicobar Island, Assam, Goa, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, J&K and Rajasthan, as beneficiaries from these States & UTs were more than the average of 42. The social media impact was noticed in UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The institute fully contributed to apply for the scholarship. Information about the Scholarship from a friend had a visible impact in Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The state officials claim that advertisement was given in time through using local newspapers and website suitably.
43. Majority of beneficiaries (84%) were aware of documents required for the scholarship. 12.84% responses were in tandem with the lack of proper information. Poor advertisement and insufficient motivation have scored 3% of the total responses with regard to ineffective feedback on the publicity part of the scheme. Proper awareness was found in almost all States with a significant share of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Daman and Diu, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Sikkim, Odisha and Assam. Insufficient advertisement enabled awareness deficit in documents procurement was noticed in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Lack of proper awareness was expressed in Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, J&K, Sikkim and AP and inapt motivation was expressed in J&K and UP. The information of required documents was to be disseminated in such a way that no room for rectification or improvement rest.
44. With regard to submission of the applications, 84.89% beneficiaries applied online and the remaining 15.11% were found doing manually. Except for Goa where submission was totally manual, in the 28 States and UTs beneficiaries were applying online and manually. Average beneficiary applying online from these 28 States and UTs was 40. States and UT's where sample beneficiaries were above the average of 40 were 14, namely Uttarakhand, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Kerala, Gujarat, Jharkhand, HP, Odisha, Bihar, UP, and Arunachal Pradesh.

45. The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme was quite flexible because apart from regular students it accommodated employed applicants through correspondence courses; particularly unemployed married girls. Contrastingly, only 0.30 % of students were found to be employed in petty or part-time jobs to help their parents and 0.38% of students were found to take the benefit of the scholarship via correspondence courses. However, we could come across many married girl students pursuing their studies and getting a scholarship. During the FGD, it was shared by the girl students as well as the principals that the scholarship was one of the major push factors enabling ST girls to continue with their education and marrying at the right age.
46. One of the most important aspects of the Post-Matric Scholarship is that it empowers a distant student with hostel facility within the campus or in and around its vicinity so as to complete their education productively. Of the surveyed beneficiaries, 22% of them stayed in hostels but only 9.52% were in Institutional hostels and rest 11.48% were staying outside the campus as paying guests or in private hostels, for which the hostel component of scholarship was insufficient and taxing more on their pockets. Only 19.03% of students agreed that the hostel facility was helpful and convenient while 81% found it unhelpful.
47. Majority of the beneficiary students (85.35%) were not availing any other scholarship or benefit, while 14.65 % beneficiary students got some extra benefits from local bodies like Gram Panchayats or local NGO's facilitating them with free books, uniform and monetary help. 74.40% of students complained that the scholarship amount was hardly sufficient to cover the entire study cost which included uniform, travel, hostel fee, books, stationary etc.
48. The Post-Matric Scheme is embedded with additional benefits to provide equal opportunities to differently-abled students. It covered not only fees but also accrued added allowances such as escort, special pay, extra coaching, transport etc. 99.9% of the beneficiary students were abled and only one student from Chattisgarh was found to be receiving the scholarship under the disabled category being orthopedically challenged. He was getting the escort allowance of Rs. 100/- per month. The coverage of scholarship for disabled students is inapt which poses a question on the publicity of the scheme.
49. Scholarship disbursal was in DBT form, as 96% beneficiary students had their personal bank accounts while still, 4% received in their parents' account. These were from different states like Andaman and Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil

Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Institutional heads were reluctant in preparing yearly beneficiary data of their institute due to the shortage of skilled manpower. The disbursement of the scholarship required institutional heads to be the part in the loop and encourage them to maintain the details of applicants and beneficiaries.

50. The scholarship was helpful in continuing the education was proving real worth to 81% of tribal students. They were appreciative of the Scheme. However, considering the Scholarship amount as small, the burden of parents was not reduced effectively. 19% of students were not happy about the scholarship amount, as education is much costlier than the benefits induced in the scheme. The beneficiaries cited two main reasons, namely untimely payment (11.33%) and insufficient amount (17.75%). In fact, the amount reaches their accounts after the completion of an academic year regardless of the fact that it should have been paid in the initial months of commencement of the session. Due to the considerable gap in disbursal period, some of the students from Karnataka shared that they took loans from SHG's which they kept paying for 2-3 years in installments.
51. The impact and significance of the Post-Matric Scholarship were assessed by posing the question of whether students would have continued the study, had they not received the amount. 69.71% replied that their parents would have supported them to study, 10.95% responded that they would have taken educational loans from banks, 7.7% answered that they would have borrowed money from their friends and not left their studies. 11.64% beneficiary students expressed that in the absence of scholarship they would have discontinued their studies because their parents could not have managed to pay for their studies.
52. To take the suggestions of beneficiaries for improving the effectiveness of the scheme, opened-ended questions were placed in the questionnaire. The responses varied from 37% opting for easy accessibility, 47% selected the easy availability and remaining opted for motivating parents & teachers, and reducing the disbursal period. Beneficiaries shared the problems related to income certificate, caste certificate, availability of internet and access to zero balance banking facility. The respondents were mostly from Andaman and Nicobar Island, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, and Rajasthan.
53. Beneficiary students who expressed on improvement in disbursal period of scholarship were accounted for 52% stating that the amount came to their account at the end of the academic session. The respondents were mostly from Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar

Island, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. 16% of the beneficiaries felt, their parents and teachers should be motivated enough to encourage them to apply for the scholarship.

54. Apart from the above suggestions, other important suggestions were received from about 20% of the beneficiaries of different states. For instance, most of the beneficiaries from Tripura suggested that the scholarship amount should be enhanced, followed by students of Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Maharashtra. For the improvement of the Scheme, beneficiaries provided their inputs as process to be simplified, internet connectivity to be made seamless, awareness to be raised, and income ceiling for eligibility to be revised.
55. To continue with the Scholarship, a beneficiary should have satisfactory progress and conduct. The principals of the selected Institutions were requested to share their inputs on the conduct and progress of the beneficiaries. 88 % of principals conveyed their satisfaction on the progress and conduct of the beneficiaries and the remaining 12% principals responded with some cases of failures. 39% principals stated that they had a mechanism to assess the conduct and progress of beneficiaries by constituting disciplinary committees, conducting surprise checks, mentoring students, one to one interaction, regular assessment and so on. Remaining 61% of the principals did not have any specific mechanism to assess conduct and progress of students. However, the majority of principals were of the view that the tribal students are very simple, easy to deal with and did not get into any mischievous act.
56. Against the question of satisfaction of the academic performance of beneficiary students, astoundingly 85% principals assented. The principals referred to students as naïve and peace-loving. It was also reported that due to their hardships of survival and added liabilities, beneficiaries were doing well and mostly qualified in the required academic percentage/grades. The flipside side of the coin is that 15% of the principals said that they were not satisfied at all. In their opinion, the ST students take this scheme for granted and hardly focus on their studies because they know that their scholarship would be renewed.
57. Structure and procedure of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme provided the idea to the beneficiary students about the required documents and steps involved in it. The scholarship is given for the study of all recognized Post-secondary courses pursued in recognized institutions with the exception that it was not awarded for training like Aircraft Maintenance Engineer's Courses and Private Pilot License Courses, courses at

Training-Ship Dufferin (Now Rajendra), courses of training at the Military College, Dehradun and courses at Pre-examination training centers of all India and State levels. The scholarship is given from the domiciled states. 91% of the principals conveyed their awareness of the complete structure and procedure, 9% of them did have a scanty idea. They were mostly from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

58. In the entire implementation process, the role of State Nodal officers was found most crucial. They are responsible for sending the compliance with the centre viz. beneficiary target to be covered; setting up of GRO, etc. The Utilization Certificate of the previous year and grant released information was sent by 83% of the state officers while 17% of the officers from Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand did not send their UC's till the time of the survey. 69% officials ensured that details of the committed liability of the state were sent to the Ministry and beneficiaries had bank accounts and linked with APB while 31% of the state officers could not ensure any of these financial instruments. 90% of the state officials were able to send the details of physical progress achieved to the Ministry except Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir. 86% of the State Nodal Officers showed their State's preparedness to roll out the DBT and digitalization of the beneficiary database and covert data in excel sheets, but 14% could not furnish the required information. Dedicated and full-time Grievance Redressal Officer to look into the issues and problems faced by the students, were in place, as conveyed by 62% State Nodal Officers, while 38% officers expressed their helplessness for not appointing a dedicated GRO, due to lack of funds, and in lieu the senior officers at the state level were reportedly taking care of such responsibilities.
59. 72% of the State nodal officers opined that beneficiaries faced problems related to income and caste certificate, less or no information about the scheme and its procedure resulting into delayed application submission, ineffective cooperation from institutions or banks and internet.
60. Under the Group I: Commercial Pilot License (CPL) course 10 candidates per annum used to be awarded and the selection was made through Directorate General of Civil Aviation. State Nodal officials shared that they had not awarded any CPL scholarship to any ST candidate so far except Manipur in the year 2018-19. It was informed that in Manipur two CPLs were given a few years back. This clearly indicates that there is a gap in the information dissemination system, as only basic information about the scholarship

is given to the institutes and beneficiaries. No one knows that such courses are also part of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST students.

61. Non-beneficiaries were also surveyed to know why they were not getting the scholarship and their perspective about the scheme. 85% of the ST students were aware of the scheme, because their select classmates were beneficiaries and they were left out as they couldn't apply on time due to various reasons. 15% did not have any knowledge about it. 65% of the ST non-beneficiaries wished to have more awareness about the Scholarship Scheme of which 35% wanted technical assistance and 30% wanted computer assistance while submitting online applications.
62. The feedback given by non-beneficiaries for the Post-Matric Scholarship was based on their personal experience on what their friends/classmates shared with them. To them, the awareness about the scheme, its procedure and eligibility criteria need to be simplified and available courses be improved, as many of ST students were ignorant. In continuation to it, they said that the Tribal Welfare Department was required to be more supportive and helping to all the students to get the benefits of the scholarship viz. the overall process to be made easier and faster, scholarship amount to be increased and disbursement of the amount to be released in timely manner.

### **Recommendations**

- a. There is a need to raise awareness about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes through locally circulated print and electronic media. At least the medium of publicity should be, a considerably circulating newspaper, in the tribal language. The local news channels should also be considered to disseminate the information, scaling up to more physical targets. The matter given to newspaper and electronic media should be the part of record-keeping at States/UTs Tribal Department.
- b. The customized training on the implementation of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes should locally be organized by NIC for State, District and Schools/Institutions' Heads. The training should be conducted with well-defined learning outcomes, feedback on training by the trainees and evaluation of each trainee by the trainer concerned should be made part of the training framework. The assessment of the training/s should be done both by the trainees and the trainers.
- c. The financial assistance from Centre to State/UTs vis-à-vis State or UTs /Districts to beneficiary accounts need to be released in a timely manner. However, in the last rectification/intervention/suggestion to ensure the flow of fund to be regulated

uninterruptedly did not make much change. The liability of Centre and States/UTs to dispense the amount on priority basis should be dovetailed with timely disbursement of the amount to the beneficiaries account. Also, it requires dedicated staff at all levels. The dedicated staff to manage the schemes will be held accountable for any delay in the disbursement. The staff would also be keeping all information related to budget estimate, revised estimate, actual expenditure and the number of beneficiaries targeted. The staff members also need to ensure that the amount reaches the beneficiaries on a yearly basis. All transactions involved in the scheme are to be preserved by States/UTs. The States/UTs demand should be prepared in time by the State Tribal Department and be forwarded to the Ministry. The States/UTs need to ensure that the aforementioned details are shared with the Centre.

- d. For income certificates, income ceiling of parents/guardians of the students should be revised in the light of consumer price index. Side by side, **40% escalation in the scholarship amount of the existing rate is recommended** to meet the educational costs of the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries.
- e. For Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, Book Bank in the Institutions (in prescribed disciplines), as per the Scheme guidelines, need to be set-up immediately and action taken report to be forwarded to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on an urgent basis. The States/UTs Tribal Departments need to ensure the existence of the Book Bank. In case of book banks are not set-up, in consultation with Education/Higher Education departments, required steps may be taken.
- f. Educational Institutions may be provided with some non-recurring grant to procure internet facility providing easy access to scholarship processing.
- g. **In order to improve the outreach and effectiveness of the schemes, both financial and physical scaling up is recommended.** To cover up all the potential-beneficiaries, fund availability in advance is to be ensured by States/UTs, if required, in consultation with the Center.
- h. The study also recommends for an annual social audit on Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes to be conducted in order to assess the actual usefulness and the degree to which needy ST beneficiaries have been covered.

- i. Provision of Administrative & Operative Expenses should be included in total funds allocated for the Schemes. A&O should be available for all levels of implementation - Schools/Colleges, District. State and Centre. This will enable efficient functioning at all levels.
- j. Time frame of opening and closing of both the schemes at various levels should be known at all levels and also to the beneficiaries. This time frame may vary amongst the NITI Aayog mentioned six NSSO zones depending upon the Zone/State specific starting and ending months of pre and post matric courses.
- k. For further recommendations the following studies should be organized at regular time periods :
- Fees Regulatory Study to evaluate and suggest scholarship amount according to the fee structure adopted by various courses across the NITI Aayog mentioned six NSSO zones.
  - Study for Rationalization of courses for which scholarship should be available.
  - Study to identify best performing states where prize money and appreciation certificates should be awarded to trickle down the contributing institutions, district(s) of the State(s).
  - Evaluation study to Examine the Courses being offered by various Colleges (Government and Private) and the Hostel facilities being provided.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEMES**

### **2.1 Background of the Scheme**

#### **a) Scheme Objectives, Implementation Mechanism and Design**

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 (<https://tribal.nic.in/>), after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective to provide a more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in a coordinated and planned manner. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for the development of STs. As per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the ministry functions for the overall development of scheduled tribes with special reference to social security, social insurance, tribal welfare planning, project formulation, research, evaluation, statistics, training, scholarship scheme, and all matters related to the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled tribes on forest lands.

#### **i. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Article 46 of part IV (“Directive Principles of State Policy”) of the constitution enjoins upon the state to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, in particular, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Article 38 (2) of the same part also enjoins upon the state to minimize inequities in income and to endeavor to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations. The Ministry supplements its efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. These schemes principally aim at developing economic, educational and social spheres of the tribal lot. The scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for needy Schedule Tribe children studying in classes IX and X was introduced with effect from 1.7.2012. It has been conceptualized on the twin objectives of supporting parents of scheduled tribe students for education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop out, especially in transition from the elementary to secondary and during the second stage of education is minimized; and to improve participation of ST students in classes IX and X of Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform well and have a better chance of progressing to Post-Matric stages of education. Parents’ annual income is an important criterion to decide whether benefits are to be accrued to a tribal student. The scholarship is paid out to the students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rupees two lakh per annum. So long as either of the parents are alive, the only income of the parents, as the case may be, from

all sources has to be taken into account only and of no other member even though they may be earning. In the form of income declaration, income is to be declared on this basis. Only in the case, where both the parents have died, the income of the guardian who is supporting the students in his/her studies has to be taken. Such students whose parents' income is affected due to unfortunate death of one of earning parents and resultantly comes within the income ceiling Prescribed under the scheme shall become eligible for the scholarship, subject to their fulfilling other conditions of eligibility, from the month in which such sad incident takes place. Applications for scholarships from such students can be considered even after the lapse of the last date of receipts of applications, on compassionate grounds. Besides, house rent allowance received by the parents of a student shall be exempted from the computation of income, if the same has been permitted to be exempted for the purpose of income tax. Importantly, in addition, income certificate is required to be taken once only i.e. at the time of admission to courses which are continuing for more than one year. The value of scholarship includes (i) scholarship and other grants, and (ii) additional allowance for students with disabilities studying in private unaided recognized schools. The scholarship is given for 10 months at the rate of Rs. 150 for day scholars and Rs. 350 for hostellers per month. Books and Adhoc grants are given Rs. 750 for day scholars and Rs. 1000 for hostellers per annum. Under the centrally-sponsored scheme of inclusive education of the disabled at the secondary stage (IEDSS) implemented by the "M/o HRD, assistance at the rate Rs. 3000/annum is already being given under its "Student Oriented Components". However, students in un-aided schools are not covered under IEDSS. Therefore, ST students with disabilities, studying in class IX and X in Private Unaided Recognized Schools are eligible for special allowances under the scheme. The allowances for students with disabilities studying in private unaided recognized schools are given Rs. 160 as monthly reader allowance for blind students. They are also given Rs. 160 as monthly transport allowances for students with disabilities (as defined in the person with disabilities Act 1995), if such students do not reside in the hostel which is within the Premises of the educational institutions. It is also provisioned that Rs. 160 as monthly escort allowance for severely disabled (i.e. with 80% or higher disability) day scholars/students with low extremity disability are to be paid. Rs. 160 as monthly helper allowance is admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to severely orthopedically handicapped students residing in the hostel of an educational institution who may need the assistance of a helper. Rs. 240 as monthly coaching allowance to mentally retarded and mentally ill students are also in place to be paid. For the above monthly allowances, the disability as defined under the persons with disabilities (Equal

Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995) Act has to be certified by the competent medical authority of the state government/UT Administrations.

## **ii. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

The Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme (PMS) is a centrally sponsored scheme and it provides non-refundable tuition fees, maintenance allowance, study tour, thesis typing/printing charges and book-grant besides additional allowance for students with disabilities. The Present PMS scheme categorizes educational courses into 4 types viz:

Group I(i): Degree and Postgraduate courses (including M.Phil, PhD and Doctoral research) in Medicine, Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, fashion technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Science, Management, Business Finance/Administration, Computer Science/Applications. Group I (ii) also includes Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course. Group I (iii) consists of Postgraduate diploma courses in various branches of management and medicine. Group I(iv) of CA/ICWA/CS/ ICFA, etc. Group I (v) includes LL.M, M.Phil, PhD and Postdoctoral programmes (D.Litt. D.Sc etc.) like special courses are the part of the group. The maintenance allowances in the courses are given to the tune of Rs. 1200 for hostellers and Rs. 550 for day scholars as maintenance allowances.

Group II (i) includes graduate/ Post-graduate courses leading to degree, diploma, certificate in areas like pharmacy (B.Pharm), Nursing ( B.Nursing), LL.B, BFS, Other paramedical Branches like rehabilitation, diagnostics etc., mass communication, hotel management and catering, travel/tourism/ hospitality management, interior decoration, nutrition and dietetics, commercial art, financial services(eg. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum senior secondary (10+2). Group II(ii) includes Postgraduate course not covered under Group I e.g. MA/M.Sc/M.Com/M.Ed/M.Pharm etc. Under this group II, the maintenance allowances are given Rs. 820 and Rs. 530 for Hostellers and Day Scholars, respectively.

Group III includes all other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group I and II e.g. BA/B.Sc/ B.Com etc. The maintenance allowances of Rs. 570 and Rs. 300 are given to Hostellers and Day Scholars, respectively.

Group IV consists of all Post-Matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is high school (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (Class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, ITI course, three-year Diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc. Under this category of classification, Rs. 380 for hostellers and Rs. 230 for Day Scholars are admissible as maintenance allowances. The scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship has been revised

w.e.f. 1.7.2010 with modifications in the rate of scholarship, income ceiling and grouping of the subjects and subsequently w.e.f. 23.05.2013. The scheme continues as an important centrally sponsored scheme to promote higher education among STs.

In fact, the scheme of Pre and Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled tribes is envisioned to be a proactive instrument through which the tribal life can be built back better, remained balanced due to not being mainstream. The latent intention of the scheme is also to improve the life pattern of tribal by mainstreaming and including their say in the decision-making process.

Scholarships under the schemes are available for students in classes IX, X, XI, XII, Post-Matriculation diploma/certificates and Bachelor's Degree or Diploma in India and Master's Degree from any University recognized by UGC, to students with disabilities who are covered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 and/or under any relevant legal statute in force. Only Indian Nationals will be eligible for scholarships. Scholarship under the Scheme will be awarded by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Government of India.

The incurring expenditure is shared between the Central Government and State Government in the ratio of 75:25 but in the North Eastern States and the States of J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand the ratio is 90:10. For Union Territories, the Central Government bears a hundred per cent of the expenditure.

#### **b) Name of the Sub-Schemes**

There are two sub-schemes involved in the evaluation study, namely Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribe Students Studying in Class IX & X, and Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to the Students Belonging to Scheduled Tribes for Studies in India. In the evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribe Students Studying in Class IX & X, the components like objectives, scope, conditions of eligibility, annual parents'/guardians' income, value of scholarship selection of candidates duration and renewal of Awards, payment of scholarship, conditions for continuation of the award, publicity of the scheme and inviting applications, application procedure, mode of disbursement of scholarship, pattern and conditions of central assistance, transfer of committed liability to States/UT's, procedure for claiming and release of central

assistance, and monitoring have comprehensively been discussed using relevant information garnered.

In the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to the Students Belonging to Scheduled Tribes for Studies in India, apart from studying the aforesaid components already studied for Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribe Students Studying in Class IX & X, existence of book bank with special reference to their object and scope, course wise pattern of assistance, girl and handicapped students, placement of funds and administrative structure of the scheme have comprehensively been evaluated. The information has also been sought considering the letter No. 20015/5/2002-Education dated 23.05.2013 of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India on the upward revision of the annual parental income, digitalization of database, the opening of the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, DBT system, training and monitoring rollout in the evaluation study.

### c) Year of Commencement of Scheme

1. The **Pre-Matric Scholarship** was started w.e.f. 01.07.2012 as the centrally sponsored scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for needy scheduled tribe students studying in class IX and X with the twin objectives to support parents of ST children for education of their wards studying in class IX and X so that the incidence of drop out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized; and to improve participation of ST children in class IX and X of the Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education . The central assistance between centre and state was in the proportion of 75: 25 (90:10 for NER and hilly States).
2. The **Post-Matric Scholarship** was introduced during the year 1944-45 and has since been revised from time to time. The Present scheme is applicable from 01.07.2010 for Students belonging to scheduled tribes for studies in India. The scheme operates with the objective to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at Post Matriculation or Post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. On the basis of domicile, the scholarship is awarded by State/Union Territory Administration to which the beneficiary actually belongs. The scholarship is paid out to the students whose parents/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakh per annum. The value of scholarship includes maintenance allowance, provision for students with disabilities, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees, study tour

charges, thesis typing/printing charges and a book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses, for the complete duration of the course. The last revision of the scheme has been made w.e.f. 01.04.2013. The central assistance is 75: 25 (90:10 for NER and hilly States) to all States governments and UT's. The scheme also covers Central assistance to States/UTs for setting up book banks.

#### **d) Present Status with Coverage of Scheme**

The **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme** covers 29 States and UTs. The States/UT include Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The **Post Matric Scholarship Scheme** Covers 29 States and UTs. The States/UTs include Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

#### **e) Sustainable Development Goals Served**

The agenda with a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, seventeen goals were set up in 2015 as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be attained by 2030. The sustainable development goals are as under:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere,

Goal 2: End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages,

Goal4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,

- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all,
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all,
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation,
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within among countries,
- Goal11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns,
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,
- Goal14: Conserve the sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,
- Goal15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss,
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development Goals.

Out of the seventeen identified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there are select sub-goals which have partly been fulfilled though the impact of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes. **These sub-goals are as under:**

**1.b** Creation of sound policy framework at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions,

**4.1** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes, and

**10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

These are the three sub-goals of SDGs, which are partly addressed by both Pre and Post-Matric Schemes. Considering the income ceiling as an important criterion, the scheme with equitable financial support helped tribal students to complete their studies both at elementary-secondary and post-secondary stages. After possessing a formal degree and diploma, the students may turn out to be knowledgeable citizens and get inducted in various gainful employment opportunities. This may considerably help reduce poverty. In that sense, the scheme is meeting the set objective 1.b of the SDGs.

With the help of debate, discussions and outside scholastic exposures, the learning outcomes of students have largely been improved. Thus by 2030, there would be substantial changes in their life course which meets the **4.1** objective set-up by SDGs.

With the help of the central sector scheme i.e. Pre and Post Matric Scholarship, the state government, district officials and institutions are obliged to motivate tribal children to join Institutions. It helps to mobilize funds from the central government and at the same time capable of arresting social unrest to be created by the disadvantaged lot. Through scholarship support, tribal students have been found improved with effective knowledge and skills base. That has helped them to exploit equal opportunities. Thus, the schemes cater to **10.3** objective set-up by SDGs. Moreover, a lot more is required to be done to enlarge the thrust of the scheme to hit more SDGs.

#### **f) National Development Plans (NDP) Served**

In National Developmental Plans, the focus on tribal education was laid down. It was concluded that there existed low literacy and high drop-out rates among the scheduled tribe students being incongruent with the universalization of primary education laid down by National Policy on Education 1986. The policy envisaged for eleven features to be integrated with the education system. These features are Common Educational Structure, National Curriculum Framework (NCF) with Common Core, Equality of Opportunities by Education; Minimum Level of Learning, Understanding of Cultural and Social System, International Understanding, Inter-regional Mobility, Pooling of Resources, Priorities of Educational Reforms, Lifelong Education and Strengthening of National Education. For the education of tribal children, eight measures were suggested in the Policy. These are (i) construction of school buildings on priority basis

under the normal funds for education, as well as under the NREP, RLEGP and Tribal Welfare Schemes, (ii) to devise the curricula and instructional materials in tribal languages at the initial stages, with arrangements for switching over to regional language, (iii) to induct and encourage trained, educated and promising scheduled tribe youths to teach in tribal areas, (iv) to establish residential schools, including Ashram Schools, (v) to provision incentive schemes like scholarships in higher education including technical, professional and Para-professional courses, (vi) to conduct special remedial courses and other programmes to remove psycho-social impediments ensuring better performances, (vii) to set up Anganwadis, non-formal and adult education centers on priority basis in areas Predominantly dominated by scheduled tribes, and (viii) to devise curriculum creating awareness of the rich cultural identity of the tribes and their enormous creative talents.

The study has revealed that drop-out rates are declining among both Pre and Post Matric tribal scholarship holders. In many schools and colleges, it was found that education is being imparted in the tribal language. However, the institutions were found searching for competent and trained scholars of tribal language in Odisha and West Bengal. Jharkhand in particular and other sampled states in general, remedial classes for tribal students were found existence catering to improve the tribal students with better performance levels. The Scholarship Scheme was found attracting tribal students for technical and vocational courses as well. However, their employability is yet to be ascertained. In fact, the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme was found boosting the progress to the Post-Matric stage on the one hand and the Post Matric Scholarship encouraged tribal students to opt for technical and vocational courses, on the other. Thus Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes embroiled together largely help tribal children and youth to receive academic buoyancy. The laid down framework for tribes in National Policy on Education 1986 was found largely attained.

## 2.2 Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure Pattern in the Scheme (in Rs. crores)

Scheme	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			2014-19	
	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	RE	Actual
<b>Pre-Matric</b>	1065.85*	200.70	200.70	1210.14*	228.69	228.69	1454.22	84.17	84.17	265.00	318.00	294.10	350.00	310.00	311.50	1141.56	1119.16
<b>Post-Matric</b>		721.00	721.00		857.15	857.15		1659.84	1555.67	1347.07	1436.00	1464.31	1586.00	1643.00	1646.00	6316.99	6244.13

\* Including budget for other schemes viz. Boys & Girls Hostels, Ashram Schools, and Vocational Training Centers under the Umbrella Scheme for Education

The Table 2.2 presents the budgetary allocation and expenditure pattern of the Scheme, by FY 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. A total of Rs. 1119.16 crore outlay incurred in running the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for five years ranging from 2014-15 to 2018-19. A total of Rs. 6244.13 crore outlay has incurred in running the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for five years ranging from 2014 to 2019. Barring the year 2017-18, the financial envelope of the Post-Matric Scheme has grown over the years. Except for the year 2016-17 and 2017-18, the financial disbursement for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has also grown over the years.

## **2.3 Summary of Past Evaluation Since Inception of Scheme**

Since conduction of assessment of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has not been done before, the summary is not being placed. However, Post Matric Scholarship Scheme was evaluated as sub-component while evaluating the programmes for the promotion of tribal education in two states namely, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Andhra Pradesh, one Institution from each of four groups, given in the guidelines of the scheme was selected as sample for the study. These were classified in the medical college in group I, one law college in Group II, one Degree College in Group III and one Diploma Course in Group II. Similarly, four educational institutions were selected from Maharashtra. The reference period, in regard to secondary data, was 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period i.e. 2007-08 and 2011-12. By using four classified levels of stakeholders, namely state, district, educational Institutions and beneficiary students, issues like implementation process, coverage, fund allocation, adequacy of funds, opinion on publicity, opinion-based impact, difficulty related matters, income ceiling etc. were documented. It was found that 75% of students were having adequate awareness about the scheme. The delay in scholarship disbursement was observed in sampled states. The sanctioned scholarship was not adequate. Bank account opening was expressed as a problem. The scholarship amount was released at the end of the academic year. The delay was attributed to the tribal department. Information about additional allowances was not available.

### **a. Year of Evaluation**

The evaluation of Pre-Matric Scholarship has not been done before. However, the evaluation of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme was conducted as a sub-component in the year 2013 by the Centre for Equity and Social Development, National Institute of Rural development Hyderabad.

### **b. Agency Hired for Evaluation**

National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad was hired to conduct the evaluation of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme in 2013 as one of the sub-components.

### **c. Recommendations made and accepted**

The following recommendations were accepted by the Ministry/Department for the improvement in the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme:

1. It was accepted that wide publicity must be done for effective implementation of the scheme before the beginning of the academic year.

2. Online processing of applications should be strengthened with Aadhar enabled bank account.

**d. Recommendation made but not accepted**

The suggestions/recommendation made but not accepted were:

1. Instead of a book bank scheme, a fixed book grant should be granted as a part of the scholarship.
2. Income ceiling of parents/guardians of the students should be increased from 2.00 lakhs to 3.5 lakhs per annum and revised every two years as the consumer price index.
3. Educational Institutions may be provided with some non-recurring grant to procure computer with internet facility making easy access to scholarship.

### **3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

#### **3.1 The approach of the Study**

To achieve the study objectives tabulated under the Framework for the Study, the “b” sub-section of 3.1, a synergistic methodological framework was devised and used in the evaluation study. Mixed methods involving in the design of the study garnered and made the information Precise for interpretation. The methodological framework involved philosophical footprints, guiding the direction of the research through resizing and mainstreaming apt mixture of qualitative and quantitative data collection tools. Inter alia, attempts were made to selectively analyze and mix both quantitative and qualitative data suitably in one umbrella. Ensuring the effectiveness of data collection, the study has made use of bird’s and worm’s eye view. In the bird’s eye view, the previous assessment of Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes has been considered. In worm’s eye view, every single unit of the beneficiary’s vis-a-vis supply-side stakeholders’ views have effectively been documented. The methodology of the study has acted upon twofold information, namely primary and secondary. Considering secondary information as the basic foundation of the study, the focus has been laid down on Annual Reports of the Ministry, excel sheet, in-part provided by the Ministry, datasheet obtained from the states, districts, schools and colleges. The paper clippings, previous studies on the subject were considered and served as a secondary source of data collection. In primary sources, supply-side and demand-side stakeholders were contacted; and relevant information to get objective feedback on the scheme was documented. The quantitative and qualitative information was garnered using questionnaires, focus group discussions, and one-to-one interaction with ministerial, state, district, college and school level officials.

The approach of the study is mixed methods research. Qualitative and quantitative methods have been used to garner relevant information. The approach has been adopted keeping in view the objectives of the evaluation study vis-a-vis the scheme objectives. The focus of the evaluation study has especially been laid down on the twelfth five year plan period. The approach adopted is:

- ❖ To prepare an effective plan of work based on the nature and scope of work,
- ❖ To identify sources of secondary data to be collected for the study

The Preliminary information was collected on Pre-tested Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) enabled questionnaire as well as focus group discussions. Wall to wall survey was done to collect information from the secondary sources. Questionnaires for fieldwork were developed

and refined after testing in the field. The field survey was conducted in order to collect primary information/data. Interaction with various respondents identified on both sides i.e. those involved in the implementation of the scheme and those who have been benefitted from the scheme.

The experienced teams were constituted to conduct the data collection work in 29 states. The project team was oriented and guided by team leaders, and synchronically with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Scholarship Section) pertaining to the assignment.

Secondary data were collected for detailed information about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, Schemes' designs, and plan along with the implementation system; objectives, scopes, and evaluation indicators, scheme planning process, role of other stakeholders like Central, State and District level officials, school Headmasters and College Principals/ Institutional Heads. The secondary data were used for planning the primary data collection for the study which includes its scope and coverage, identifying the locations for field visits and contacting aforementioned stakeholders for required information. Select non-beneficiaries were also consulted to document their views on the inaccessibility of scheme. In nutshell, in the first stage, information was collected from the ministry on the operational design, features and guidelines of the scheme, particularly financial and physical achievements. In the second stage, identification of shortfalls, spillovers and other underlying bottlenecks at the level of the execution were considered. In the third stage, aligned with the distribution of expenditure on both Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, all stakeholders were consulted.

#### **a. Methodology Adopted**

Both primary and secondary information has been used to assess the Schemes. The data collection tools were designed on the basis of information gathered through secondary data. The research tools were developed, designed and Pre-tested to collect the information from the various stakeholders. Separate sets of questionnaires were developed for each category of respondents. The questionnaires included both close-ended and open-ended questions to document not only quantitative information but also qualitative feedback. The research instruments developed are:

##### **❖ State Level Schedule**

The schedule covered secondary data on the financial allocations (State and Centre share for committed liability), release from Centre to State, State to district/beneficiaries, organization

structure for the implementation of the scheme, implementation mechanism, accounting process, implementation of latest policy directives, delegation powers, coverage of the scheme, monitoring and evaluation procedure executed and so on.

#### ❖ **District Level Schedule**

The schedule covers data relating to the operation of the scheme, guidelines from State, the adequate release of funds release of the funds to cover the pool of beneficiaries, Release of funds to various educational institutions and courses (in case of Post Matric beneficiaries). The schedules were designed to get the responses from the officials of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) considering the pilot study of Jharkhand. Barring some States, ITDA was not there in other States and therefore, we administer the questionnaire to District Social Welfare Officers/Project Officers/Others.

#### ❖ **Headmaster/Principal level Schedule**

The schedule covered data relating to the number of ST students studying in class IX and X, drop-out in past years, scholarship being availed on false grounds, regular attendance of beneficiaries, hostellers (in case of institute with hostel facility or outsourced hostel facility), day scholars, amount of scholarship awarded application procedure, shortlisting procedures, problem related to disbursement of scholarship amount etc.

#### ❖ **Beneficiary level Schedule**

The beneficiary level schedule was separately devised for Pre and Post Matric Scholarships. Both Pre and Post Matric schedules started with the socio-economic background, mode of awareness, problems faced in receiving the scholarship viz, document related, filling of the application, and impact of the benefit accrued through the schemes. Their overall satisfaction level was also asked.

#### ◆ **Data Collection Tools**

Primary data were collected using the following tools:

- **Interview Schedule:** The interview Schedule was administered to beneficiary students, scheme implementing officials, to generate information about the implementation methods, the achievements so far, the constraints faced by the implementers, comments and suggestions for improvement to both Pre and Post Matric Scholarship holders, separately.

- **Focus Group Discussion:** Focus Group Discussion with key schemes' implementing officials, school/college/institute officials and beneficiaries were organized at the district level.
- **Observation:** Beneficiaries and implementing officials were observed to find out their interest level in receiving and implementing the scheme, respectively.

**b. Framework for the Study**

Objectives	Broad Information Needs	Respondents	Tools
Assess the level of awareness regarding scheme	1. Eligibility 2. Selection process 3. Amount payable 4. Application process	1. Officers of the State Government Department responsible for the scheme	CAPI enabled Questionnaire to ensure real-time data with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI
To understand in-depth strengths & weaknesses of the scheme.	Any difficulties faced during implementation  Ease of getting scholarship-procedure, documents required, time-effort-cost for obtaining scholarships, timely disbursal, full amount received, satisfaction level etc.	2. District Welfare officers/ ITDA Officials  3. Head of the educational institutions	
To understand the impact of the scheme on beneficiary students.	Socio-economic profile of beneficiaries regarding the impact on academic and otherwise	4. Beneficiary Students	
To give sustainable suggestions to improvise the scheme.	Suggestions to all major stakeholders		

**c. Division of Country into 6 Geographical Regions and Sample Drawn for the Evaluation Study of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

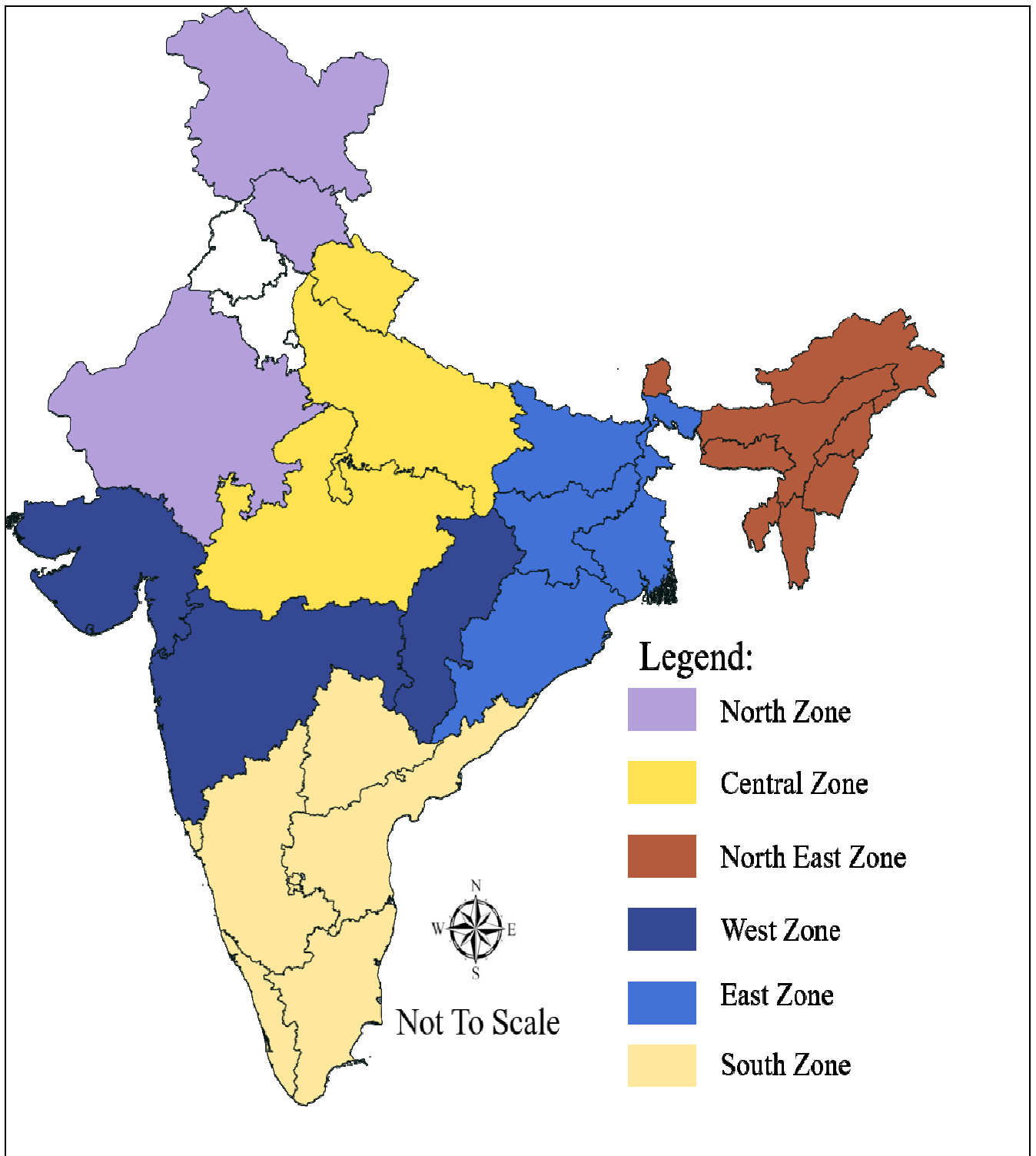


Figure 3.1: [-Surveyed States/UTs by NSSO Zone

**Table 3.1: States, Districts, Institutes, Zones and Beneficiaries Covered for the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme Study**

S.No.	Zone / State	District	Number of		Total Beneficiaries
			Institute	Beneficiary	
<b>A</b>	<b>NORTH ZONE</b>				
1	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	1	10	24
		Kinnaur	2	14	
2	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	1	1	11
		Kathua	2	10	
3	Rajasthan	Banswara	2	21	42
		Dungarpur	2	21	
	<b>Sub Total of North Zone</b>	<b>6 Districts</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>CENTRAL ZONE</b>				
4	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	1	37	49
		Jhabua	2	12	
5	Uttar Pradesh	Deoria	2	21	39
		Sonbhadra	2	18	
6	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	2	17	95
		Udham Singh Nagar	3	78	
	<b>Sub Total of Central Zone</b>	<b>6 Districts</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>EAST ZONE</b>				
7	Bihar	Katihar	2	19	40
		Purnea	2	21	
8	Jharkhand	Ranchi	1	20	39
		West Singhbhum	1	19	
9	Odisha	Mayurbhanj	2	22	46
		Sundergarh	2	24	
10	West Bengal	Bankura	4	29	56
		Jhargram	1	27	
	<b>Sub Total of East Zone</b>	<b>8 Districts</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>NORTHEAST ZONE</b>				
11	Arunachal Pradesh	Papum Pare	1	22	22
12	Assam	Baksa	3	20	40
		Dhemaji	2	20	
13	Manipur	Senapati	2	20	27
		Ukhrul	1	7	
14	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	1	2	9
		Shillong	1	1	
		West Jaintia Hills	1	6	
15	Mizoram	Aizwal	4	39	39
16	Nagaland	Dimapur	2	20	40
		Kohima	1	20	
17	Sikkim	East Sikkim	1	11	21

S.No.	Zone / State	District	Number of		Total Beneficiaries
			Institute	Beneficiary	
		North Sikkim	1	10	
18	Tripura	Gomati	3	26	39
		West Tripura	2	13	
	<b>Sub Total of North East Zone</b>	<b>15 Districts</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>WEST ZONE</b>				
19	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	2	25	35
		Rajnandgaon	2	10	
20	Daman and Diu	Daman	4	40	70
		Diu	1	30	
21	Gujarat	Dahod	2	37	57
		Valsad	2	20	
	<b>Sub Total of West Zone</b>	<b>6 Districts</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>SOUTH ZONE</b>				
22	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman	1	37	57
		Nicobar	6	20	
23	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	2	20	40
		Vizianagaram	3	20	
24	Goa	North Goa	2	20	40
		South Goa	2	20	
25	Karnataka	Ballari	2	18	38
		Mysore	2	20	
26	Kerala	Kasaragod	2	22	41
		Wayanad	2	19	
27	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal	2	20	50
		Salem	3	30	
28	Telangana	Bhadrachalam	1	2	27
		Khammam	1	7	
		Ranga Reddy	2	18	
	<b>Sub Total of South Zone</b>	<b>15 Districts</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>293</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>1324</b>

The table above presents the number of sample states, districts, institutes and beneficiaries covered in the study of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. However, truly representative samples have been drawn from all the six zones identified by NSSO. It shows that the study has been conducted in 56 districts, and 109 Institutions. It is important to put in place that in Maharashtra the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship was not found operative. Hence, information from 28 states could be covered. The tabular information also elicits the states and their respective zones classified by NSSO.

**Table 3.2: List of States, Districts, Number of Institutions, Zones and Number of Beneficiaries Covered for the Study of Pre-Matric Scholarship Beneficiary Students by NSSO Classified Zones**

NSSO Zones of India	State & UTs	Sample Survey conducted in			
		State & UT s	Districts	Institutes	Beneficiaries covered
North	7	3	6	10	77
Central	3	3	6	12	183
East	4	4	8	15	181
North East	8	8	15	26	237
West	5	3	6	13	162
South	9	7	15	33	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1133</b>

A total of 293 beneficiary students have been drawn from South Zone, 237 from North East Zone, 183 from Central Zone, 181 from East Zone, 162 from West Zone, 77 from North Zone. This also informs the number of States/UTs have drawn from each of the zones. Out of 56 districts sampled, each 15 from south and northeast, each 6 from north, central, and west have been drawn. Out of 109 sampled institutions, 33 from the south, 26 from the northeast, 15 from the east, 13 from the west, 12 from the central and 10 from the north zone have been taken. Out of 1133 beneficiary students, 293 respondents from the south, 237 from the northeast, 183 from the central, 181 from the east, 162 from the west, and 77 from the north zone have been covered in the study.

However, the evaluation of Pre-Matric Scholarship has also taken into account views expressed by scheme implementing agencies at Centre, State, District and Institution level. Centre level information was drawn from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on issues like the number of beneficiary students covered by State, Year, Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate, actual expenditure incurred, past evaluation of the scheme, structure, design and implementation of the scheme. The study covered information and views provided by 27 State officials, 22 ITDA/DSWOs views at the district level and 112 School headmasters/Institution heads. Interestingly, the study has also considered the views of 35 non-beneficiaries to assess the reasons why they could not be covered under the scheme.

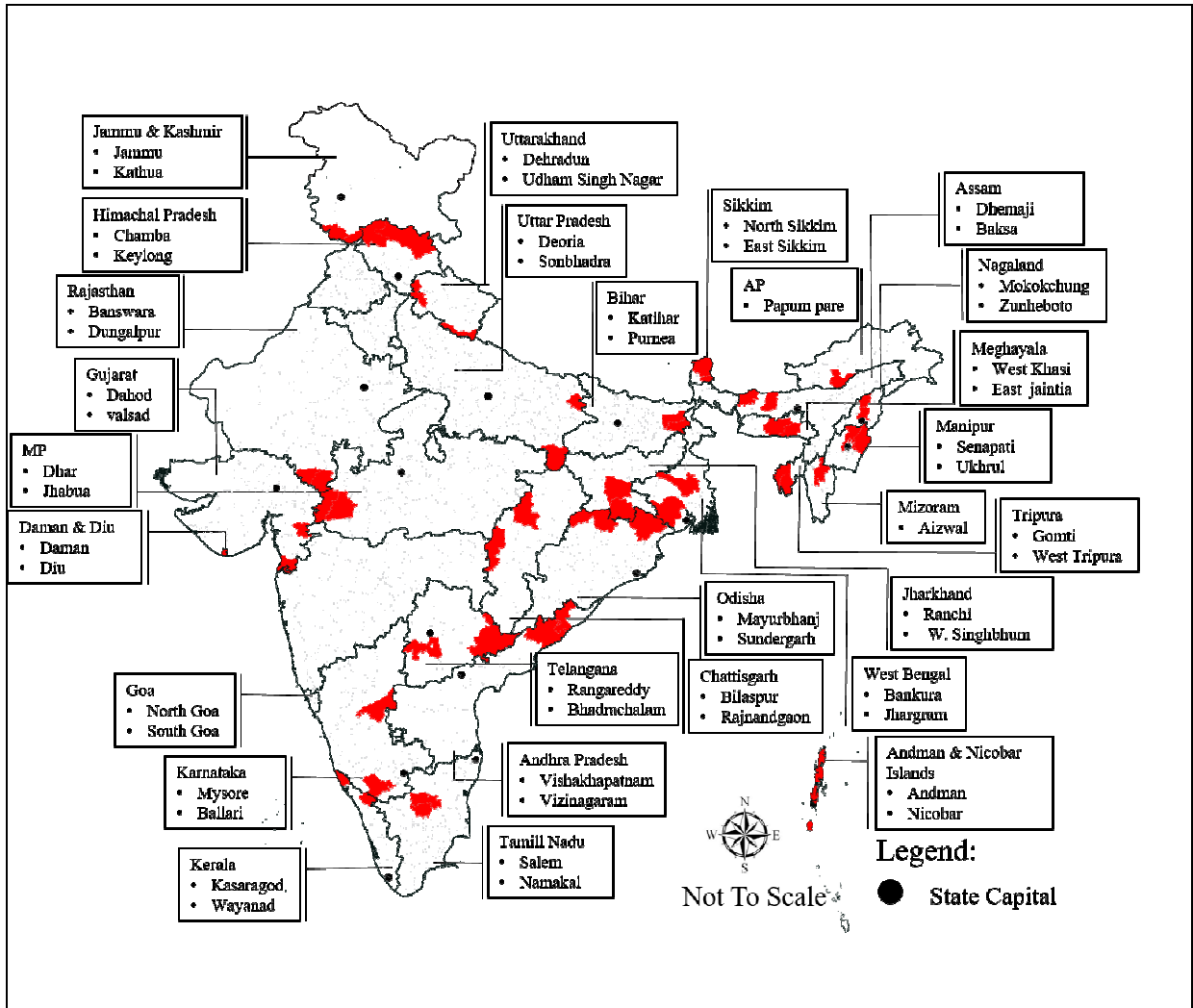


Figure 3.2: Surveys Conducted for Pre-Matric Scholarship by District and State/UT

Table 3.3: States, Districts, Institutes, Zones and Beneficiaries Covered for the Post-Matric Scholarship Study

S.No.	Zone / State	District	Number of		Total Beneficiaries
			Institute	Beneficiary	
<b>A</b>	<b>NORTH ZONE</b>				
1	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	2	15	42
		Kinnaur	2	27	
2	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag	2	18	46
		Jammu	2	28	
3	Rajasthan	Dausa	2	33	53
		Jaipur	2	20	
	<b>Sub Total of North Zone</b>	<b>6 Districts</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>CENTRAL ZONE</b>				
4	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	3	11	37
		Jhabua	2	26	

S.No.	Zone / State	District	Number of		Total Beneficiaries
			Institute	Beneficiary	
5	Uttar Pradesh	Ballia	2	20	42
		Sonbhadra	2	22	
6	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	2	9	61
		Udham Singh Nagar	2	52	
	<b>Sub Total of Central Zone</b>	<b>6 Districts</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>EAST ZONE</b>				
7	Bihar	Katihar	2	20	41
		Purnea	2	21	
8	Jharkhand	Ranchi	1	20	47
		West Singhbhum	4	27	
9	Odisha	Mayurbhanj	2	20	42
		Sundergarh	2	22	
10	West Bengal	Bankura	4	34	54
		Jhargram	2	20	
	<b>Sub Total of East Zone</b>	<b>8 Districts</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>NORTHEAST ZONE</b>				
11	Arunachal Pradesh	Papum Pare	5	42	42
12	Assam	Dhemaji	2	32	62
		Kokrajhar	2	30	
13	Manipur	Senapati	2	10	33
		Ukhrul	2	23	
14	Meghalaya	Shillong	2	16	35
		West Jaintia Hills	2	19	
15	Mizoram	Aizwal	4	38	38
16	Nagaland	Dimapur	2	21	41
		Kohima	2	20	
17	Sikkim	East Sikkim	4	38	50
		South Sikkim	2	12	
18	Tripura	West Tripura	5	38	38
	<b>Sub Total of North East Zone</b>	<b>13 Districts</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>339</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>WEST ZONE</b>				
19	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	2	14	31
		Rajnandgaon	2	17	
20	Daman and Diu	Daman	3	24	47
		Diu	2	23	
21	Gujarat	Dahod	2	27	47
		Valsad	2	20	
22	Maharashtra	Nashik	2	17	34
		Thane	2	17	
	<b>Sub Total of West Zone</b>	<b>8 Districts</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>159</b>

S.No.	Zone / State	District	Number of		Total Beneficiaries
			Institute	Beneficiary	
<b>F</b>	<b>SOUTH ZONE</b>				
23	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman	2	55	75
		Nicobar	3	20	
24	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	2	20	40
		Vizianagaram	2	20	
25	Goa	North Goa	2	20	60
		South Goa	4	40	
26	Karnataka	Ballari	2	27	51
		Mysore	4	24	
27	Kerala	Kasaragod	3	29	59
		Wayanad	3	30	
28	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal	2	20	40
		Salem	2	20	
29	Telangana	Bhadrachalam	2	18	36
		Ranga reddy	2	18	
<b>Sub Total of South Zone</b>		<b>14 Districts</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1324</b>	<b>1324</b>

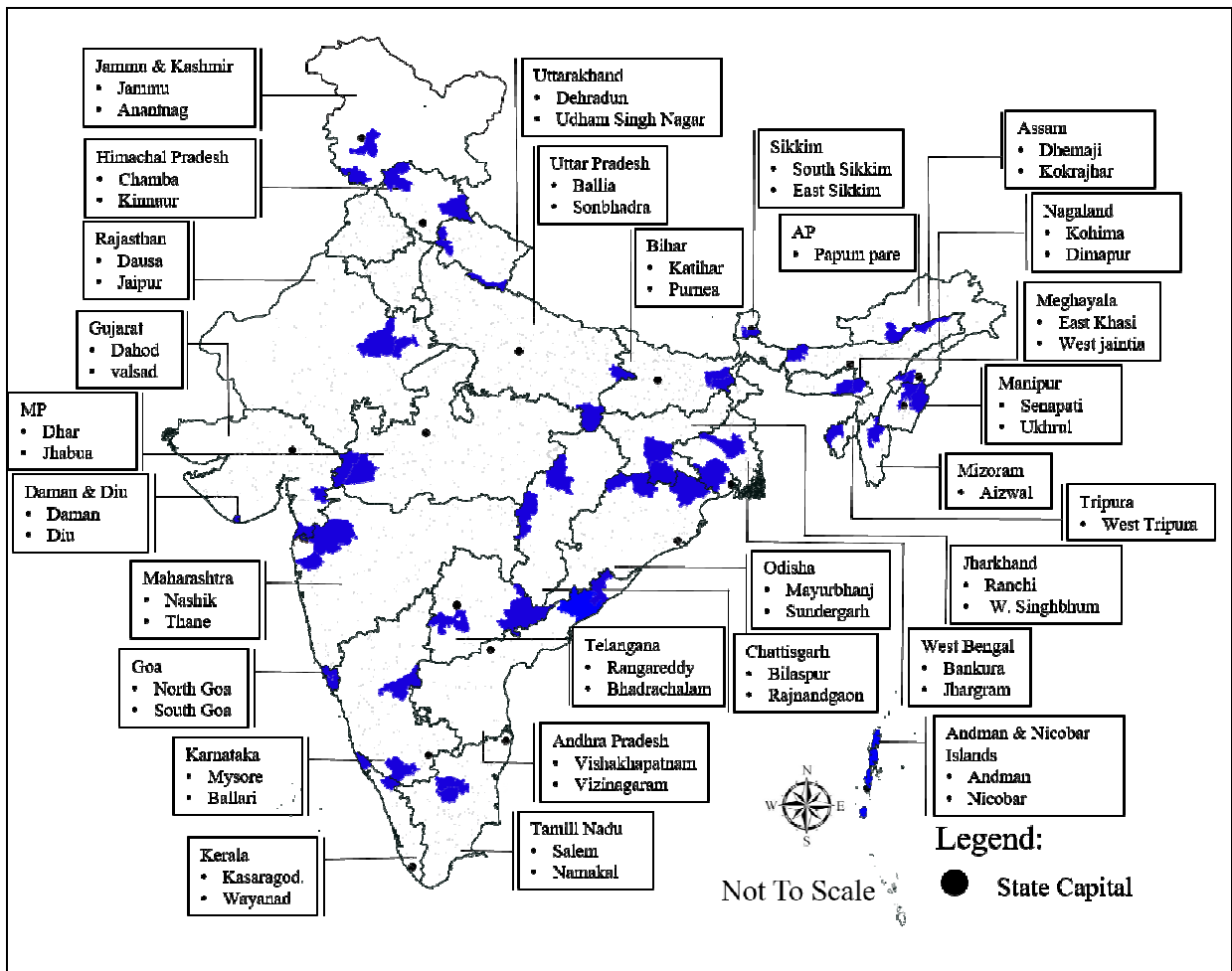
The table above presents the number of sample states, districts, institutes and beneficiaries covered in the Post-Matric Scholarship during the evaluation study. However, truly representative samples have been drawn from all the six zones identified by NSSO. It shows that the study has been conducted in 29 States of 55 districts, and 132 Institutions. The tabular information also elicits the states and their respective zones, as classified by NSSO.

**Table 3.4: List of States, Districts, Number of Institutions, Zones and Number of Beneficiaries Covered for the Study of Post-Matric Scholarship beneficiary Students by NSSO Classified Zones**

NSSO Zones of India	State & UTs	Sample Survey conducted in			
		State & UT s	Districts	Institutes	Beneficiaries covered
North	7	3	6	12	141
Central	3	3	6	13	140
East	4	4	8	19	184
North East	8	8	13	36	339
West	5	4	8	17	159
South	9	7	14	35	361
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1324</b>

A total of 361 beneficiary students have been drawn from South Zone, 339 from North East Zone, 184 from Central Zone, 159 from West Zone, 141 from North Zone, 140 from Central Zone. This also informs the number of States/UTs have drawn from each of the zones. Out of 55 districts sampled, 14 from the west zone, 13 from the northeast zone, each 8 from east and west zones, and each 6 from north and central zones have been taken. Out of 132 sampled institutions, 36 from the northeast, 35 from the south, 19 from the east, 17 from the west, 13 from the central and 12 from the north zone have been taken. Out of 1324 beneficiary students, 361 respondents from the south, 339 from the northeast, 184 from the east, 159 from the west, 141 from the north, and 140 from the central zone have been covered in the study.

However, the evaluation of Post-Matric Scholarship has also taken into account views expressed by scheme implementing agencies at Centre, State, and Institution level. Centre level information was drawn from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on issues like the number of beneficiary students covered by the State, Year, Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate, Actual Expenditure incurred, Past Evaluation of the scheme, Structure, Design and implementation of the scheme. The study covered information and views provided by 29 State officials, and 130 College Principals/Institution heads. Interestingly, the study has also considered the views of 20 non-beneficiaries to assess the reasons why they could not be covered under the scheme.



**Figure 3.3: Surveyed Districts and States for Post-Matric Scholarship**

### 3.2 Sample Size and Sample Selection Process, Tools Used

#### i) Selection of States

The study has been conducted in 28 states for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme and 29 states for Post Matric Scholarship. It was envisaged to conduct the study in 29 states for both Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes. In Maharashtra, the Pre-Matric scheme was not operational, so the information could be collected from only 28 States/UTs.

#### ii) Selection of District

Two districts for each of the schemes were selected on the basis of the maximum number of beneficiary students that were receiving the scholarship benefits.

#### iii) Selection of Schools/ Colleges/ Institutions

The schools and colleges in respect of Pre-and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes were selected on the basis of the same criteria considered for district selection.

#### **iv) Selection of Beneficiaries**

A total of 40 beneficiaries were proposed to be selected from each of the districts by taking up 10 beneficiaries from each of the schools for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Since the study was to be conducted in 29 States/UTs, so the total number of beneficiaries comes to 1160. The absence of a scheme in Maharashtra led us to cover 28 states. Thus the target simmers down and stands at 1120. Therefore, to meet the target of sample size, a total of 1133 beneficiaries have been covered.

Similarly, a total of 40 beneficiaries were proposed to be collected from 21 states where the number of beneficiaries was above 10000. Besides, from the districts of remaining 8 States/UTs, 60 beneficiaries were proposed to be selected from 8 States where the number of beneficiaries was below 10000. Thus clubbing the states with below 10000 and above 10000 beneficiaries, a total of 1320 beneficiaries were proposed to be studied. Against the set target of 1320, we have studied a total of 1324 beneficiary students. Additionally, a total of 189 stakeholders for Pre-Matric and 181 stakeholders for Post-Matric were contacted; and their views are documented.

#### **v) Selection of Non-Beneficiaries**

A total of 35 non-beneficiaries were selected for Pre-Matric Scholarship and 21 for Post Matric Scholarship as to know why they were devoid of scholarship benefits.

##### **a) Use of Software and Real-time Data Sharing with MoTA**

- i. Interviews were conducted through CAPI, and
- ii. Data analysis has been done using Microsoft Excel Software.

##### **b) Limitations of the Study and Recasting for Appropriate Findings**

The study was conducted in 28 states for the evaluation of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme and 29 states for Post Matric Scholarship Scheme in select districts covering a limited number of beneficiary students; it may not be absolutely true. Though the findings of the study are statistically Precise, the possibility of error cannot completely be ruled out. Since beneficiary boys and girls were not available in desired numbers in spite of our restless efforts being given, the information from the available lot has only been taken. However, in the case of either men or women Institutions, our selection scope was limited to either of them. The lame excuses expressed by select state officials led to procrastination in covering up the identified districts culminating in a reduction of duration to be given on beneficiary students. Certain states diverted our attention to visit districts other than meeting our criteria of selection; the error in the focus

of the study gets accrued. This happened in a particular case of Bihar that may have implications in the overall findings of the study. The duration required for the study was too short to cover the samples comprehensively. Certain institutions were closed and repetitive attempts were taken to get their feedback ending up with additional time consumption. The state wise list of beneficiaries was provided late by the ministry turning into the considerable opportunity cost of on human resource hired.

The research design by using both micro and macro optics has had a comprehensive view of the subject matter. However, the information not provided by the states despite our rigorous attempts was obtained through telephonic calls and email transactions. The social media portals like WhatsApp etc. have also been used to receive information in time. It is worthwhile to mention that despite our restless efforts; adequate information was not provided by States like Jammu Kashmir, Bihar and West Bengal. Though the Ministry of Tribal Affairs wrote emails to the states, the request letters were considered trivial.

## **4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the study as per the ToR are as under:

1. Whether Scheme's structure, design, features and or guidelines are appropriate to meet the objectives of the Scheme,
2. To identify bottlenecks in the implementation of the Scheme and changes required in the Scheme for improving the delivery mechanism,
3. Whether specific deliverables of the Scheme / Programme are appropriate for fulfilling the development needs of the communities, as on date,
4. Whether measurable outcomes have been defined for the Scheme,
5. To what extent the scheme has percolated at the grass-root level for the benefit of tribal households, especially female households,
6. Whether the Scheme is gender-neutral or has gender-specific components and, in case of inherent gender imbalance, changes required,
7. Is there any overlap with other Schemes?

In the light of above-stated objectives, following objectives of the schemes have been assessed:

### **❖ For the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

- (a) To support parents of ST children for the education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized, and
- (b) To improve the participation of ST children in classes IX and X of the Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education.

### **❖ For the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

- (a) To provide financial assistance to the scheduled tribe students studying at Post Matriculation or the Post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.

Both objectives of Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes intend to help tribal beneficiary students in such a way that it can build them better. These objectives have closely been examined in the light of objectives set in the ToR.

#### **4.1 Performance of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme based on the Output/Outcome Indicators**

India is a land of diversity and since ages, it presents widespread cross-cutting diversity along the lines of religion, language, caste, languages, demography, ethnicity, and tribe. It is a country where many different religions and practices live together in harmony. From language to dressing-style, the country has been hailed as one of the most complex amalgamations of various cultural identities. Conversely, the British rule made a considerable difference among the various groups of Indian plural structure in order to serve their colonial interest and lay emphasis on corporate pluralism in the political process and with an aim to widen the gap among different groups based on ethnicity, religious, language, and other interests. But India's march to civilization and development has been accompanied with the marginalization of some communities. Tribal community is one of them. To mainstream tribal communities with the trajectory of development, Government has taken many initiatives to recover them from the risk of marginalization and the threat of displacement. Since tribal life is also associated with 'Vanbasi', the climate change-induced risks make them more vulnerable and duress oriented. Looking at the slowdown in their overall development, they are also known as 'Backward Hindu'. As per the census 2011, the tribal population constitutes 8.6 % of the total Indian population which appears small but their numerical value can super circumscribe many European states. Therefore their backwardness has been assessed and effective strides have been stepped out to mainstream them. To strengthen their educational level, Pre and Post Matric Schemes have been launched by Govt. of India to help them come out from the grip of backwardness

##### **a. Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Tribal Students in India**

The implementation of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been found in 13 states during the year 2014-15 with an outlay of 200.71 cr. covering 12,13,318 beneficiary students. The utilization of the fund has been 100%. The scheme was continued to be implemented in the same number of states during the year 2015-16 with a financial outlay of Rs. 228.69 cr. reaching out a total of 12,62,068 beneficiary students. 5.54% (Rs. 12.67 cr.) of the total released amount (Rs. 228.69 cr.) remained unspent. In 2016-17, the money was released to only 9 states (i.e. four states less than the existing 13 states) with fund release of Rs. 84.16 cr. and unspent balance of Rs. 3.8 cr. which is 3.8% less than the envisaged covering 11,34,167 beneficiary students. In 2017-18, the coverage of the scheme was expanded in 17 states with fund utilization of Rs. 291.41 cr. with the unspent balance of Rs. 2.6 cr. which is 0.9% less than the expenditure envisaged covering

14,05,227 beneficiary students. In 2018-19, the coverage of scheme has been found in 18 states in terms of the fund outlay to the tune of Rs. 275.67 cr. with an unspent balance of 11.5% of the total amount released.

It is worth mentioning that out of the status report of 30 states, there are only three states, namely Chhatisgarh, Gujarat and Odisha where fund release was found in all five years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Interestingly, there are three identified states where central support to Pre-Matric scholarship holders did not reach out in the last five years. These states are Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. However, in Uttar Pradesh, the State has its own resources to run the scheme without taking central support. After in-depth interaction with the supply-side stakeholders, it was also clear that even after not receiving the support from the ministry, after disbursement of their own fund, the surplus was figured out.

#### **b. Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Tribal Students in India**

The implementation of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been found in 29 states and UT's during the year 2014-15 with an outlay of 720.98 cr. covering 20,37,448 beneficiary students. The utilization of the fund has been 100 %. The scheme was continued to be implemented in the same number for 25 states during the year 2015-16 with a financial outlay of Rs. 857.14 cr. reaching out a total of 20,33,741 beneficiary students. In 2016-17, the money was released to 26 states with fund release of Rs. 1555.67 cr. and unspent balance of Rs. 14.98 Cr. which is 3.8% less than the envisaged covering 18,51,338 beneficiary students. In 2017-18, the coverage of the scheme was expanded in 28 states with fund utilization of Rs. 1449.57 cr. with an unspent balance of Rs. 14.29 cr. which is 0.9% less than the expenditure envisaged covering 19,31,117 beneficiary students. In 2018-19, the coverage of scheme has been found in 28 states in terms of the fund outlay to the tune of Rs. 1520.05 cr. with an unspent balance of 1126.92 cr. of the total amount released.

It is worth mentioning that out of the status report of 29 states and UT's, fund release has been found in all 29 states for the year 2014-15. In 2015-16, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Daman and Diu, Jharkhand, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh did not receive the central financial assistance for the scheme. In 2016-17, states like Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar and West Bengal did not receive the central assistance. In 2017-18, Andaman and Nicobar has been the only state not receiving the fund from the centre. In 2018-19, Bihar and West Bengal did not receive the fund. Rests of the mentioned states in the list supplied by the ministry, have received the funds for disbursement to the beneficiary students.

On the basis of information furnished by the ministry, a total of Rs. 1119.14 cr. was released to different states as central assistance of which Rs. 1064.8 cr. was utilized with the coverage of 50,14,780 beneficiary students for the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. A total of Rs. 6244.65 cr. was released to different states as central assistance of which Rs. 6088.43 cr. was utilized with the coverage of 78,53,644 beneficiary students for the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The study reveals that out of the total number of beneficiary students studied, 88.9% of them were found satisfied with the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. On the same indicator 43.2% male and 56.8%, female beneficiary students have asserted that the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme boosts them to complete their education.

## **4.2 Specific Outcome/Output for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

The primary beneficiaries of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme were students from tribal communities. Keeping beneficiary students in the centre of the study, the efficacy of scheme in terms of structure, design, features, coverage, management and perceived impact on the basis of sample drawn from 56 tribal concentrated districts in 28 states have systematically been analyzed. In the sample of students, 74.5% believe in Hinduism, 16.5% associate with Christianity, 4.9% follow their specific sect, 2.9% follow Buddhism and 1.1% believe in Islam. The sample of students includes 65.1% of girls and 43.9% of boys. The sample consists of students mostly in the age group of 14-17. 90.5% beneficiary students are in the age group of 14-17, 4.8% in 17-120 and 4.7% beneficiary students are in the age group of 11-13. Most students contacted during the study were found receiving a scholarship on a renewal basis. 56.1% sampled respondent students were receiving the scholarship on renewal basis whereas 43.9% beneficiary students were found receiving for the first time. The observations of the study team suggest that they were realistically ambitious for higher education.

The data reveals that 67.7% of beneficiary students were found studying in government schools, 20.5% in Government-Aided Schools, 11.7 % in Private Unaided Schools and 0.1%, in schools run by the local body. 69.7% of Buddhist beneficiary students were found studying in Government Schools followed by the Private Unaided Recognized Schools (30.3%) of the total share of the Buddhist beneficiaries. The beneficiary student with Christian origin was found 71.7% in the Government Schools, followed by 24.1% in Government-Aided Schools and 4.3% in Private Unaided Recognized Schools of the total Christian beneficiary students. 67.1% Hindu beneficiary students were found studying in a Government School, followed by 19.2% in Government-Aided Schools, 13.6% in Private Unaided Recognized and 0.1% in the schools run by the local body of the total Hindu beneficiary students. Beneficiary with Islam faith was found

studying 100% in Government Schools. 55.4% of tribal students with their own particular sect were found studying in a Government School and 44.6 in Government-Aided Schools. Thus, the maximum share of the school was of Government Schools where beneficiary students were found, followed by Government-Aided and Private Recognized Schools. It indicates that Government Schools are effectively functioning in Pre-Matric Scholarship delivery, as the number of registered beneficiary were comparatively astounding Government Schools.

#### 4.2.1 Gender and Pre-Matric Scholarship

Gender is an important determinant to highlight the incidence of development. An effective number of female participation in the educational sphere can trigger the pace of development off. This requires the enrollment base of tribal children to be improved, particularly the girl child. One of the objectives of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme is to reduce or minimize the incidence of drop-out in children studying in classes IX and X, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stages. Considering this, the overall picture of Pre-Matric beneficiary students has been placed in the table given below:

**Table 4.1: Coverage of Pre-Matric Beneficiary Students in States by Gender**

S.No.	Name of State	Female	Male	Grand Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	31	26	57
2	Andhra Pradesh	32	8	40
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11	11	22
4	Assam	20	20	40
5	Bihar	17	23	40
6	Chhattisgarh	20	15	35
7	Daman and Diu	46	24	70
8	Goa	21	19	40
9	Gujarat	26	31	57
10	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	24
11	Jammu and Kashmir	5	6	11
12	Jharkhand	18	21	39
13	Karnataka	28	10	38
14	Kerala	20	21	41
15	Madhya Pradesh	31	18	49
16	Manipur	14	13	27
17	Meghalaya	6	3	9
18	Mizoram	23	16	39
19	Nagaland	20	20	40
20	Odisha	23	23	46
21	Rajasthan	20	22	42
22	Sikkim	16	5	21

S.No.	Name of State	Female	Male	Grand Total
23	Tamil Nadu	30	20	50
24	Telangana	19	8	27
25	Tripura	25	14	39
26	Uttar Pradesh	26	13	39
27	Uttarakhand	41	54	95
28	West Bengal	35	21	56
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>636</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1133</b>

The table above presents the distribution of beneficiary students in 28 states by gender. An average of 40.46 beneficiaries has been drawn from the 28 states against the set target of 40. The beneficiary drawn in tandem with sample size fixed, the states in descending order are Uttrakhand (95), Daman and Diu (70), Andaman and Nicobar Island (57), Gujarat (57) West Bengal (56), Tamil Nadu (50), Madhya Pradesh (49), Odisha (42), Rajasthan (41), Kerala (40), Andhra Pradesh (40), Assam (40), Bihar (40), Goa (40) and Nagaland (40). The states from where below the number of average calculated or target fixed beneficiaries could be drawn in ascending order were Meghalaya (9), Jammu & Kashmir (11), Sikkim (21), Arunachal Pradesh (22), Himachal Pradesh(24), Manipur (27), Telangana (27), Chhatisgarh (35), Karnataka (38), Jharkhand (39), Mizoram (39), Tripura (39), and Uttar Pradesh (39). In the total sample of beneficiary students, the representation of girls and boys were 56.1% and 43.9%, respectively. On average 22.7 beneficiary girls have been drawn in the sample from all 28 states. There are 13 states from where more than the average numbers of girl students have been drawn in the evaluation study. The state are: Daman and Diu (46), Uttarakhand (41), West Bengal (35), Andhra Pradesh (32), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (31), Madhya Pradesh (31), Tamil Nadu (30), Karnataka (28), Gujarat (26), Uttar Pradesh (26), Tripura (25), Mizoram (23) and Odisha (23). Even if the states where the satisfactory number of girl respondents has not been drawn, they have outnumbered beneficiary boys. It reveals that due to the availability of Pre-Matric scholarship, the beneficiary girls feel more attracted to the participation of IX and X of the Pre-Matric stage. It is important that they have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage of education.

#### **4.2.2 Socio-Economic Background of Pre-Matric Respondents**

The socio-economic background of respondents is an important indicator to shape and formulate their overall growth. The support emanated from socio-economic background largely serves as an important determinant in shaping their thinking and acting pattern. It helps decide the type of educational pursuits one would be associated with. It also helps identify goals,

opportunities, achievements and contributions to society at large. The identified factors in the evaluation study have been linked with control over economic activities, economic status and occupational engagements of parents, types of family, religious belief system, ownership of household, different durable and non-durable items. In fact, the hold on assets by households acts both as facilitator and impediment in the scholastic achievements. In the study, it has been found that the socio-economic backgrounds of the respondents were mixed in nature. In some states, the list of items mentioned in the CAPI enabled questionnaires regarding consumption related items were Present at large whereas, in some other states, the accessibility on the items, informed the miserable condition of parents whose wards were receiving the Pre-Matric scholarship.

Indeed, those having minimum requirements of livelihood mostly let the scholarship amount used for study purposes. Parents having scarce resources for their survival also depended partly on the scholarship amount for fueling their households. Very significantly, the scholarship amount protected them from being child labour, apparently. Thus, the usefulness of scholarship amount was observed, catering to both educational and domestic needs.

The continued engagements with internet, mobile and TV were observed in tribal school goers. It is worthwhile to mention that during handling formal responses by informal way of asking questions, beneficiaries were cautious of not revealing about standard items which they possibly used at their households. However, considering scholarship as an incentive, they were found coming to school regularly with almost 75% attendance. The items through which the socio-economic status has been measured are as under:

**Table 4.2: Socio-economic Status of Pre-Matric Beneficiary Students**

S.No.	Parameters	Measurement in Percentage (%)
1	<b>Parents' Religion</b>	
	Buddhism	2.9
	Christianity	16.5
	Hinduism	74.5
	Islam	1.1
	Others	4.9
2	<b>Family Types</b>	
	Nuclear	55.5
	Joint	37.9
	Extended	6.6
3	<b>Head of the Households</b>	
	Father	86.8
	Mother	9.5

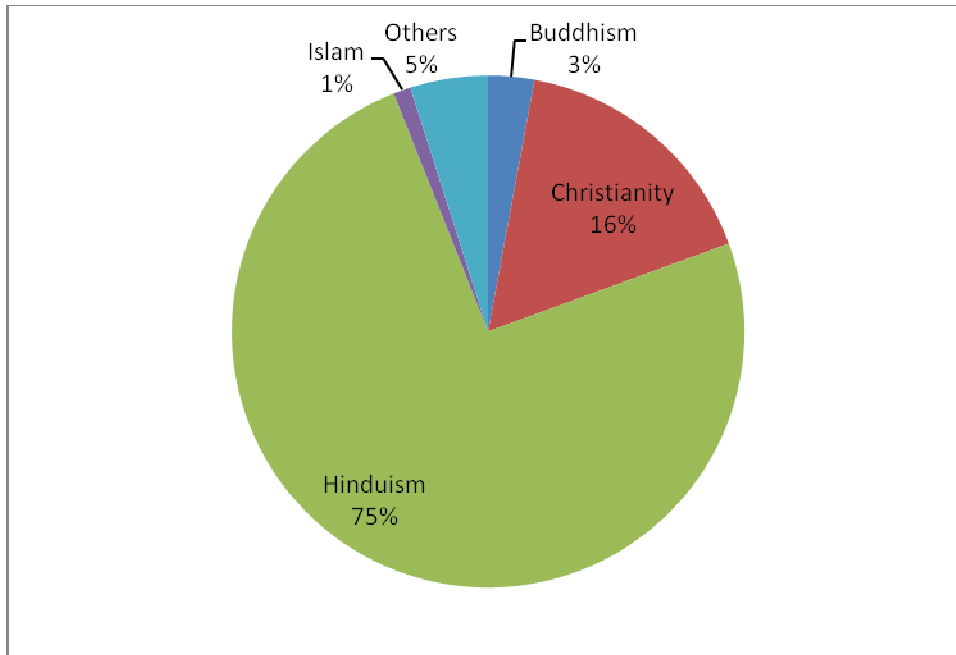
S.No.	Parameters	Measurement in Percentage (%)
	Guardian	3.6
4	<b>Occupations</b>	
	Agriculture	55.8
	Informal Wager	19.2
	Private Worker	14.4
	Others	10.7
5	<b>Items available at Households</b>	
	Land	70.0
	Property	54.5
	Mobile	89.8
	TV	52.7
	Vehicle	54.5
	Washing Machine	5.7
	Refrigerator	24.4
	Radio	7.3
	LPG	79.0

The table above presents various parameters used to assess the socio-economic background of the respondents. The parameters like parents' religion, family types, head of the households, occupations, items available at the households have been responded by the beneficiary students. The believer in Hinduism is predominantly high (74.5%) in sharp contrast with Christianity (16.5%), Islam (1.1%), Buddhism (2.9%) and others (4.9%). Though most of the tribal households were mostly in nuclear type (55.5%), the joint and extended type families constitute 44.5% of the total households. The reasons assigned to the 'jointness' is their orientation to collective life and engagement in agriculture and informal/private works. However, the nuclear family type informs that they are also under the impact of urbanization and resettlement. We found most of the men headed households to which the beneficiary students belonged. However, women-headed households have scored 9.5% of the total households. The reasons for women-headed households are triangular in nature. First, due to matriarchal practices, the women-headed household was identified as obvious. Second, since men had either moved on in search of a job or they did not exist at all, therefore women came to fill those places. Third, women enjoy more respect in select tribal communities and therefore, they were entrusted to lead the family. Side by side, a total of 3.6% of households were led by guardians. It is worthwhile to mention that guardian headed households seemed to have not provided effective attention in the upbringing of the children.

Most of the parents were engaged in agriculture (55.8%) in sharp contrast with informal labour (19.25), private worker (14.4%) and others (10.7%). In the focus group discussion, it was made clear that most of the parents were marginal landowners which could be used by production of vegetables or cereals on the side. In fact, the catchword “agriculture” is so popular that everybody directly wants to associate with the farming community. Mostly, their parents were reported to have been engaged in private works. Thus they have been identified with informal or private wagers. Some of the parents were reported to have engaged with seasonal contractual govt. jobs.

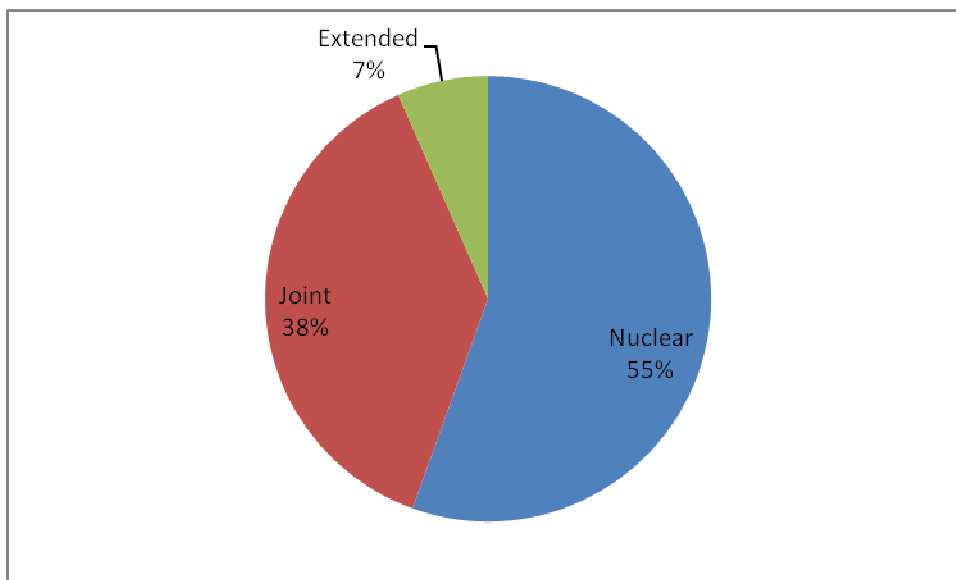
Availability of usable items at the households informs about the economic strength of the family. It was reported that 70% of the beneficiaries’ parents owned land, followed by 54.5% with property (cash and immovable). Astoundingly, 89.8% of the tribal households owned internet-enabled mobile phones. 52.7% of the tribal households had colour television, 54.5% of households owned vehicles, and 79% of households had LPG connections. The access on washing machine and radio with tribal households was found 5.7% and 7.3%, respectively.

The fact that there were 30% landless parents, 44.5% without property, 9.2% with inaccessibility to mobile phones, 47.3% without television, 44.5% devoid of vehicles, 94.3% without washing machine, 74.6% without a refrigerator, 92.7% without radio and 21% without LPG connection in the study area. It is also to be considered that landless parents working either as an informal worker or as a private worker experienced acute duress to meet their ends. It was reported that such parents treated drugs and intoxicating pills as the shock and stress absorber. However, with the financial support of scholarship, their children were found improving their learning outcomes.



**Figure 4.1: Distribution of Pre-Matric Respondents by Religion**

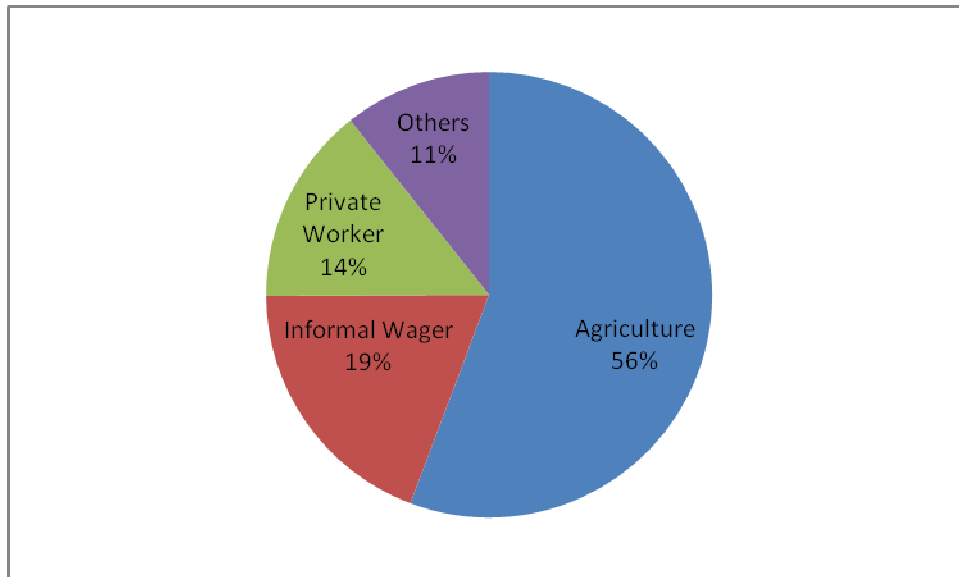
The figure above shows the distribution of respondents by religion where the share of Hinduism is substantial. The highest incidence of Buddhism has been in Sikkim, Christianity in Andaman & Nicobar Island, Hinduism in Utrakhand, Islam in Jammu and Kashmir and others in Jharkhand. The tribes of Jharkhand follow Sarna religion.



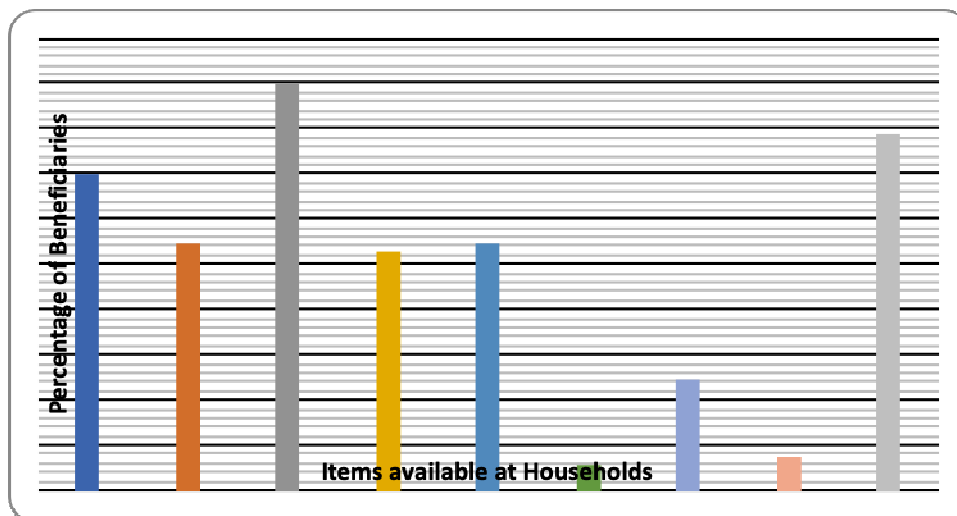
**Figure 4.2: Family Types Amongst the Pre-Matric Beneficiaries**

The figure above shows the type of households beneficiaries were associated with. It shows mostly beneficiaries were found in the nuclear family system, followed by joint and extended.

Majority of the nuclear, joint and extended households were found in Uttarkhand during the study.



**Figure 4.3: Occupational Status of Pre-Matric Beneficiary Parents**



**Figure 4.4: Pre-Matric Beneficiaries and Household Items**

The figure above shows the occupational status of the beneficiaries' parents. Most of the parents were doing agricultural works, followed by private work (14%), informal wagger (19%) and others (11%). It also reveals that most of the parents with agricultural base are in Uttarakhand, with informal wagers in Tamil Nadu, with privately working in Daman and Diu and with others, in Nagaland. The figure above shows different household items available with beneficiaries. The length of the third bar from the right and first bar from the left show the

maximum number of ownerships by the beneficiaries' household. In Uttarakhand, maximum numbers of beneficiaries have expressed their holding on land, property, mobile phones. The maximum number of beneficiaries has expressed their ownership of TV in Daman and Diu, the vehicle in Uttarakhand, washing machine in Mizoram, LPG in Uttarakhand and refrigerator in Daman and Diu. The beneficiaries responding devoid of such items were mainly in Jharkhand.

### 4.2.3 Publicity of the Scheme and Inviting Applications

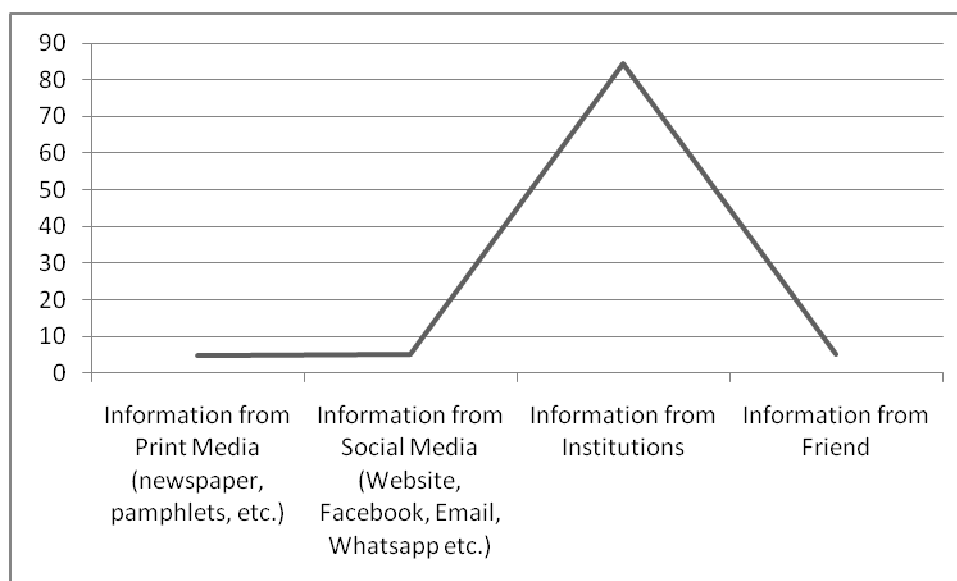
The scheme of the Pre-Matric scholarship is implemented through the State Governments/UT Administration. All the State Governments/UT Administrations are at the appropriate time, suitably publicize the Scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in the local language, in leading newspapers of the State through their respective websites and other media portals. The information may be utilized by the applicant in submitting the completed application to the prescribed authority. The State Government prescribes a suitable application form in local language and places it on its websites. School authorities get the forms filled by the eligible students and send them to block/district level authorities. State Governments/UT Administrations delegate powers to sanction scholarships under the scheme to appropriate district/Block level authorities/Heads of Institutions, as appropriate. This is to say that publicity of scheme to enhance its outreach is significant. The evaluation study tested this concern which is as under:

**Table 4.3: Perceived Responses on Publicity of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme by Beneficiary Student**

<b>Sources of Information</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Information from Print Media (newspaper, pamphlets, etc.)	4.9
Information from Social Media (Website, Facebook, Email, Whatsapp etc.)	5.2
Information from Institutions	84.6
Information from Friend	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Publicity of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme and inviting application thereafter was assessed through canvassing CAPI enabled questionnaire to the beneficiary students. It was found that information regarding scholarship was mostly furnished through Institutions concerned. The table above clarifies that information is mostly provided by Institutions concerned which has

accounted for 84.6%, followed by each 5.2% though information publicized social media and peers. The print media publicity has scored 4.9% of the total responses registered.



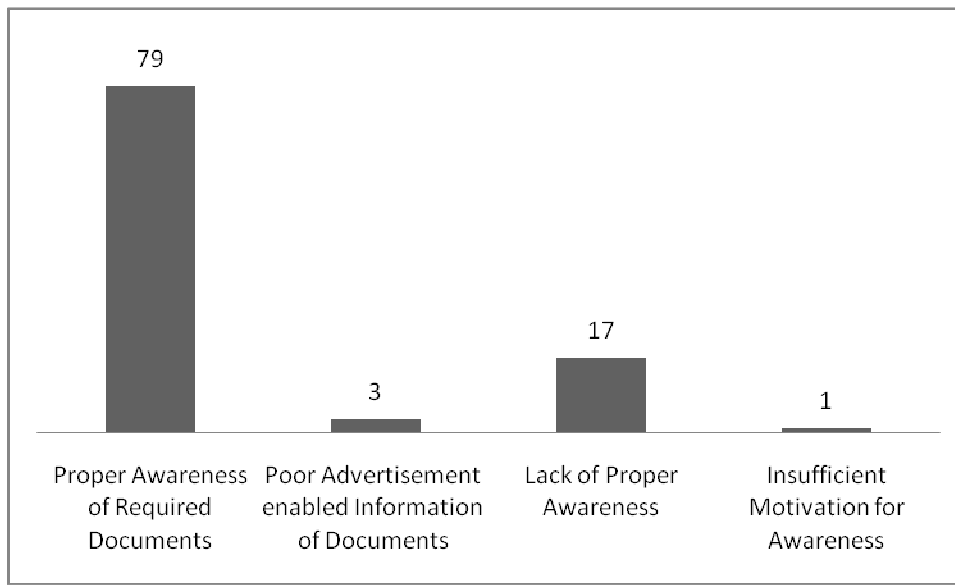
**Figure 4.5: Publicity of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Beneficiaries' Responses**

The figure above using the line graph shows the maximum elevation in front of information from institutions for publicity as documented through the responses of the beneficiaries. There was an absence of print media impact on beneficiaries in almost all states except Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The social media impact was noticed in Bihar, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. Out of the total responses registered, maximum responses were noticed in Daman & Diu on information obtained vis-a-vis dissemination by the Schools. Information from a friend was impacted in Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. The fact remains is the instruments earmarked by scheme guideline are mostly feeble in operation. However, the state officials claim that advertisement was given in time through using local newspapers and website suitably. Moreover, this remains a theoretical construct with least translation into practice.

**Table 4.4: Awareness of Pre-Matric Scholarship by Response**

<b>Awareness of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Proper Awareness of Required Documents	79
Poor Advertisement enabled Information of Documents	3
Lack of Proper Awareness	17
Insufficient Motivation for Awareness	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above shows the percentage of response on awareness about documents required for the scholarship by the beneficiary. The tabular information reveals that 79% of the total responses are in favour of having proper information about the scheme in connection with the required documents. Out of the total responses, 17% response is in tandem with the lack of proper information. Poor advertisement and insufficient motivation have scored 4% of the total response with regard to ineffective feedback on the publicity part of the scheme.



**Figure 4.6: Awareness of Documents to Apply for Pre-Matric Scholarship**

The figure above shows that most of the beneficiary students (79%) are aware of the documents required to apply for the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Proper awareness was found in almost all States with a significant share of Daman and Diu. Poor advertisement enabled deficit in awareness has been noticed in Chhattisgarh. Lack of proper awareness was expressed in Uttarakhand and inapt motivation was expressed in Bihar. The information of required documents is to be disseminated in such a way that no room for rectification or improvement rests.

#### **4.2.4 Mode of Application in Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Application with required documents can be submitted to the institution wherefrom pool of beneficiary is generated. The application can be submitted manually or online. The beneficiary database is to be integrated with UID numbers using UIDAI enabled bank account for crediting the scholarships. Though there is no bar on manual submission of applications, institution wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for the award of the scholarships is displayed on the website of NIC at District level. In the submission of applications, the role of publicity and

institutions are crucial, apart from other supply-side stakeholders. The following details have been garnered with regard to submission of the applications:

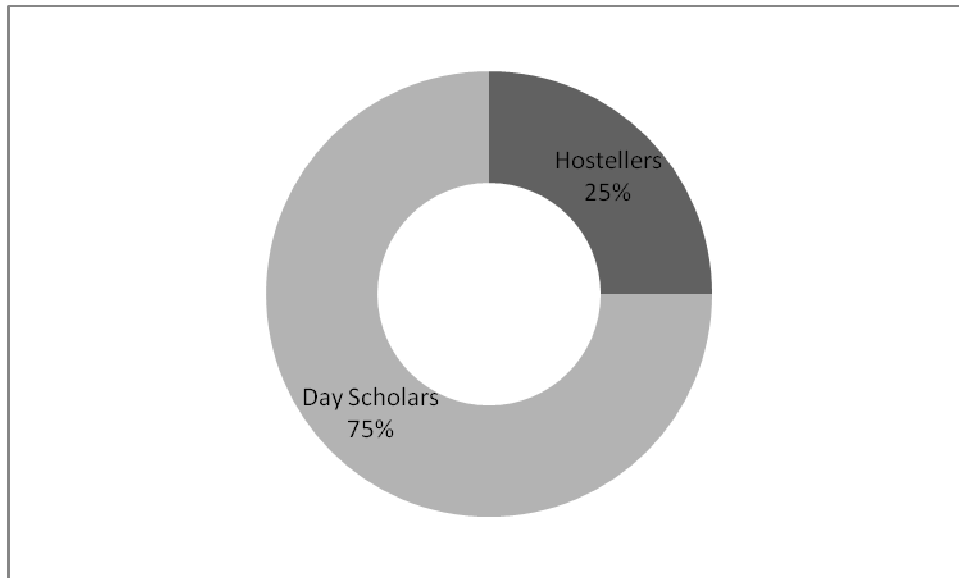
**Table 4.5: Applications, Issues in Submission and Accommodation and Pre-Matric Beneficiary Responses**

<b>Application Submission and Responses</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Manual Submission	26.7
Online Submission	73.3
Institutional Help Availed	90.1
Received support from Parents	12.4
Received support from Government Officials	5.6
Received help from other family members	1.5
<b>Issues in Application Submission</b>	<b>% of Response</b>
Problem in Applications	1.9
Document Procurement	0.2
Language Problem	1.7
Time Constraints	0.2
Lack of Information	0.2
Miscellaneous operational problems	0.5
<b>Accommodation</b>	
Hostellers	25
Day Scholars	75

The table placed above Presents the mode of application submission, help availed from different formal and informal agencies, issues in application submission and the place of stay of Pre-Matric beneficiary students. It indicates that 73.3% of beneficiaries applied their applications online and 26.7% did manually. The major share in the help is institutional (90.1%). However, the beneficiary students have received help from parents (12.4%), government Officials (5.6%) and other family members (1.5%). There are issues identified with the filling of the applications. The issues related to a proper comprehension of the applications have been raised by 1.9% of the respondents, 0.2% related document procurements like caste and income certificates. 1.7% of respondents suffer from language problem of the applications. Problems related to the stipulated time frame, insufficient information, operational problems have been identified by 0.2%, 0.2% and 0.5%, respectively.

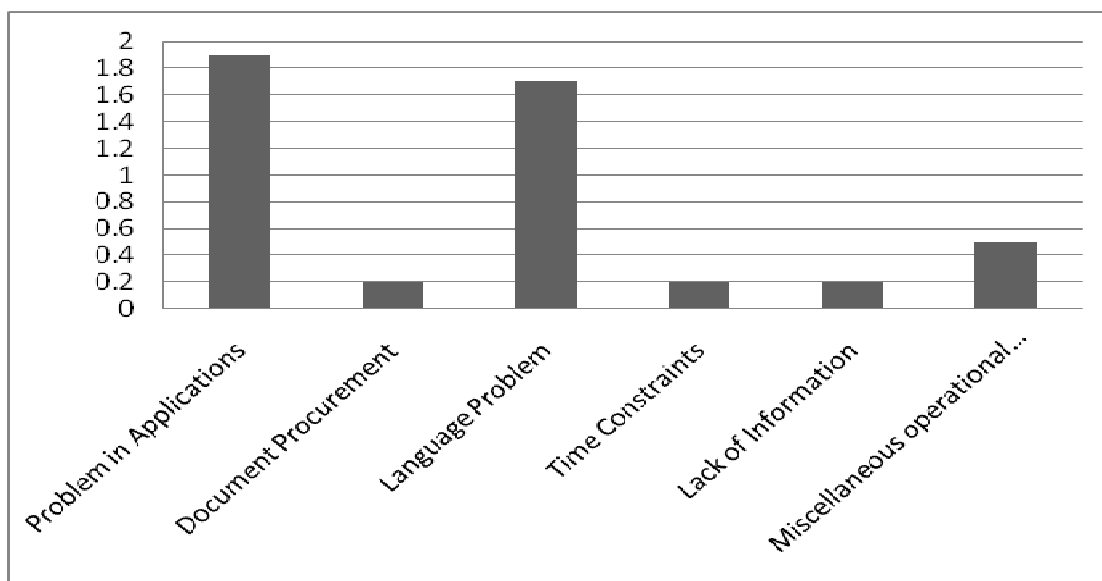
The value of the scholarship is conditioned and contingent upon beneficiaries being hosteller or day scholar. The relevant information has been garnered. The data Presented through the table reveals that 75% of the respondents were hostellers whereas 25%, day

scholars. Therefore, depending upon their stay, the beneficiaries were found receiving the scholarship amount. The difference was strikingly noticed in the payment structure. This was equally applicable in books and ad hoc grants given per annum. The day scholars received Rs. 150 per month whereas the hostellers, Rs. 350 per month. The hostellers and day scholars' composition can be shown as under:



**Figure 4.7: Composition of Day Scholars and Hostellers in Pre-Matric Scholarship**

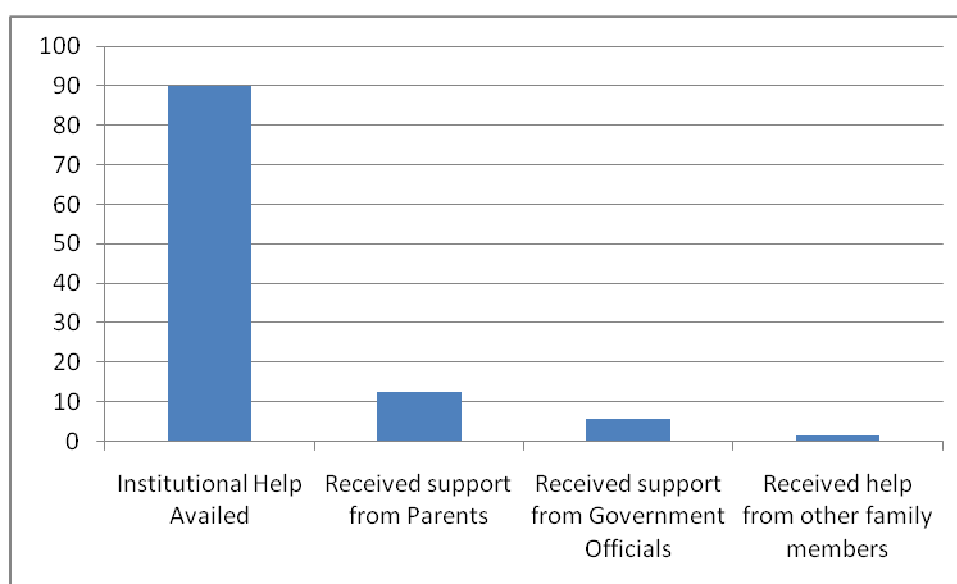
The ring above shows more space circumscribed by day scholars than the hostellers. Students in the Pre-Matric stage often choose to stay with parents and bondage of socialization is not lifted in the tender age. This may be one of the reasons that even though the scholarship amount for hostellers are comparatively in centralized, parents and students relatively opt-out to avail hostel facilities. The issues identified for opting out the hostel facilities were also related to the institution having either unfurnished residential facilities or no residential facilities. The problems identified with applying the scholarship have also been identified and feedback of the beneficiary students has been taken which is as under:



**Figure 4.8: Responses on Problems Identified by Pre-Matric Beneficiary Students**

Language and comprehension of the application forms stand out to be major problems expressed by beneficiary students. However, there are limited numbers of beneficiaries expressing this concern. Strides should be stepped up to sort these issues out.

The various problems experienced by respondents have also been resolved by different agencies. The agencies resolving the problems identified are institutions, parents, government officials, and other family members. The diagram below represents the status of problems being resolved by the agency:



**Figure 4.9: Problems of Pre-Matric Beneficiary Students being Solved by Agency**

The diagram drawn above presents the agencies that helped students while applying for the scholarship. Maximum help was rendered by institutions while applying for the scholarships. In fact, institutions took up all responsibilities of applying applications online. In case of offline applications, the institution concerned allotted staff to ensure that applications were not loaded/submitted with errors. However, the support received from parents, government officials and other family members have also been crucial to select beneficiary students. Two orthopedically handicapped beneficiaries were found one each in Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal receiving the facilities provided to them under the scheme.

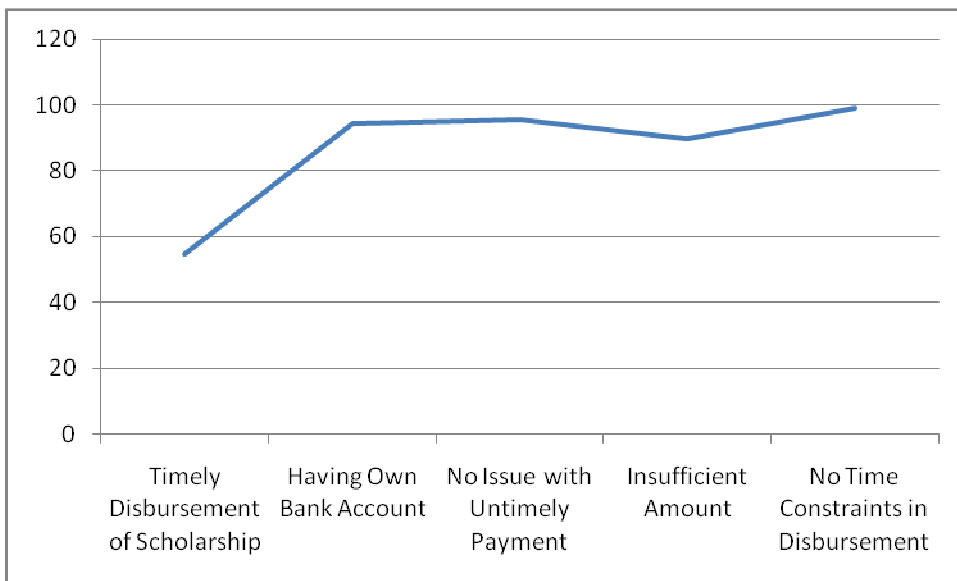
#### **4.2.5 Duration and Disbursement in Pre- Matric Scholarship**

The scholarship is payable for 10 months in an academic year. The award once made is to be continued subject to good conduct and regularity in attendance. It is to be renewed for class X after the student passes class IX. The scholarship is to be payable from first of April or from the month of admission, whichever is later, to the month in which the examinations are completed, at the end of the academic year, provided that if the scholar secures admission after the 20<sup>th</sup> day of a month, the amount is paid from the month following month of admission. In case of renewal of scholarship, it will be paid from the month following the month up to which scholarship was paid in the previous year. The Governments of States/Union Territory Administration, to which they belong, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this regard, have to pay the scholarship money to the selected students. In the light of the above directions, after consulting most of the State officers, it was clear that Pre-Matric scholarship is paid annually. However, there is clear direction on furnishing data of beneficiaries and expenditure under the scheme to the Ministry, regularly in the Quarterly Progress Reports. Though untimely disbursement has not been considered significant by beneficiaries, in accordance with provisions laid down under para 16.2, the monthly payment would have given a significant boost to the scholarship holders to address their emergent educational needs. However, there is provision laid out in the scheme that pending release of central assistance, the scholarship would be expected to be paid out of the State Budget, against which reimbursement can be claimed. In no case, the disbursal of the scholarship should be held up due to any delay in the release of Central Assistance. On the issues related to disbursement, important instruments were thrown to be responded of which details are as under:

**Table 4.6: Financial Issues in Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Responses**

<b>Instruments</b>	<b>Percentage of Beneficiaries Responded</b>
Timely Disbursement of Scholarship	54.6
Having Own Bank Account	94.4
No Issue with Untimely Payment	95.5
Insufficient Amount	89.6
No Time Constraints in Disbursement	99.1

In favour of timely disbursement of scholarship, 54.6% of student beneficiaries have responded. It is striking to notice that student beneficiaries, state officials and district level officials were not aware of the provision that scholarship amount is to be paid out on a monthly basis. 94.4% of respondents were found with own bank account whereas bank account was to be ascertained with 100% beneficiaries. 89.6% of beneficiaries want the amount to be escalated because the scholarship amount is not sufficiently catering to their required educational needs. However, late payments to beneficiaries (95.5%) have not been found as an important concern. 99.1% of beneficiaries found that time is not a constraint in receiving the benefits. The concerns can also be shown with the help of the chart below:



**Figure 4.10: Issues in Pre Matric Scholarship and Responses of Beneficiaries**

The line graph placed above shows the different financial issues pertaining to the procedures in Pre-Matric scholarship disbursement. The further is the line graph to the horizontal axis, the increased level of influence beneficiaries receive. The timely disbursement of the scholarship issue has been expressed as one of the major concerns coupled with satisfaction indices on the sufficient amount of scholarship. The graph shows that the amount paid out is

not satisfactory. That is substantiated by the response that amount-disbursed to the beneficiaries is not sufficient to meet the emergent educational needs.

#### 4.2.6 Effectiveness of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

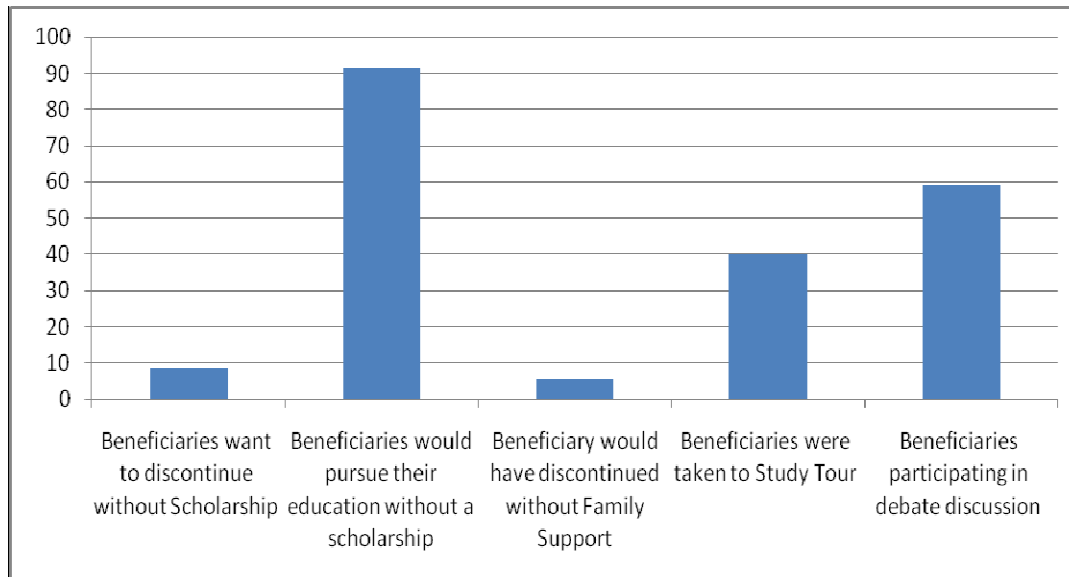
Pre-Matric Scholarship aims at minimizing the dropout, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage. To minimize inequities in income and to endeavor to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, the Pre-Matric Scholarship through its proactive roles attempt to mainstream the tribal lot. As such, the effectiveness of the scheme depends on its being indispensable and instrumental. Apart from sponsored mobility, the infrastructure and ecosystem of schools also play a decisive role. Money alone cannot help unless there is an existence of a suitable ecosystem for learning. The suitable environment requires engaging children to academic debate, discussions, linguistic competence and above all exposure-based learning. In 28 states of the study area, it was found that scholarship was not the only source through which tribal students could continue their education. In the study, it was found that students were more governed by their self-motivation, passion and enthusiasm.

**Table 4.7: Effectiveness of Pre-Matric Scholarship in Educational Pursuits**

Different Parameters	Responses in %
Beneficiaries want to discontinue without Scholarship	8.6
Beneficiaries would pursue their education without a scholarship	91.4
Beneficiary would have discontinued without Family Support	5.6
Beneficiaries were taken to Study Tour	40.0
Beneficiaries participating in debate discussion	59.1

The table above informs that 91.4% of beneficiary students would have pursued their education, had they not received the scholarship. Only 8.6% of beneficiaries find the scholarship instrumental in their career building. The 8.6% of beneficiaries have used the scholarship as a safety net to their studies because without the scholarship support they would have left the schools. Though the percentage of such beneficiaries is not substantial, its impact is really fathomless on the most vulnerable sections of tribal society. 5.6% of beneficiaries would have taken family support in the absence of scholarship. It implies that family play an instrumental role in providing support to tribal children. Though in most of the tribal schools, the infrastructure facilities were in scarce; with a limited support base of 40% beneficiaries. They have been taken to study tour on their own expenses. However, more than half of the beneficiaries have not been taken to educational tours. Interestingly, 59.1% of beneficiaries have

participated in debates and discussions organized by schools on different academic occasions. Though the general effectiveness of scholarship is not very detrimental, the impact on the vulnerable lot is certain.



**Figure 4.11: Effectiveness of Pre-Matric Scholarship and Educational Activities**

The figure above presents the effectiveness of scholarship being shared by the beneficiaries. The highest bar for “beneficiary would pursue education without the scholarship” has been expressed by 91.4% beneficiaries. This implies that at pan India level, the importance of education has been accepted by hoi polloi and almost all the parents want their boys and girls to have basic education. In this context, the Scheme is in the phase of downhill of the boom curve and unless new attractions are added- on, it will not be effective and receive appreciation as was the case earlier. Very few beneficiaries want to discontinue studies without the scholarship. It has been recorded to the tune of 8.6%. Only 5.6% of beneficiaries would have discontinued their education in the absence of parents/family members’ support. It informs that driving factors to educational pursuits was neither scholarship nor family support. It was more about their realistic dream to trespass their mud-wall and to be improved.

The schools have been found more interested in in-house activities for scholarly achievements than outside exposures. In fact, 59.1% of beneficiaries have participated in debate and discussion whereas 40% of respondents have taken to study tour. It was observed that schools where the maximum numbers of tribal students were studying confronted with additional funds which could have been spent on exposure visits outside.

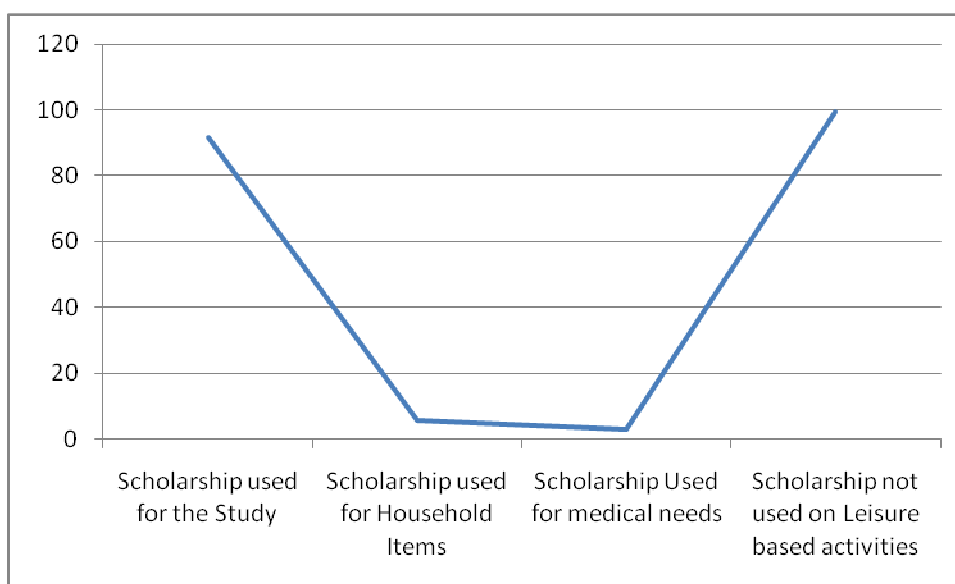
#### 4.2.7 Pre-Matric Scholarship and its Usage

The scholarship is dependent on the satisfactory progress and conduct of the students. The amount is given in the form of scholarship largely aims at covering the expenditure pertaining to school education to reduce drop-out or neutralize drop-out so that children have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage. The broad identified categories of needs were study-specific use, use in household procurement of household items, emergency needs like medical, leisure-based requirements.

**Table 4.8: Usage of Pre-Matric Scholarship Amount**

Particulars	Response in %
Scholarship used for the Study	91.6
Scholarship used for Household Items	5.6
Scholarship Used for medical needs	3.0
Scholarship not used on Leisure based activities	99.6

The table above reveals that 91.6% of beneficiary students used the scholarship amount on studies. The study includes the purchase of books, notebooks, pen, pencils, opting for private tuition etc. They also deposited school fee, from the scholarship amount. Only 5.6% of beneficiary students let their scholarship amount to be used on household items. 3% of beneficiaries share their amount in medical needs. Astoundingly, 99.6% of beneficiary students did not spend their money on leisure-oriented activities. The usages of scholarship amount by item are shown by the diagram below:



**Figure 4.12: Usage of Pre-Matric Scholarship by Identified items**

The diagram given above presents the use of scholarship by different items. In the line graph, the higher upward move is with scholarship not used on leisure-based activity than the scholarship used for studies. It indicates that scholarship holders are more specific about the judicious use of the amount. Scholarship used for household items shows little more elevation than the scholarship used for medical purposes.

#### 4.2.8 Overall responses of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

Any scheme to continue, it takes into account the feedback received from the beneficiaries. If the scheme is reaching the target beneficiaries, it may be referred to as effective in its structure and operations. However, if the benefits are transferred to the beneficiary and the scheme does not bring about effective changes, the scheme needs to be corrected and right-sized. In the overall analysis of the scheme, it has been found that there is a set structure which is implemented in accordance with guidelines. The objectives of the scheme are also being attained taking the beneficiaries into consideration the feedback. Considering this, we have assessed the motivation level created due to scholarship and the percentage of responses which converge on boosting the children studying in IX class and X class to have a better chance of progressing to the Post-Matric stage.

The beneficiary students of IX and X classes registered their response on motivation and a sense of elevation to continue their education so that, they do not become drop out. The table given below highlights the concern:

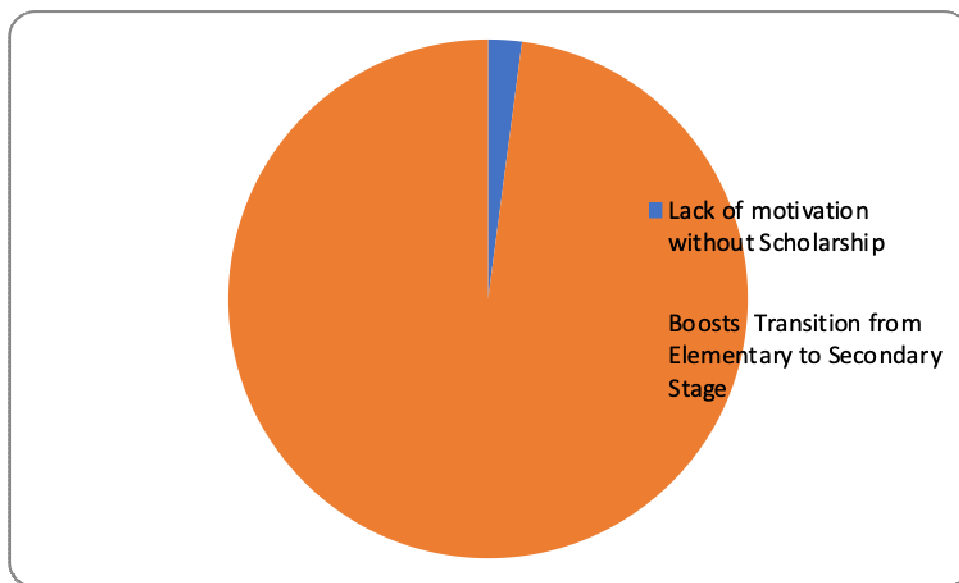
**Table 4.9: Overall Impression of the Pre-Matric Scheme**

<b>Overall Concerns</b>	<b>Responses in %</b>
Lack of motivation without Scholarship	1.9
Boosts Transition from Elementary to Secondary Stage	88.9

The table above reveals that 1.9% expressed their lack of motivation without the scholarship. This is to say that the scholarship amount was not an effective factor which provided motivation to the beneficiary students across 28 states. The reasons attributed to these issues are untimely payment, the problem in procurement of certificate, ineffective level of awareness of scholarship scheme, inability to address the financial needs required to continue their education and so on. However, 88.9% of beneficiary students are of the view that the Scholarship Scheme boosts them in the transitional phase from elementary to the secondary stage. If the scheme boosts, that itself can trigger the will power of children to reach their

academic destinations. Indeed, the scheme shows a ray of hope for the vulnerable tribal groups but its efficacy needs to be improved by escalating quantum of support given to them.

It is also worth to inform that the tribal students spread across the states are not alike. Some are bestowed with ample basic resources whereas some are placed at a minimum survival level. Some states are disbursing scholarship with ease where documents are easily procured. There are states where the cost of procurement documents is as good as receiving the scholarship amount. There are pockets where scholarship is catering to direly needed beneficiary students whereas some are impacted little.



**Figure 4.13: Motivational Features of the Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme**

The information represented through the pie chart informs that Pre-Matric Scholarship enjoys an instrumental role in boosting the children to transit from IX and X classes to Post-Matric stages; scholarship is the substantial reason for their motivation. The larger part of the pie chart has been circumscribed with “boost’s transition from elementary to secondary level”. However, the lack of motivation provided by scholarship looks feeble and dismal. There are states like Uttar Pradesh where central assistance is not provided by the Ministry. There are states like Bihar and West Bengal where records are not properly maintained. However, the scheme stands out to be phenomenal. The scheme should resize itself with the escalation in outreach and subsequent benefits to be accrued.

#### 4.2.9 Feedback of the State Nodal Officers on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

A total of 193 ITDAs/ITDPs were found in 20 states. The maximum number of ITDAs/ITDPs has been found in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Odisha (22), Chhattisgarh (19) and other states. State officers from Andaman, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh opined that Radio was not used as an effective medium for publicity. It is worth mentioning that dedicated GRO at the district level to redress students' scholarship-related grievances were also not found. However, the District Social Welfare Officers/Project Officers were found taking care of beneficiaries' issue.

The summary of feedback shared by State officials is as under:

**Table 4.10: Feedback Received from the Nodal Officers on the implementation Pre-Matric Scholarship**

<b>Publicity Source</b>	<b>Percentage of Response</b>
Radio	64.3
Social Media	46.4
Institutional	71.4
Other Sources	35.7
Quarterly Report Sent to the Centre	57.1
Information to be placed on the website	35.7
Payment from other sources	39.3
UC sent to the Centre	89.3
GRO as per the Scheme	0.0

The table above reveals that the institutional mechanism is used for the publicity of the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The institutional mechanism includes information put up on notice board, pamphlets, informal information, and institutional announcements and so on. However, select states have also given publicity through social media and radio and other sources. The Institutes as publicity portals have scored (71.4%) followed by Radio (64.3%), social media (46.45) and other sources (35.7%) by the State Nodal Officers.

A total of 57.1% of states have sent the quarterly report including the data of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred, to the centre. 35.7% of states have placed institution wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for the award of scholarship to be displayed on the web-site of NIC at district level till the information was collected.

Of the total 28 States, 89.3% of States have sent the Utilization certificate to the centre. The dedicated GROs were found in all states surveyed. The reasons assigned by the nodal

officers are like online monitoring, tribal officers seeking the information from schools, student union directly interacting with state nodal officers, telephonic redressal of issues at the state level, implementation of toll-free numbers, Shala portal and so on. However, to ensure the effectiveness of the scheme, the laid down norms should have been strictly adhered to. The State nodal officers accept that there are challenges in the educational fulfilment of tribal students. The suggestions they forward are: to increase the amount of scholarship, amount to be timely released to the beneficiaries account, central assistance to state be timely disbursed, income ceiling to be enhanced, scholarships to be extended to junior classes to stop dropout, banks should be instructed to facilitate scholarship holders, zero-balance account of beneficiaries to be continued, for verification of students' data institutes should be empowered.

#### **4.2.10 Feedback of District Level Officers on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

The district-level officers have instrumental roles to play in the beneficiaries' shortlisting as well as disbursement of amount through DBT in the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Out of 56 districts, the views of 22 district level officers could be documented. The district-level officers were mostly found least responsive on our questions. Some of them preferred not to get their views registered. On the basis of feedback received from the district level officers, it was broadly clear that the scheme was successful in meeting its desired objectives.

**Table 4.11: Feedback of District Level Officers on the implementation of Pre-Matric Scheme**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Percentage of Response</b>
Pressure in short-listing	13.6
Political Pressure	13.6
Social Pressure	9.1
Covering Potential Beneficiaries	90.9
Receiving Beneficiaries' Complaints	63.6
Complaints on Fund Disbursement	40.9
Complaints on Document Procurement	13.6
Complaints on Awareness Related Issues	13.6
Insufficient Fund to Meet Beneficiary-Pool	54.5

The table above reveals that 13.6% of the district level officers confronted with Pressure in shortlisting the beneficiaries at the local level. The same percentage point has been entered against political Pressures being faced by the district level officers. The social Pressure has scored 9.1%. It is worth mentioning that 90.9% of potential beneficiaries are covered in the scheme. The beneficiaries making complaints against the multiple issues related to the scholarship has

scored 63.6%, as shared by district level officers. The maximum complaints have figured out against fund disbursement (40.9%), document procurement (13.6%), and awareness related (13.6%) and insufficient fund to meet the beneficiary-pool (54.5%). Though the information was provided by selected district level officers on the successful implementation of the scheme, the aforementioned pitfalls need to address on an urgent basis.

#### **4.2.11 Feedback of Head Masters/Institution Heads on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

A headmaster is an important person who is involved in the entire conduction of the scheme. He/She is aware that the student beneficiary cannot get the benefit of the scheme if he is already receiving benefit from any other centrally funded Pre-Matric scholarship. The headmaster ensures that the student is regular and maintains a satisfactory level of credibility. If it is reported by the head of Institution at any time that a student has by reasons of his/her own act of default failed to make satisfactory progress or has been guilty of misconduct such as resorting to or participating in strikes, irregularity in attendance without the permission, the scholarship may be withheld.

**Table 4.12: Trial Beneficiary Students Received /Receiving Pre-Matric Scholarship in the sampled Institutions**

Type of School	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2016-19
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Govt. Aided	1896	1918	2049	1998	1887	2039	11787
Govt. School	4038	4082	4114	4559	3714	3883	24390
Private Unaided	435	313	597	428	490	397	2660
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6369</b>	<b>6313</b>	<b>6760</b>	<b>6985</b>	<b>6091</b>	<b>6319</b>	<b>38837</b>

The table above shows the maximum scholarship holders have been identified with Government Schools, followed by Government Aided and Private Unaided Schools. The rate of registered girl scholars has improved over the years in Government Aided Schools. However, during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, the slowdown in Government and Private Unaided Schools has been registered. In fact, that has impacted on the total number of girl beneficiaries as well. Government Schools have 62.8% of the total registered beneficiaries in the sampled schools, followed by govt. aided 30.3% and for private unaided 6.8%. The trend of registration is symmetrical on the beneficiary boys and girls for the year 2016-17 and 2018-19. It is interesting to note that out of 24 Government Aided Schools, three schools informed the attendance of students between 40% and 60%, five schools for 70%-80%, three schools for 80% and 90%,

and 13 schools with over 90% attendance was revealed. Out of 75 Government Schools, three schools informed the attendance of beneficiary students between 40% and 60%, 24 schools for 70%-80%, 19 schools for 80% and 90%, and 28 schools with over 90% attendance was recorded. Out of 8 Private Schools, four schools informed the attendance of beneficiary students between 70% and 80%, 2 schools for 80% to 90% and two schools with over 90% attendance was documented. Side by side, in the overall academic performance of beneficiary students, it was reported that 100% satisfactory performance in Private Unaided Schools, 92% in Government Schools, and 87.5% in Government Aided Schools. It appears that Private Schools are doing fairly well in improving the academic performance of beneficiary students.

**Table 4.13: Dropout Beneficiary Students by School Type under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

School Type	Dropout in 2016-17		Dropout in 2017-18		Dropout in 2018-19		Total
	Boys	Girl	Boys	Girl	Boys	Girls	
<b>Govt. Aided</b>	16	17	30	13	25	17	118
<b>Govt. School</b>	82	122	96	104	100	101	605
<b>Private Unaided</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>724</b>

The table presents the dropout beneficiary students by school type. In the past three years, the maximum number of dropout students has been recorded in Govt. Schools, followed by Govt. aided and Private Unaided Schools. After calculations, it has been found that in the overall dropout of 1.9% of the total student beneficiaries, 2.5% dropout in Government Schools, 1% in Government Aided Schools and 0.04% in Private Schools has been recorded. This calculation has been drawn from the school records.

The institution heads expressed their concern in bank account opening, the problem in document procurement, inapt names in Aadhar, congestion in the network connectivity, and lack of mobile number on which OTP is sent and password is generated. The other indicators framed to get responses to assess the degree of cultural capital being acquired by students was found in equal range and therefore separate information in tabular form is not being given.

#### **4.2.12 Feedback of Non-Beneficiaries on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

A total of 35 non-beneficiary students were canvassed through CAPI enabled interview schedule on issues related to attendance, procurement of certificate, awareness, application procedures, GRO, and institutional support. The non-beneficiaries were drawn from Jammu and Kashmir

(11), Manipur (7), Karnataka (6), Telangana (2), West Bengal (2), Andhra Pradesh (2), Bihar (1), Chhattisgarh (1), Gujarat (1), Kerala (1) and Odisha (1). The total number of non-beneficiaries studied, constituted 7- Christians, 15- Hindus, 12- Muslims and 1-others. Fifteen non-beneficiaries were girls, and 20, boys. 20 were in studying in IX class and 15, in X class. A total of 22 non-beneficiaries were from a farming background and 13 were depending on the informal sector for their employment purposes. Out of 35 non-beneficiaries, **16 (45.7%)** expressed having no awareness of the scheme. The identified percentage of non-beneficiaries expressed their concern that advertisement put up through print media was inaccessible to them. A total of 11.4% non-beneficiaries opined that they did not receive support from institutions and others in applying for the scholarship. As a result, 28.6% non-beneficiaries could apply for the scholarship but did not pass through. Due to not having proper awareness, 42.9%, non-beneficiaries did not apply for the scholarship. 5.7% non-beneficiaries considered applying for scholarship was time-consuming. In nutshell, the non-beneficiaries find that the publicity of the scheme was improper and inept. The linking of Aadhar with bank account remains a tough job. It was also emphasized that schools should have ensured the scholarship information is disseminated amongst all. Side by side, schools should also help prospective beneficiaries in applying the scholarship application. The perception of non-beneficiaries reveals that the mode of publicity should effectively be selected which could be accessible. Linking Aadhar with bank account need to be re-looked into and reconsidered.

### **4.3 Specific Outcome/Output for Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

#### **4.3.1 Performance of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme based on the Output/Outcome Indicators**

To assess the efficacy of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme in terms of structure, design, features, coverage, management and perceived impact, the beneficiary students were drawn from 55 tribal concentrated districts of 29 states. In the sample, 67.9% believe in Hinduism, 18.05% associate with Christianity, 6.72% follow their specific sect, 3.78% believe in Islam, 3.47% follow Buddhism and 0.08% are Sikhs. The sample of beneficiary students includes 54.7% of girls and 45.3% of boys. The sample consisted of students mostly (90%) in the age group of 15-23. 38% beneficiary students were in the age group of 15-17, 25% in 18-20, 27% in 21-23, 8% in 24-26 and 2% beneficiary students were in the age group of 27 and above. Most of the students contacted during the study were found receiving the scholarship on a renewal basis. 67.7% sampled beneficiary students were receiving the scholarship on renewal basis whereas 32.3% beneficiary students were found receiving for the first time. The observations of the study team suggest that scholarship was enabling them to complete their education.

The data reveals that 50.5% beneficiary students were found in Government Aided Institutions, 31.8% in Government Institutions, 14.8 % in private institutions and 2.9% in others, like Open School, Government Autonomous and Panchayat run institutions. 1.81% Buddhist beneficiary students were found studying in Government Aided Institutions, 0.91% in Govt. Institutions, and 0.76% in unaided recognized Institutions. The beneficiary students with Christian religion was found 11.25% in Government Aided Institutions, 3.70% in Government Institutions, followed by 3.10% in private and other institutions of the total Christian beneficiary students studied. Hindu beneficiary students were found 31.87% studying in Government Aided Institutions, followed by 22.89% in Government Institutions, 11.33% in private unaided recognized institutions and 1.81% in Institutions run by the local body. 2.27% of beneficiaries with Islamic faith was found studying in Government Aided Institutions and 1.51% in Government Institutions. 3.25 % of tribal students with their own particular sect were found studying in Government Aided Institutions and 2.79 % in Government Institutions. Thus, the maximum 50.53% beneficiary students were found in Government Aided followed by Government Institutions (31.80%), Private Recognized Institutions (14.80%) and others (2.87%). It indicates that Government Aided Institutions are effectively handling the Post-Matric Scholarship delivery.

#### **4.3.2 Gender and Post-Matric Scholarship**

Gender is an important determinant to highlight the incidence of development. The effective number of female participation in higher education can trigger off the pace of development. This requires the enrollment base of tribal children to be improved, particularly the female child. The objective of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at Post Matriculation or Post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. The coverage of beneficiary students by gender is as under:

**Table 4.14: Coverage of Post-Matric Beneficiary Students in the States by Gender**

S.No.	Name of State	Female	Male	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	36	39	75
2	Andhra Pradesh	20	20	40
3	Arunachal Pradesh	18	24	42
4	Assam	29	33	62
5	Bihar	20	21	41
6	Chhattisgarh	28	3	31
7	Daman and Diu	28	19	47
8	Goa	32	28	60
9	Gujarat	22	25	47
10	Himachal Pradesh	18	24	42
11	Jammu and Kashmir	21	25	46
12	Jharkhand	28	19	47
13	Karnataka	28	23	51
14	Kerala	30	29	59
15	Madhya Pradesh	24	13	37
16	Maharashtra	16	18	34
17	Manipur	20	13	33
18	Meghalaya	20	15	35
19	Mizoram	18	20	38
20	Nagaland	21	20	41
21	Odisha	26	16	42
22	Rajasthan	16	37	53
23	Sikkim	28	22	50
24	Tamil Nadu	30	10	40
25	Telangana	16	20	36
26	Tripura	32	6	38
27	Uttar Pradesh	27	15	42
28	Uttarakhand	38	23	61
29	West Bengal	34	20	54
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1324</b>

The table above presents the distribution of beneficiary students in 29 states by gender. An average of 41 beneficiaries has been drawn from the 21 states against the set target of 40 beneficiaries, and 57 beneficiaries have been drawn from the 8 States & UTs against the set target of 60 beneficiaries. The beneficiary drawn in tandem with sample size fixed at 60. On the basis of sample drawn, the States/UT's in descending order are Andaman and Nicobar Island (75), Assam (62), Uttarakhand (61), Goa (60), Kerala (59), above 57 the average of 8 states and the 3 states below average of 57 are Sikkim (50), Daman & Diu (47) and Himachal Pradesh (42). While the beneficiaries drawn from remaining 21 States & UTs with set target of 40, the states with above-average, in descending order are West Bengal (54), Rajasthan (53), Karnataka (51), Gujarat & Jharkhand (47) each, J&K (46), Arunachal, Odisha & Uttar Pradesh (42) each. From Bihar & Nagaland sample size drawn matches the average value of 41 for the 21 States. The states from where below the number of average calculated or target fixed beneficiaries could be drawn in ascending order were Chattisgarh (31), Manipur (33), Maharashtra (34), Meghalaya (35), Telangana (36), Madhya Pradesh (37), Mizoram & Tripura (38) each, and Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu (40).

In the total sample of beneficiary students, the representation of girls and boys were 54.7% and 45.3%, respectively. On average, 25 beneficiary girls have been drawn in the sample from all 29 States and UTs. There are 15 States & UTs wherefrom, more than the average number of girl students have been drawn in the study. These are: Uttarakhand (38), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (36), West Bengal (34), Goa & Tripura (32) each, Kerala & Tamil Nadu (30) each, Assam (29), Karnataka, Sikkim, Daman & Diu, Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh (28), Uttar Pradesh (27), and Odisha (26). However, in the states where a satisfactory number of girl respondents have not been drawn, the states have outnumbered beneficiary boys except for Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur, where the number of boys drawn is less than the average number of girls in those states. It reveals that due to the availability of Post-Matric Scholarship, the beneficiary girls feel more attracted to the participation in courses beyond XI and XII of the Post-secondary stage.

### **4.3.3 Socio-Economic Background of Post-Matric Respondents**

The socio-economic background of Post-Matric respondents is an important indication of the improved attachment to study fueled through their community. The support emanated from socio-economic background largely serves as an important determinant in shaping the thinking and acting pattern. It helps decide the type of educational pursuits one would be associated with. It also helps identify goals, opportunities, achievements and contributions to society, at large.

The identified factors in the evaluation study have been linked with control over economic activities, economic status and occupational engagements of parents, types of family, religious belief system, ownership of household, different durable and non-durable items. In fact, the hold on assets by households acts both as facilitator and impediment in the scholastic achievements depending upon the situational conditions. In the study, it has been found that the socio-economic backgrounds of the respondents were mixed in nature. In some states, the list of items mentioned in the CAPI enabled questionnaires regarding consumption related items were Present at large whereas, in some other states, the accessibility on the items were informed to be in the miserable conditions.

Indeed, those having minimum requirements of livelihood mostly let the scholarship amount used for study purposes. Parents having scarce resources for their survival also depended partly on the scholarship amount for fueling their households. Very significantly, the scholarship amount restrained them from being child labour.

The continued engagements with internet, mobile and TV were observed in tribal institution goers. It is worth mentioning that during handling formal responses by informal way of asking questions, beneficiaries were cautious of not revealing about standard items which they possibly used at their households. However, considering scholarship as an impetus to complete their education, 75% of the beneficiaries were found with regular attendance. The items through which the socio-economic status has been measured are as under:

**Table 4.15: Socio-economic Status of Post-Matric Beneficiary Students**

S.No.	Parameters	Measurement in Percentage (%)
1	<b>Parents' Religion</b>	
	Buddhism	3.5
	Christianity	18.0
	Hinduism	67.9
	Islam	3.8
	Others	6.7
	Sikh	0.1
2	<b>Family Types</b>	
	Nuclear	52.3
	Joint	38.5
	Extended	9.2
3	<b>Head of the Households</b>	
	Father	86.8
	Mother	10.0
	Guardian	3.2

S.No.	Parameters	Measurement in Percentage (%)
4	<b>Occupations</b>	
	Agriculture	62.5
	Informal Wager	14.7
	Private Worker	11.9
	Others	10.9
5	<b>Items available at Households</b>	
	Land	67.5
	Property (Cash and Immovable)	54.4
	Mobile	87.4
	TV	57.7
	Vehicle	50.2
	Washing Machine	5.7
	Refrigerator	21.5
	Radio	9.4
	LPG	79.1

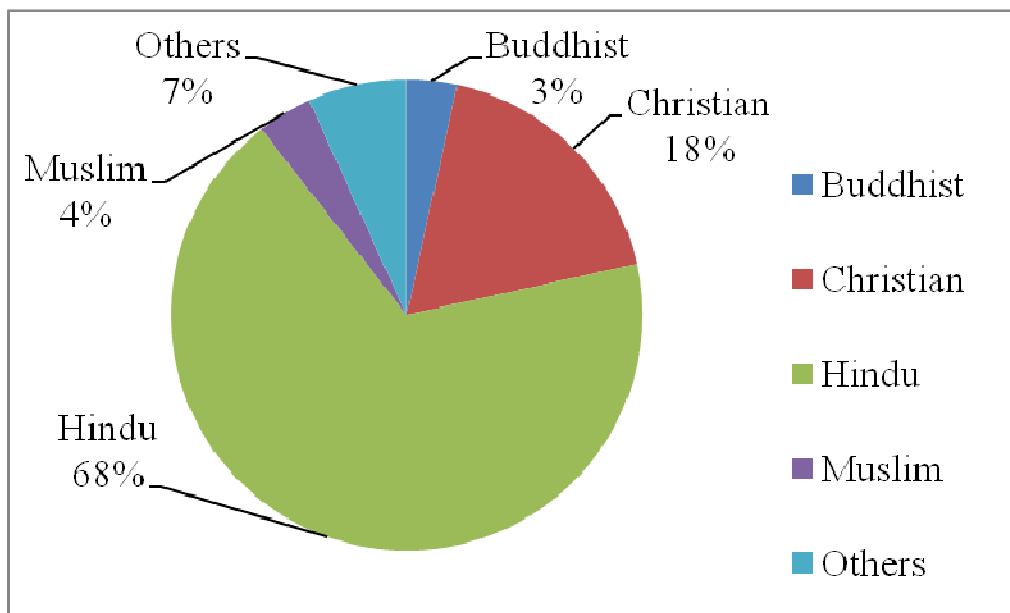
The table above presents various parameters used to assess the socio-economic background of the respondents. The parameters like parents' religion, family types, head of the households, occupations, items available at the households have been responded by the beneficiary students. The believer in Hinduism is predominantly high (67.9%) in sharp contrast with Christianity (18.0%), Islam (3.8%), Buddhism (3.5%) and others including Sikhs (6.8%). Though most of the tribal households are mostly nuclear type (52.3%), the joint and extend type families constitute 47.7% of the total households. The reasons assigned to the 'jointness' is their orientation to collective life and engagement with agriculture and informal/private works. However, the nuclear family type informs that they are also under the impact of urbanization and resettlement. We found most of the men headed households to which the beneficiary students belonged. However, women-headed households have scored 10% of the total households. The reasons for women-headed households are triangular in nature. First, due to matriarchal practices, the women-headed household was practised. Second, since men had either moved on in search of a job or they did not exist at all, therefore women came to fill those gaps. Third, women enjoyed more respect in select tribal communities and therefore, they were entrusted to lead the family. Side by side, a total of 3.2% of households were led by guardians. It is worthwhile to mention that guardian headed households seemed to have not provided effective attention in the upbringing of the children.

Most of the parents were engaged in agriculture (62.5%) in sharp contrast with informal labour (14.7%), private worker (11.9%) and others (10.9%). In the focus group discussion, it was made clear that most of the parents were marginal landowners which they used for the

production of vegetables or cereals on the side. In fact, the catchword “agriculture” is so popular that everybody directly wants to associate with the farming community. Mostly, their parents were reported to have been engaged in private works. Thus they have been identified with informal or private wagers. Some of the parents were reported to have engaged with seasonal contractual govt. jobs.

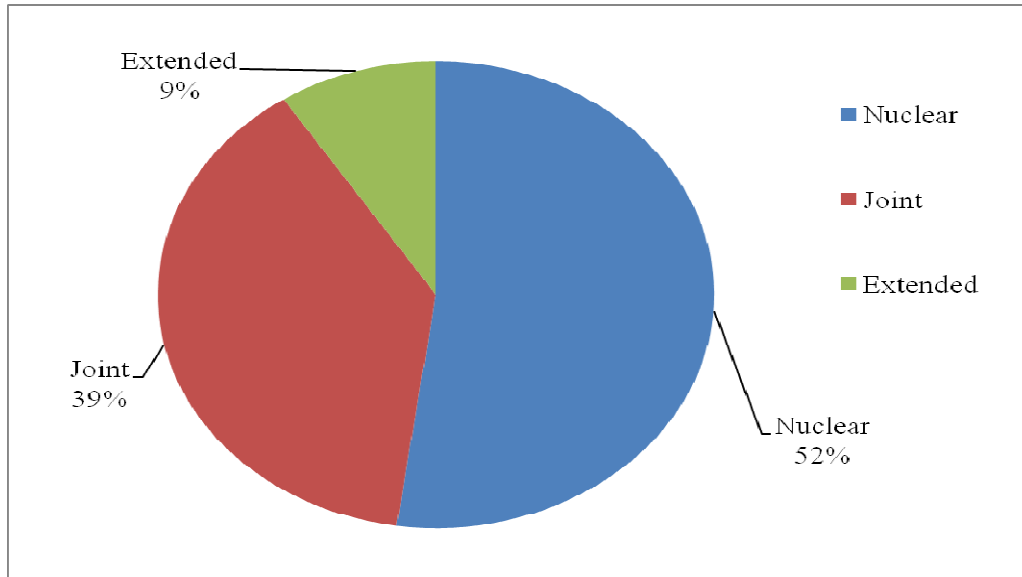
Availability of usable items at the households informs about the economic strength of the family. It was reported that 67.5% of the beneficiaries’ parents owned land, followed by 54.4% with the property. Astoundingly, 87.4% of the tribal households owned internet-enabled mobile phones. 57.7% of the tribal households had colour televisions, 50.2% of households owned vehicles, and 79.1% of households had LPG connections. The access on washing machine and radio with tribal households was found 5.7% and 9.4%, respectively.

The fact that there were 32.5% landless parents, 45.6% without property, 12.6% with inaccessibility to mobile phones, 42.3% without television, 49.8% devoid of vehicles, 94.3% without washing machine, 78.5% without a refrigerator, 90.6% without radio and 20.9% without LPG connection in the study area. It is also to be considered that landless parents working either as an informal worker or as a private worker experienced acute duress to meet their ends every day. It was reported that such parents treated drugs and intoxicating pills as a shock and stress absorber. However, with the financial support of scholarship, young scholars were found improving upon their previous performances.



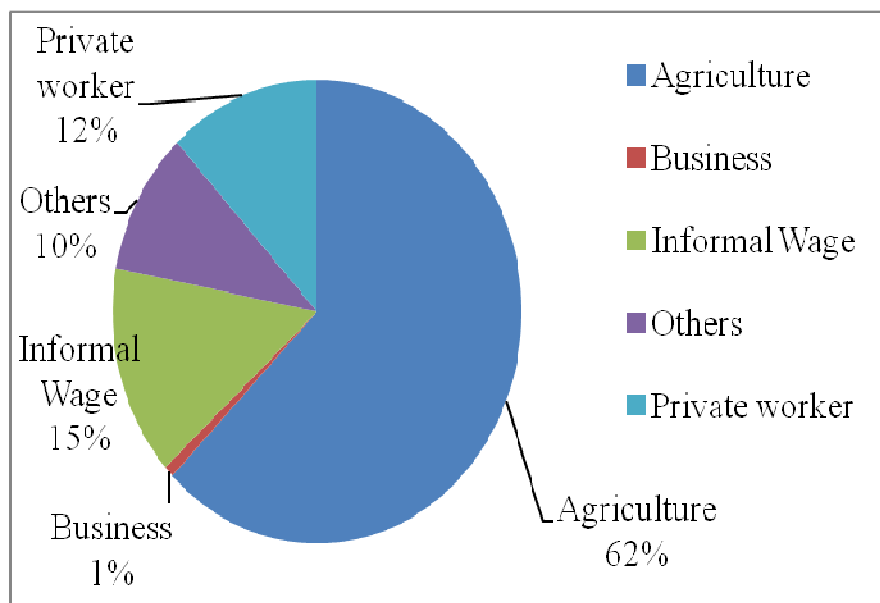
**Figure 4.14: Distribution of Post-Matric Respondents by Religion**

The figure 4.14 shows the distribution of respondents by religion where the share of Hinduism is substantial. The highest incidence of Buddhism has been found in Sikkim, Christianity in Andaman & Nicobar Island, Hinduism in Assam, Islam in Jammu and Kashmir and others in West Bengal. The tribes of Jharkhand follow Sarna religion.



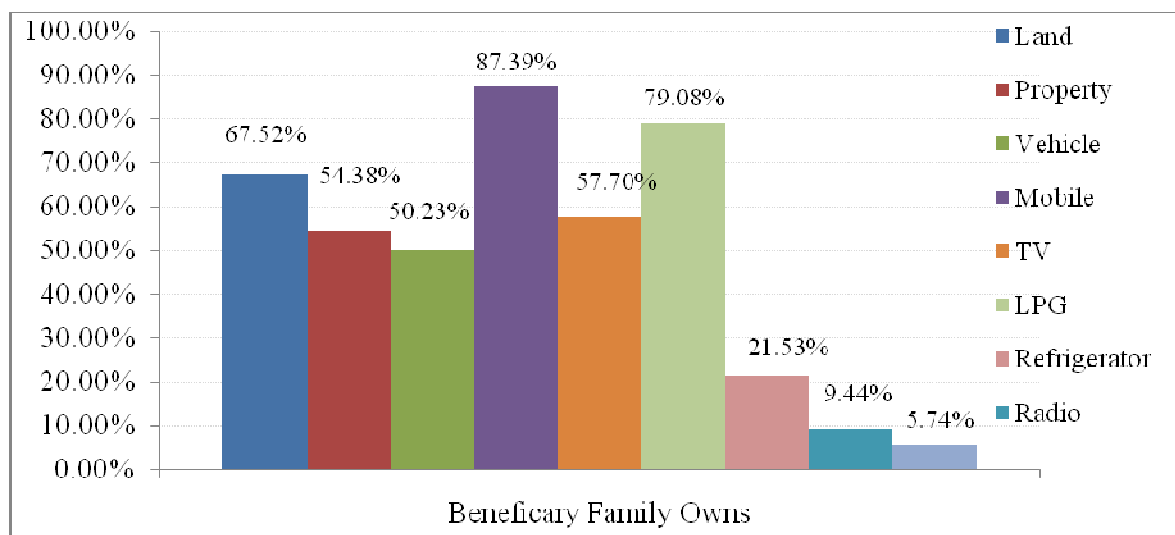
**Figure 4.15: Family Types in Post-Matric Beneficiaries**

The figure above shows the household types of beneficiaries associated. It shows mostly beneficiaries were found in the nuclear family system, followed by joint and extended. Majority of the nuclear households were found in West Bengal, joint households in Jharkhand and extended households in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



**Figure 4.16: Occupational Status of Post-Matric Beneficiaries Parents**

The figure 4.16 shows the occupational status of the beneficiaries' parents. Most of the parents were found doing agricultural works (62%), followed by informal wagger (15%), private works (12%), and others (11%). It also reveals that most of the parents with agricultural work are in West Bengal, informal wagers in Kerala, privately working in Daman and Diu and others in Sikkim.



**Figure 4.17: Post-Matric Beneficiaries and Household Items**

The figure above shows different items available with households of beneficiaries. The length of the fourth and sixth bar from the left shows the maximum number of ownership of mobile and LPG respectively by the beneficiaries. In West Bengal, maximum numbers of beneficiaries have expressed their holding on land. The maximum numbers of beneficiaries have expressed their ownership to the property, mobile phones and LPG in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, TV and refrigerator in Goa, the vehicle in Uttarakhand & Goa, washing machine in Mizoram, and radio in Karnataka. The beneficiaries devoid of items like – mobile, TV & LPG. Devoid of items like the refrigerator, washing machine & radio were found in Jharkhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Also, beneficiaries devoid of property and own vehicles were maximum in Jharkhand. Beneficiaries not owning land were in maximum in Assam and Jharkhand.

#### **4.3.4 Publicity of the Post-Matric Scheme and Inviting Applications**

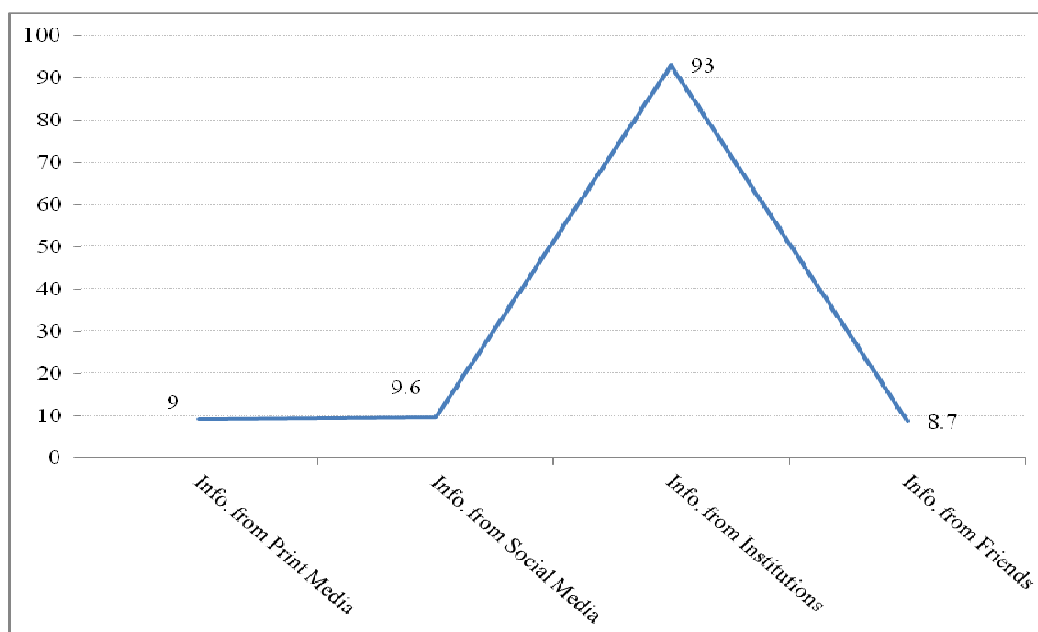
The scheme of the Post-Matric Scholarship is implemented through the State Governments/UT Administration. All the State Governments/UT Administrations at the required time, suitably publicize the Scheme and invite applications by issuing advertisement in the local language, in leading newspapers of the State through their respective websites and other media portals. The

information is to be utilized by ST students in submitting the completed application in all respect to the office Prescribed or to upload online. The State Government Prescribes a suitable application form in local language and places it on its websites. School authorities get the forms filled-in by the eligible students and send applications to district level offices. State Governments/UT Administrations delegate powers to sanction scholarships under the scheme to the competent authorities of the State. In this connection, publicity plays a crucial role in the enhancement of the scheme's outreach. The evaluation study tested this concern which is as under:

**Table 4.16: Perceived Responses on Publicity of the Scheme by Post-Matric Beneficiary Student**

<b>Sources of Information</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Information from Print Media (newspaper, pamphlets, etc.)	9.0
Information from Social Media (Website, Facebook, Email, Whatsapp etc.)	9.6
Information from Institutions	93.0
Information from Friend	8.7

Publicity of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and inviting application thereafter was assessed through CAPI enabled questionnaire administered on the beneficiary students. It was found that information regarding scholarship was mostly furnished through Institutions concerned. The table above clarifies that information is mostly provided by Institutions concerned which has accounted for 93%, followed by around 9% each through information from social media, print media and friends. Few respondents opted for more than one option and hence the total of above 4 sources are exceeding cent per cent.



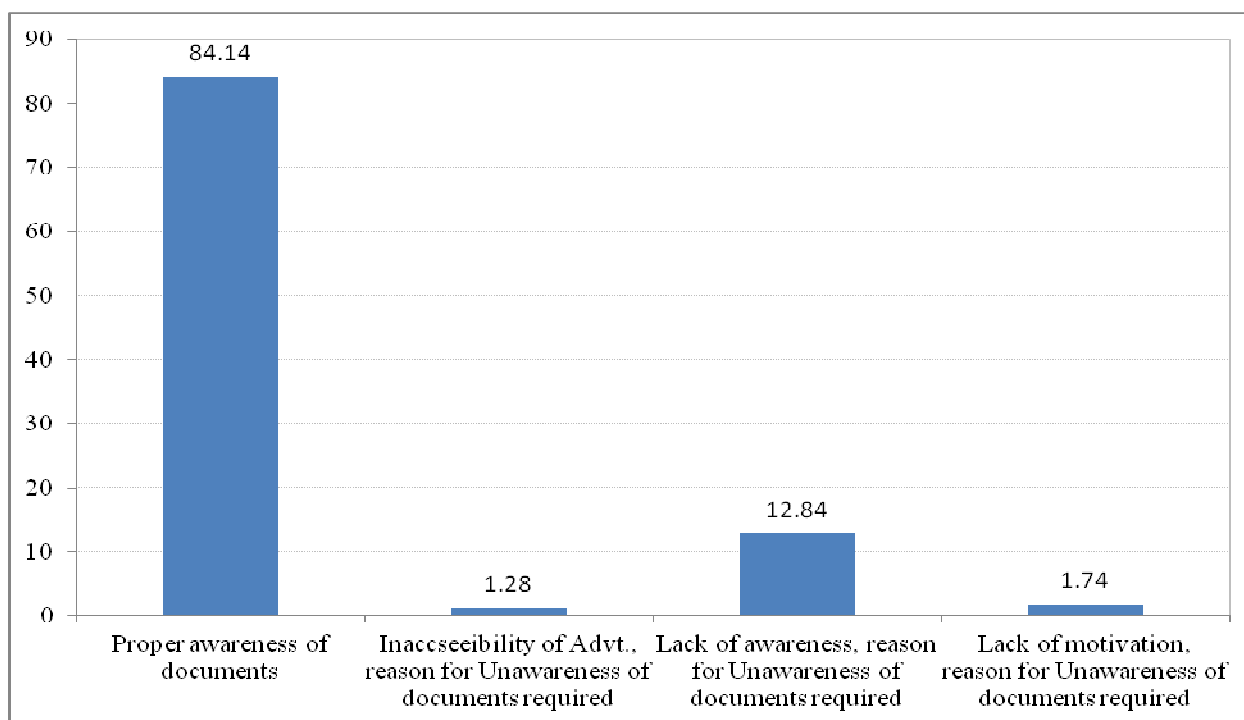
**Figure 4.18: Publicity of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Beneficiaries' Responses**

The figure 4.18 shows the maximum publicity about the scheme is from institutions as documented through the responses of the beneficiaries. There was an absence of print media impact on beneficiaries in almost all 29 States, more prominently in Andaman & Nicobar Island, Assam, Goa, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, J&K and Rajasthan, as beneficiaries from these States & UTs were more than the average of 42. The social media impact was noticed in UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Institute fully contributed in applying for the scholarship as shown in above figure, the average of beneficiaries for the 29 States and UTs comes as 42.5 and the 10 States & UTs where the beneficiaries are more than the average are in Andaman & Nicobar Island, Assam, Kerala, Goa, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Daman & Diu, and Gujarat. Information about the Scholarship from a friend had a visible impact on the students of Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The state officials claimed that advertisement was given in due time through using local newspapers and website suitably. In fact, it was found feeble in operation, considering the responses of beneficiaries.

**Table 4.17: Awareness of Post-Matric Scholarship by Response**

<b>Awareness of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Proper Awareness of Required Documents	84.14
Not aware of documents due to Inaccessibility to Advertisements	1.28
Not aware of documents due to Lack of Proper Awareness	12.84
Not aware of documents due to Inapt Motivation	1.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above shows the percentage of response on awareness about documents required for the scholarship by the beneficiaries. The tabular information reveals that 84% of the total responses were in favour of awareness of beneficiary regarding the required documents. Out of the total responses, 12.84% responses were in tandem with a lack of proper information. Poor advertisement and insufficient motivation have scored 3% of the total response with regard to ineffective feedback on the publicity part of the scheme.



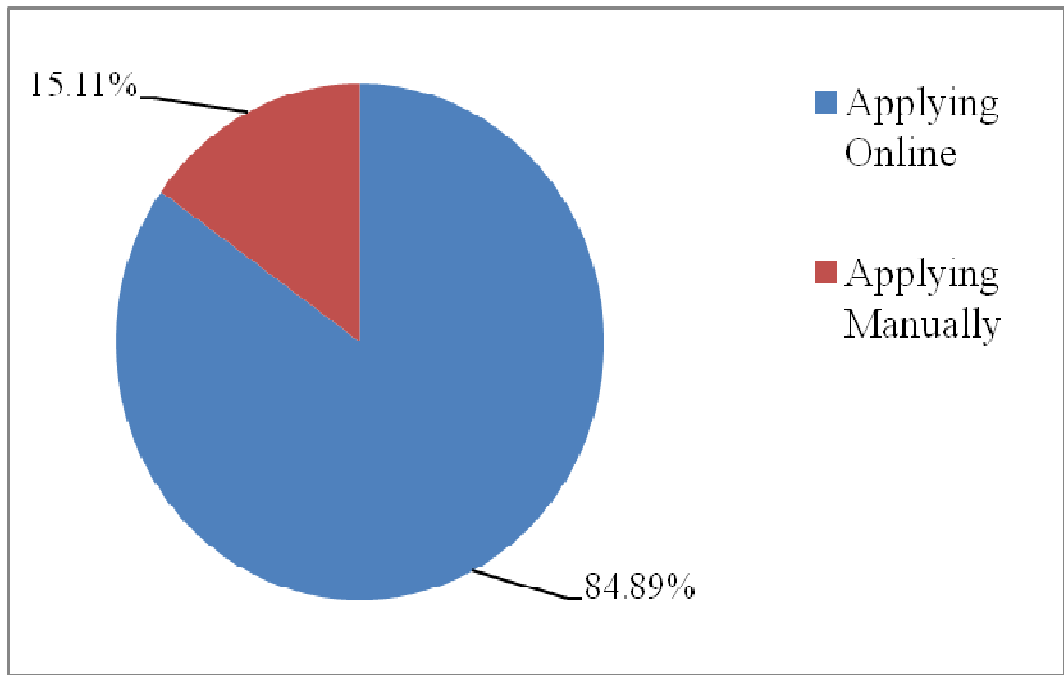
**Figure 4.19: Awareness of Documents to Apply for Post-Matric Scholarship**

The figure above shows that most of the beneficiary students (84%) were aware of the documents required to apply for the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Proper awareness was found in almost all States with a significant share of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Daman and Diu, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Sikkim, Odisha and Assam. Poor

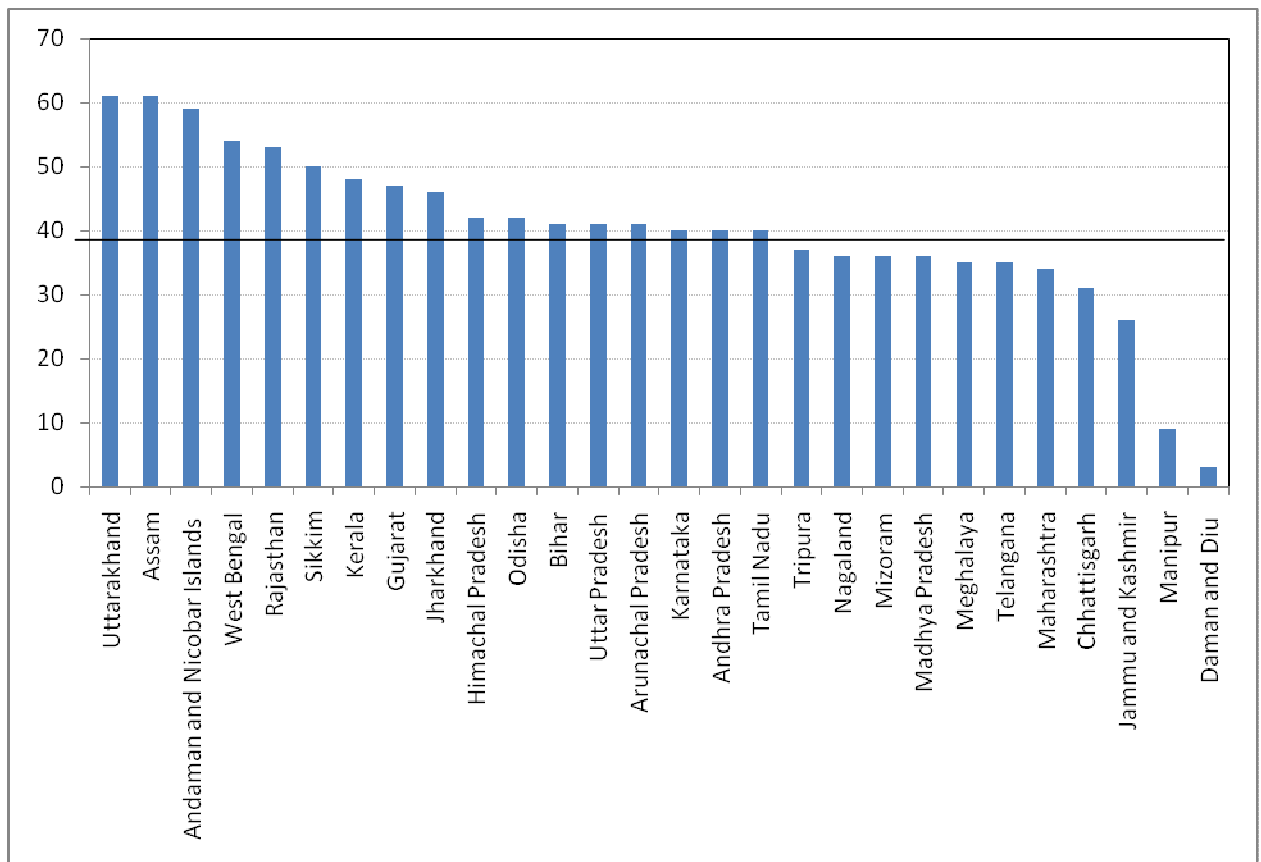
advertisement enabled deficit in awareness of documents required was noticed in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Lack of proper awareness was expressed in Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, J&K, Sikkim and AP, and inapt motivation in J&K and UP. The information about the required documents is to be disseminated in such a way that no room for rectification or improvement rests.

#### **4.3.5 Mode of Application in the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Application with required documents could be submitted to the institution from where the pool of beneficiary was generated. The application could be submitted manually or online. The beneficiary database was to be integrated with UID numbers using UIDAI enabled bank account for crediting the scholarships. Though there was no bar on manual submission of applications, institution wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for the award of the scholarships was to be displayed on the website of NIC. In the submission of applications, the role of publicity and institutions are crucial. The following details were garnered with regard to submission of the applications: 84.89% beneficiaries applied online and the remaining 15.11% were found completed manually. Except for Goa where submission was totally manual, in the 28 States and UTs, beneficiaries were applying both online and manually. Average beneficiary applying online from these 28 States and UTs was 40. States and UTs where sample beneficiaries were above the average of 40 are 14, namely Uttarakhand, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Kerala, Gujarat, Jharkhand, HP, Odisha, Bihar, UP, and Arunachal Pradesh. While 16 beneficiaries at an average were applying manually from 16 States & UTs wherein 4 States & UTs had manual applications more than the average of 16, these were Goa, Daman & Diu, Manipur, & J&K.



**Figure 4.20: Mode of Application in the Post-Matric Scholarship**



Average Sample size 40

**Figure 4.21: State-wise Mode of Application in the Post-Matric Scholarship**

### 4.3.6 Category of Students eligible for Post-Matric Scholarship

The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme is quite flexible in its nature and apart from regular students, it invites applications from the correspondence as well as students who are employed; and girls who are married but unemployed. Contrastingly, only 0.30 % of students were found to be employed in petty or part-time jobs to help their parents and 0.38% of students found to take the benefit of the scholarship via correspondence. However, we could not find any girl student who was pursuing her career after marriage and was getting the scholarship. During the FGD, it was shared by the girl students as well as the principals that the scholarship was one of the major push factors that the ST girls were getting permission from their parents to study further; else they would have got married at an early age.

**Table 4.18: Post-Matric Student Category and their Responses**

Student Category	Percent of Responses		
	Yes	No	Total
Employed	0.30	99.70	<b>100</b>
Correspondence	0.38	99.62	<b>100</b>
Married but unemployed girls	0	100	<b>100</b>

### 4.3.7 Provision of Hostel Facility in Post-Matric Scholarship

The hostel is one of the most important aspects of Post-Matric Scholarship that the study has covered. Scholarship holders can stay in hostels. If they stay in the hostels, they are entitled to receive increased scholarship amount as well as improved additional benefits. In fact, the intention behind providing the hostel facility is to accommodate ST students who live in far off villages. The opportunity costs involved in covering distance can be used as improved input to enhance their performance score. Out of all the beneficiary respondents, 22% of them stayed in hostels but only 9.52% of them resided in Institutional hostel. The rest 11.48% of them were either staying outside as paying guests or in private hostels run by other agencies for which the hostel component of scholarship was insufficient and therefore, they were bearing the additional financial burden. Only 19.03% of students agreed that the hostels were the places for study and helped them. On the contrary, 81% found it was not helpful.

**Table 4.19: Hostel Category and Stay of Post-Matric Beneficiary**

Residing in Hostel	Percent of Responses	Type of Hostel	Percent of Responses	Helping in Education	Percent of Responses
Yes	22.00	Institutions Hostel	9.52	Yes	19.03
No	78.00	Other	11.48	No	80.97
Total	100.00%	Total	22.00%	Total	100.00

### 4.3.8 Responses on Other than Post Matric Scholarship Benefit

On enquiring further about the scholarship that if any student getting additional scholarship or benefit, the majority of the beneficiary students (85.35%) negatively responded on it. In fact, 74.40% of students complained that the scholarship amount was hardly sufficient to cover the cost of books or admission fee. They expressed that the scholarship amount did not cover the entire study cost which included uniform, travel, hostel fee, books, stationary etc. However, 14.65 % of students said that they got some extra benefits from local bodies like Gram Panchayats or local NGO's facilitating them with free books, uniform and monitory help.

**Table 4.20: Post Matric Scholarship Beneficiaries Receiving Other Support**

Getting any other scholarship or benefit	Percent of Responses	Covers entire study cost	Percent of Responses
Yes	14.65	Yes	25.60
No	85.35	No	74.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### 4.3.9 Differently Able Beneficiaries Availing Post-Matric Scholarship

To provide equal opportunities to differently-able students, the Post-Matric scheme is embedded with additional benefits for the beneficiaries. The benefits cover their fees, added allowances such as escort, special pay, extra coaching, transport allowances etc. Out of the total beneficiary students, 99.9% of respondents belonged to able category and only one student from Chattisgarh was found to be receiving the scholarship under the category of orthopedically challenged. He was getting the escort allowance of Rs. 100/- per month. This again leaves a room for scepticism on the information dissemination of the scheme. Perhaps, more disable beneficiaries should have been covered. This conveys that the coverage of scholarship for disabled students is possibly inapt.

**Table 4.21: Able and Disable Post-Matric Beneficiary Students**

Abled/ Differently Abled	Percent of Responses
Abled	99.99
Differently Abled	0.01
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.3.10 Mode of Disbursal of Post-Matric Scholarship

Mostly the mode of disbursal of scholarship was found in DBT mode, 96% students had their bank accounts and 4% students from states like Andaman and Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal received in their parents' account. Though the online transaction has been placed to maintain transparency and improved accountability in the whole system to ensure the money reaches directly to the beneficiary. According to institutional heads, as the information from the online system is accessed by beneficiary concerned, it was difficult to prepare the yearly data of students receiving the scholarship. In fact, the disbursement of Post Matric Scholarship requires institutional heads to be taken in the loop, so that they could know, the precise number of beneficiaries receiving the scholarship.

**Table 4.22: Mode of Post-Matric Scholarship Disbursal**

<b>Mode of disbursal</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Yes	96
No	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.3.11 The usefulness of Post-Matric Scholarship

On probing further about the scholarship when asked if it was helpful in continuing the education, or was it proving real support to the tribal students, 81% nodded yes and shared that even if it was a small amount, it contributed them to minimize the financial burden of their parents. It also boosts their confidence and they are happy that the government continues this scheme. On the contrary, during the survey, we came across many students who were not happy about the amount of the scholarship, as the cost of education is much higher than the benefits induced in the scheme. Their family size is big; the economic background is very poor and the cost of living is high. As a result, 19% of the beneficiaries stated that it was not helping them at all for mainly two main reasons. The first reason is about their disappointment on untimely payment (11.33%) and second is the insufficient amount (17.75%). In fact, the money reaches in their accounts after the completion of an academic year regardless of the fact that it should be payable on 1<sup>st</sup> April or in the month of admission. Due to the gap in disbursal period, some of the students from Karnataka shared that they took loans from SHG's which they kept paying for 2-3 years in installments.

**Table 4.23: Perception of the Usefulness of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

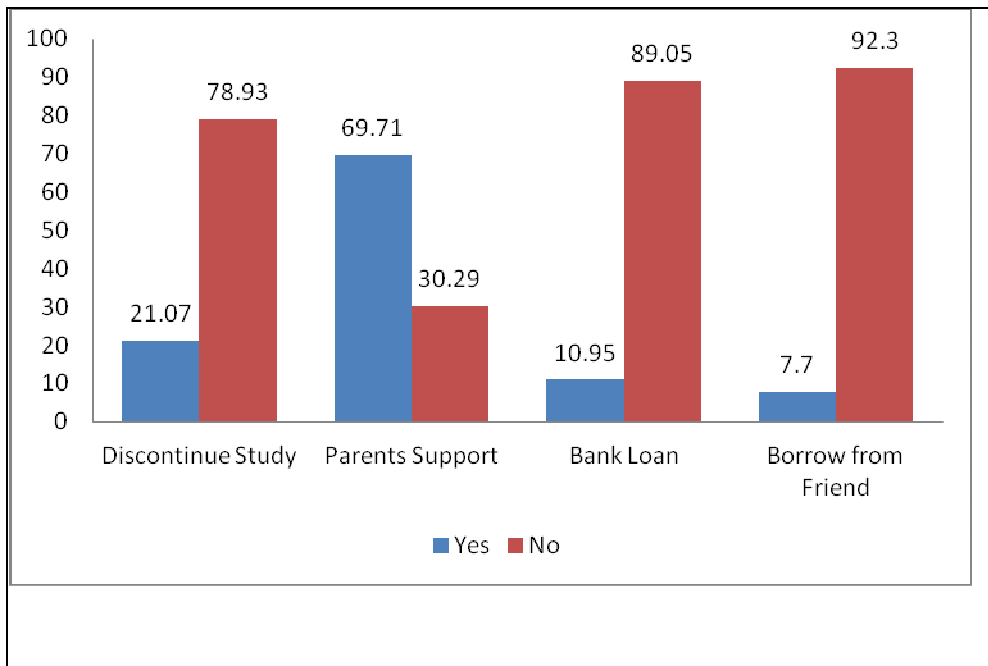
<b>Helpful to continue education</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>	<b>Not helpful- Untimely Payment</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>	<b>Not helpful - Insufficient Amount</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Yes	81	Yes	11.33	Yes	17.75
No	19	No	88.67	No	82.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.3.12 Impact of the Post-Matric Scholarship**

To study the impact, need and significance of the Post-Matric Scholarship, it was asked, “Had they not received the scholarship, whether they would have continued the study?” The result came out to be surprising as well as satisfactory at many levels because 69.71% replied that their parents would have supported them to study. Adding to this, there were students who expressed that because their parents could not manage to pay for their studies they would have taken educational loans from banks (10.95%) and some (7.7%) said that they borrowed money from their friends but they would not have left their studies at any cost. This picture demonstrates that the ST students have the zeal to study and absence of scholarship is not effective to the extent that they stop pursuing their career dreams. Yet, 21.07% of students stated that the scholarship is the only way out for them to study and in the absence of the scheme, they will have to discontinue their studies.

**Table 4.24: Alternative Supports in Post-Matric Scholarship and Completion of Education**

<b>Discontinue Study</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>	<b>Parents Support</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>	<b>Bank Loan</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>	<b>Borrow from Friend</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Yes	21.07	Yes	69.71	Yes	10.95	Yes	7.70
No	78.93	No	30.29	No	89.05	No	92.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>



**Figure 4.22: Bar Chart Showing Support in Post-Matric Scholarship**

#### **4.3.13 Suggestions of Beneficiaries on Post-Matric Scholarship**

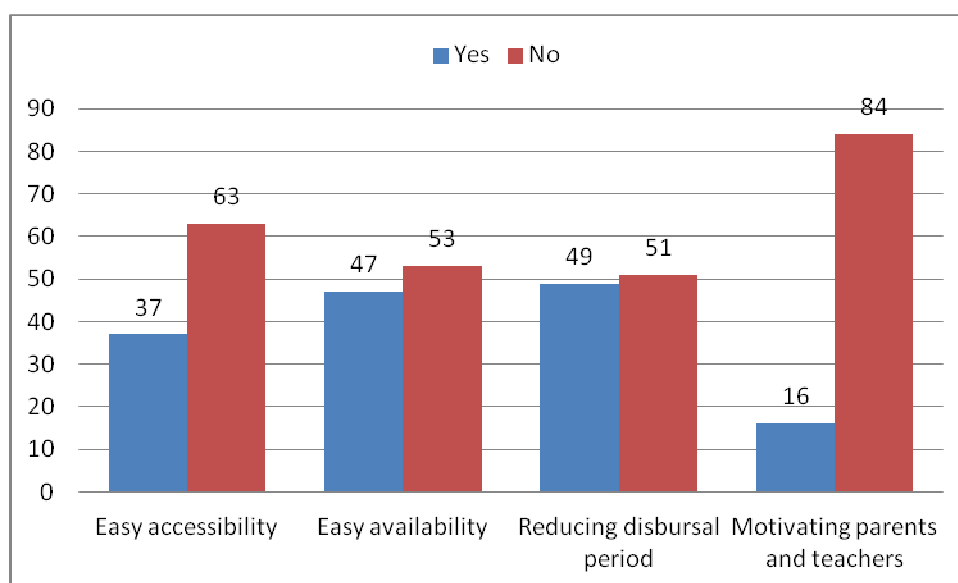
To take the perspective of beneficiaries for improving the effectiveness of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, the questionnaire had provision to take their inputs on suggested options additionally. The responses analysed varied from easy accessibility to easy availability to motivating parents to teachers to reducing the disbursement period. 37% of beneficiaries want that scheme to be easily accessible whereas 47% of the respondents desired that it should be easily available as they encounter issues related to income certificate, caste certificate, availability of internet and access to continue with zero balance banking facility. Majorly this reply came from Andaman and Nicobar Island, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Rajasthan in descending order.

In addition, 52% of the ST students expressed that they got the scholarship amount at the end of the academic session, rather on commencement of next session and thus its disbursement period should be improved so that they availed its benefits when it was needed. Mostly, the respondents mostly were from Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh in decreasing order. 16% of the beneficiaries felt, their parents and teachers should be motivated enough to encourage them to apply for the scholarship. This brings-in important role of parents and teachers in responding and implementing the scheme, respectively.

Apart from the above suggestions, other important suggestions were received from about 20% of the beneficiaries of different states. For instance, most of the beneficiaries from Tripura suggested that the scholarship amount should be enhanced which followed the students of Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Maharashtra. Suggestions like the process should be simple; internet connectivity should be effective, awareness and income ceiling to be improved.

**Table 4.25: Suggestions of Beneficiaries for Post Matric Scholarship**

Easy accessibility	Percent of Responses	Easy availability	Percent of Responses	Reducing disbursal period	Percent of Responses	Motivating parents & teachers	Percent of Responses
Yes	37	Yes	47	Yes	52	Yes	16
No	63	No	53	No	48	No	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



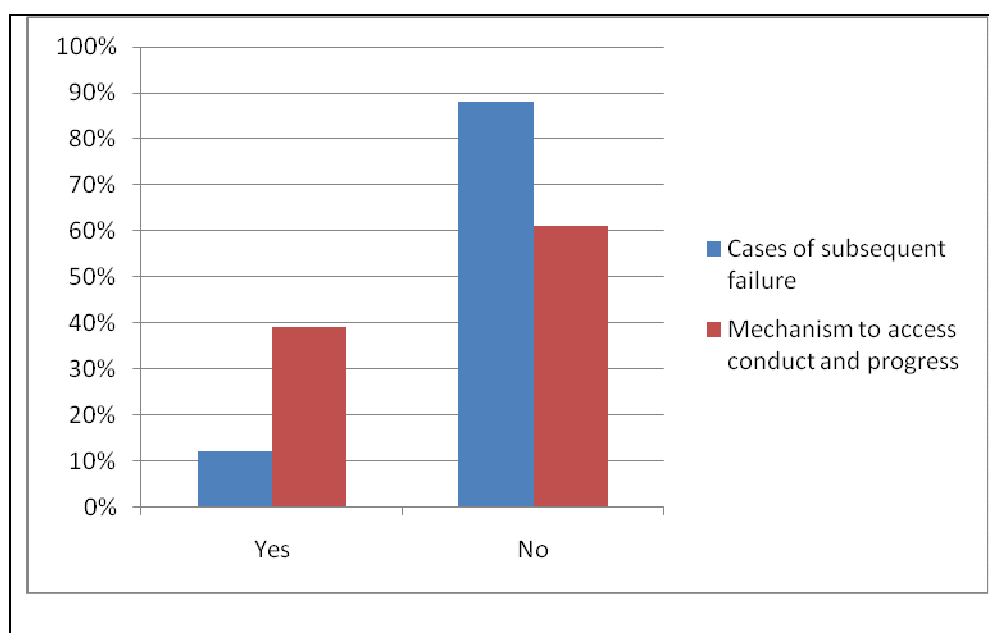
**Figure 4.23: Suggestions Shared by Post Matric Beneficiary Students**

#### **4.3.14 Feedback of Institution Heads on Post Matric Scheme**

Conditions to continue with the Scholarship, to a beneficiary are expected to produce satisfactory progress and maintain good conduct. In the absence of any one of the two conditions, the scholarship can be withheld. On asking the principals of the selected Institutions/institutes about any such case of misconduct or subsequent failure in the past, 88 % principals opined “No”. Remaining 12 % of the principals responded with some cases of

failures. On further probing on “if they have any mechanism to assess the conduct and progress”, 39% of the principals said “yes”. They keep an eye on the behaviour and progress of students by settling up one disciplinary committee, surprise checks, mentoring the students, having one to one discussion, regular assessment and so on. 61% of the principals did not have any such mechanism as shown in the table as well as a graphical representation. However, most of them shared that these tribal students were very simple and easy going and did not involve in any kind of mischievous act.

**Table 4.26: Case of Subsequent Failure in Post Matric Scholarship Scheme**



**Figure 4.24: Case of Subsequent Failure for Post Matric Beneficiaries**

#### 4.3.15 Satisfied with the Performance of Post Matric Beneficiary Students

In the Post Matric scholarship scheme, the award once made is tenable from the stage at which it is given to the completion, of course, subject to good conduct and regularity in attendance. It is renewed from year to year provided that within a course which is continuous for a number of years, the scholar secures promotion to the next higher class irrespective of the fact whether

<b>Cases of subsequent failure</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>	<b>Mechanism to Access conduct and progress</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Yes	12	Yes	39
No	88	No	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

such examinations are conducted by the university or the Institutions. If a scheduled tribe scholar is pursuing Group I course and fails in the examination for the first time, the award may be renewed. For second and subsequent failure in any class, the student shall bear his/her own

expenses until he/she secures promotion to the next higher class. If a scholar is unable to appear at the annual examination owing to illness and /or on account of any other unforeseeable event, the award may be renewed for the next academic year on submission of medical certificate and/or other required sufficient proof to the satisfaction of the head of the institution and his/her certifying that the scholar has passed. If according to the Regulations of a University/Institution, a student is promoted to the next higher class even though he/she may not have actually passed out the lower class and required to take the examination of the junior class again after some time. Thus, he/she will be entitled to a scholarship for the class to which he/she is promoted if the student is otherwise eligible for the scholarship. This is largely inferred from the perception of principals shared on the performance of students.

**Table 4.27: Performance of Post Matric Beneficiary Students by Principal’s Response**

<b>Satisfied with the Students Performance</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Yes	85
No	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

When the question was raised to the principals whether they were satisfied with the academic performance of the tribal students, astoundingly 85% principals assented. They explained about their satisfaction. The principals referred to students as naïve and peace-loving. It was also reported that with hardships of survival and added liabilities. They qualify with an average percentage. The flipside side of the coin is that 15% of the principals said that they were not satisfied at all. In their point of view, these ST students take this scheme for granted and hardly focus on their studies. The beneficiaries knew that their scholarship would be renewed.

#### **4.3.16 Awareness of the Structure and Procedure of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Most of the beneficiaries were aware of the structure and procedure of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. They also knew the required documents to be enclosed with the scholarship applications. In fact, the scholarship is given for the study of all recognized Post-secondary courses pursued in recognized institutions with the exception that it was not awarded for training like aircraft Maintenance Engineer’s Courses and Private Pilot License courses, courses at training-Ship Dufferin (Now Rajendra), courses of training at the Military College, Dehradun and courses at Pre-examination training centers of all India and State levels. The scholarship is given from the domiciled states. Candidates after passing one stage of education are studying in the same stage of education in a different subject e.g. I. Sc. After IA or B. Com after BA or MA in other subject are not eligible. Having completed their educational career in one professional

course, wish to study for another profession viz. LLB after B.T/B. Ed is not eligible. From the Academic year 1980-81, studies in two professional courses were allowed. Students studying in class XI of higher Secondary Schools who continued school course of 12<sup>th</sup> class are not eligible. In the case where the X class examination of such courses is treated as equivalent to Matriculation and students after passing tenth class can join other courses such students are treated as Post-Matric students and will be eligible for the award of scholarships. Students pursuing Post-graduate courses in medicine are eligible if they are not allowed to practice during the period of their courses. Students who after failing or passing the undergraduate/Postgraduate examinations in Arts/Science/Commerce join any recognized professional or technical certificate/diploma/degree courses are awarded the scholarship if otherwise eligible. No subsequent failure is condoned except courses in Group I and no further change in the courses are allowed. Students who pursue their studies through correspondence course are also eligible. The term correspondence includes distant and continuing education. Employed students who take leave without pay for the entire duration of the course and study as full-time students are eligible for the scholarship. There are other structural features and procedures mentioned in the scheme which was attempted to know whether beneficiary students are aware of or not:

**Table 4.28: Awareness about the Structures and Procedures of the Post Matric Scheme**

<b>Aware of the structure and procedure of Scholarship</b>	<b>Percent of Responses</b>
Yes	91
No	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The table represents that 91% of the principals replied that they are aware of the complete structure and procedure, 9% of them clearly refused. They were from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. To principals, beneficiaries students have many indomitable responsibilities and it is not possible to follow the guidelines of the scheme. Therefore they have a dedicated staff for the purpose that takes care of anything related to the Post-Matric Scholarship. As per our observation principals who even said 'yes' did not have any technical knowledge about the implementation of the scheme.

#### **4.3.17 Feedback of State Nodal Officers on Post Matric Scheme**

In the entire implementation process, the role of State Nodal officers is important. The compliance to central assistance, beneficiary target to be covered, NIC based customized

training, setting up of GRO etc. are some of the essential functions to be undertaken by the State nodal officer.

**Table 4.29: Compliance to the GOI and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Items	%age of Responses	
	Yes	No
Utilization Certificate of Previous Year & release grant	83	17
Details of the committed liability of the state in the Performa	69	31
Physical progress achieved during the last financial year.	90	10
Preparedness of the state to roll out the DBT	86	14
Digitalization of Beneficiary database & convert data in excel sheets	86	14
Ensured ST Beneficiary has bank accounts & seeded with Aadhar Payment Bridge (APB).	69	31

The above table represents whether the states furnished the information related to uploading of Post Matric Scholarship to ministry in time. The Utilization Certificate of the previous year and release grant was sent by 83% of the State Officials while 17% of the officers from Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand did not send their UC's till the time of the survey. 69% officials ensured that details of the committed liability of the state are sent to the Ministry and beneficiaries have bank accounts and linked with APB while 31% of the state officers could not ensure any of these financial aspects. As far as the physical progress achieved during the last financial year is concerned, which is a total number of actual beneficiaries covered, 90% of the State Nodal Officials were able to send the details to the Ministry except Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir. For preparedness of the state to roll out the DBT and digitalization of beneficiary database and covert data in excel sheets, 86% of the beneficiaries said 'yes' and they have ensured it 14% of the state officials could not furnish the information, as prescribed by the scheme.

**Table 4.30: Designated GRO, Response shared by State Nodal Officers and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Designated GRO	% of Response
Yes	62
No	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Response to the question of availability of dedicated grievance redressal officer at the state level was responded 'yes' by 62% State Nodal Officers. They shared that the department has a full-time officer who looks after the issues and problems faced by the students and ensures to

address it timely. Though 38% of the officers expressed their helplessness for not appointing a dedicated person to attend the grievances, due to dedicated fund deficit, they made it clear that the senior officers at the state level took care of the responsibility.

#### 4.3.18 Challenges faced by the Post-Matric beneficiaries

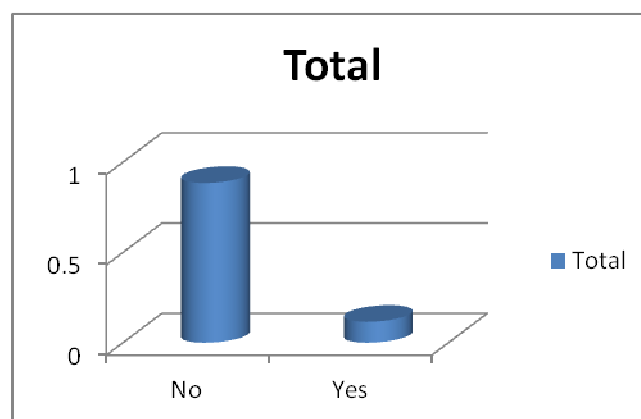
State officials' viewpoint on the challenges faced by the beneficiaries was as follows: 72% of the State nodal officers opined that they face a different kind of problems. The issues faced by them were mainly related to income and caste certificate, less or no information about the scheme and its procedure resulting into delayed applications, ineffective cooperation from institutions or banks and internet related problems were flagged on.

**Table 4.31: Response on the Challenges faced by the Beneficiaries**

Any challenges faced by the beneficiaries?	Percent of Responses
Yes	72
No	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

According to the conditions for the continuation of the award the scholarship is awarded only after the satisfactory progress and conduct of the students. In the absence of any, the scholarship can be cancelled. On asking about any such case of misconduct or subsequent failure to the principals of the selected schools/institutes 88.46 % said no followed by 11.54 % who told us about some cases of failures as shown in the table as well as a graphical representation.

**Table 4.32: Condition for Continuation of Post Matric Scholarship**



**Table 4.33: Cases of Subsequent failures in Post Matric Beneficiaries**

Cases of Subsequent Failure In Schools/Colleges	Percent of Responses
Yes	11.54
No	88.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Under the Group I, Commercial Pilot License (CPL) course, 10 candidates per annum can be awarded and the selection is made through Directorate General of Civil Aviation. For the surveyed year 2018-19 the state officials shared that they have not awarded CPL scholarship to any ST candidate except the State Officer of Manipur who shared the information that two CPLs were given a few years back. This clearly indicates that there is a gap in the information dissemination system, as only basic information about the scholarship is given to the institutes and beneficiaries. The awareness level about the CPL course is below average, as only a few people knew that such course is there.

**Table 4.34: Students Under CPL Course**

Students under CPL Course: Commercial Pilot License	Percent of Responses
No	96.43
Yes	3.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.3.19 Feedback Shared by Non-Beneficiaries on Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

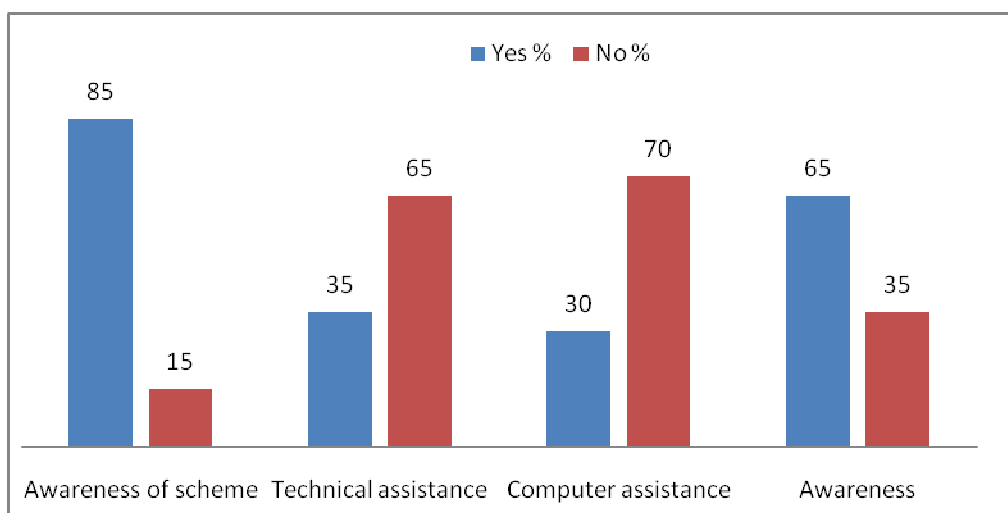
The improvement in the scheme can be brought out only when the critical feedback of non-beneficiaries is considered.

**Table 4.35: Feedback of Non-Beneficiaries in Post-Matric Scholarship**

Awareness about the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme	% of Response	Technical Assistance	% of Response	Computer Assistance	% of Response	Awareness	% of Response
Yes	85	Yes	35	Yes	30	Yes	65
No	15	No	65	No	70	No	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The sample size of Post-Matric Scholarship also included ST students who were not availing the benefits of the scheme. The intention was to know why they were not getting the scholarship and their perspective about the scheme. On asking whether they were aware of the scheme, 85% of the ST students said 'yes' because their classmates were among the beneficiaries.

A small proportion of non-beneficiaries (15%) did not have any knowledge about the Present scheme. Students who replied on awareness about the scheme said that they would apply for the next academic session and expressed their need for assistance while applying for the scholarship. 35% of the respondents wanted technical assistance to apply for the scholarship and the almost same number of students (30%) wanted computer assistance while online submitting of their applications. 65% of the ST non-beneficiaries wished to have more awareness about the Scholarship Scheme with respect to the application process.



**Figure 4.25: Feedback of Non-Beneficiaries on the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme**

The feedback given by non-beneficiaries for the Post-Matric Scholarship was based on their personal experience and feedback from their friends/classmates. In their point of view, the awareness about the scheme, its procedure, eligibility criteria and available courses needed to be improved, as many of ST students still were ignorant. In continuation to it, they said that the Tribal Welfare Department needs to be more supportive and helping to all the students for getting the benefits of the scholarship. Apart from this, suggestions like - overall process should be made easier and less time taking, escalation in the scholarship amount and timely disbursement were some of the major concerns.

## 4.4 Additional Parameters

### a) Coverage of Beneficiaries

For the centrally sponsored scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Needy Scheduled Tribe Students Studying in Class IX and X, the coverage of beneficiary are as under:

**Table 4.36: Coverage of Pre Matric Beneficiaries in Districts and States by Gender**

<b>State/District</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>57</b>
Andaman	22	15	37
Nicobar	9	11	20
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>
Vishakhapatnam	20	0	20
Vizianagaram	12	8	20
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>
Papum Pare	11	11	22
<b>Assam</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
Baksa	10	10	20
Dhemaji	10	10	20
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>
Katihar	9	10	19
Purnea	8	13	21
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>35</b>
Bilaspur	15	10	25
Rajnandgaon	5	5	10
<b>Daman and Diu</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>70</b>
Daman	27	13	40
Diu	19	11	30
<b>Goa</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>40</b>
North Goa	11	9	20
South Goa	10	10	20
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>57</b>
Dahod	16	21	37
Valsad	10	10	20
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>
Chamba	5	5	10
Key Long	7	7	14
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
Kathua	5	5	10
Sambha	0	1	1
<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>
Paschim Singhbhum	4	15	19
Ranchi	14	6	20
<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>
Ballari	14	4	18
Mysore	14	6	20
<b>Kerala</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>
Kasaragod	10	12	22
Wayanad	10	9	19
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>49</b>

<b>State/District</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Dhar	24	13	37
Jhabua	7	5	12
<b>Manipur</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>
Senapati	10	10	20
Ukhrool	4	3	7
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
East Khasi Hills	0	3	3
West Jaintia Hills	6	0	6
<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>
Aizwal	23	16	39
<b>Nagaland</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
Mokokchung	10	10	20
Zunheboto	10	10	20
<b>Odisha</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>46</b>
Mayurbhanj	11	11	22
Sundargarh	12	12	24
<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42</b>
Banswara	10	11	21
Dungarpur	10	11	21
<b>Sikkim</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
East	11	1	12
North Sikkim	5	4	9
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>
Namakkal	5	15	20
Salem	25	5	30
<b>Telangana</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>
Bhadradri Kothagudam	1	1	2
Khammam	3	4	7
Ranga Reddy	15	3	18
<b>Tripura</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>
Gomati	13	13	26
West Tripura	12	1	13
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>
Deoria	12	9	21
Sonbhadra	14	4	18
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>95</b>
Dehradun	5	12	17
Udham Singh Nagar	36	42	78
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>56</b>
Bankura	12	17	29
Jhargram	23	4	27
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1133</b>

The table above shows gender-wise coverage of beneficiary students in States and District. The sample covers 56.1% of the female students whereas male students' accounts for 43.9% of the total beneficiaries covered in the study. The four states where the coverage of female beneficiary are more than 60% include Andhra Pradesh (80%), Karnataka (73.7%), Meghalaya (66.7%), and Daman and Diu (65.7%). The states where coverage of less than 50% female beneficiary are Bihar (42.5%), Jammu and Kashmir (45.5%), Gujarat (45.6%), Jharkhand (46.2%), Rajasthan (47.6%) and Kerala (48.8%).

For the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to the Students belonging to Scheduled Tribes for Studies in India, the coverage of beneficiary is as under:

**Table 4.37: Coverage of Post Matric Beneficiaries in Districts and States by Gender**

S.No.	State	District	Beneficiaries		
			Girls	Boys	Total
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman	23	32	75
		Nicobar	13	7	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	10	10	40
		Vizianagaram	10	10	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Papum Pare	18	24	42
4.	Assam	Dhemaji	16	15	62
		Kokrajhar	13	18	
5.	Bihar	Katihar	10	10	41
		Purnea	10	11	
6.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	11	3	31
		Rajnandgaon	17	0	
7.	Daman and Diu	Daman	18	6	47
		Diu	10	13	
8.	Goa	North Goa	10	10	60
		South Goa	22	18	
9.	Gujarat	Dahod	12	15	47
		Valsad	10	10	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	6	9	42
		Kinnaur	12	15	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag	8	10	46
		Jammu	13	15	
12.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	8	12	47
		West Singhbhum	20	7	
13.	Karnataka	Ballari	14	13	51
		Mysore	14	10	
14.	Kerala	Kasaragod	15	14	59
		Wayanad	15	15	
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	10	1	37

S.No.	State	District	Beneficiaries		
			Girls	Boys	Total
		Jhabua	14	12	
16.	Maharashtra	Nashik	8	9	34
		Thane	8	9	
17.	Manipur	Senapati	5	5	33
		Ukhrul	15	8	
18.	Meghalaya	Shillong	9	7	35
		West Jaintia Hills	11	8	
19.	Mizoram	Aizwal	18	20	38
20.	Nagaland	Dimapur	11	10	41
		Kohima	10	10	
21.	Odisha	Mayurbhanj	11	9	42
		Sundergarh	15	7	
22.	Rajasthan	Dausa	6	27	53
		Jaipur	10	10	
23.	Sikkim	East Sikkim	20	18	50
		South Sikkim	8	4	
24.	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal	20	0	40
		Salem	10	10	
25.	Telangana	Bhadrachalam	10	8	36
		Ranga reddy	6	12	
26.	Tripura	West Tripura	32	6	38
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Ballia	10	10	42
		Sonbhadra	17	5	
28.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	5	4	61
		Udham Singh Nagar	33	19	
29.	West Bengal	Bankura	21	11	54
		Jhargram	13	9	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1324</b>

The study covers a sample of 54.7% of female beneficiaries whereas 45.3% of male beneficiaries. The three states where the coverage of beneficiary girls was more than 70% were Chattisgarh (90%), Tripura (84%), and TamilNadu (75%). States, where girl beneficiaries covered, in the range of 60% to 70 % were Uttar Pradesh (64%), West Bengal (63%), Uttarakhand & Odisha (62% each), Manipur (61%), Daman&Diu and Jharkand (60% each). The states where coverage of female beneficiaries in the range of 50% to 60% were Meghalaya (57%), Sikkim (56%); Karnataka (55%) Goa (53%), and Kerala and Nagaland (51% each). In the remaining 11 states, female beneficiaries were less than 50%.

## b) Implementation Mechanism

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India is the nodal agency for Preparing the guidelines, release of funds, monitoring the progress of implementation etc. for the centrally sponsored scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for needy Scheduled Tribe Students studying in Class IX and X; and the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to the Students belonging to Scheduled tribes for Studies in India. At the State level, Tribal Departments execute the scheme.

In the study area, it was observed that the schemes are being implemented through the project Officers of ITDAs/ITDPs/District Welfare Officers (DWOs). The district-level officers cogently informed that scholarships are disbursed through the online process to concerned beneficiary students. The beneficiary students are required to open a bank account which is seeded through Aadhar verification in order to ensure that the flow of funds to the beneficiaries under the scheme did not get trapped in redundant layers. The information pertaining to publicity part is suitably placed in outcome/output indicators. Indeed, the renewal of scholarship compulsorily requires 75% attendance of beneficiaries concerned. In some of the States, it has been found that the Tribal Department arranges the resource on an ad-hoc basis using State budget. In Uttar Pradesh, the Scholarship schemes are continuing through the State. However, the surplus amount has also been reported after the disbursement of State implemented scheme of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme.

#### **c) Training Capacity Building of Administrators/Facilities**

For effective implementation of both Pre and Post Matric Scheme, NIC coordinates training of State/District level functionaries. The provision of training in the successful implementation of the schemes is required because it informs the measures for any execution-related shortfalls. On the basis of states and district surveyed, the required training was not given. The scheme implementing officials should be fully aware of structure, design and modus operandi. The apt coordination among institution, district and State needs to be worked upon. Considering the needs of the scheme, a customized training programme is required to be organized to keep implementing agencies abreast of the scheme as well as interventions.

#### **d) IEC Activities**

The Information, Education & Communication (IEC) strategy aims to create awareness and disseminate information regarding the benefits available under Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and to guide the prospective beneficiaries on how to access them. The objective is also to encourage building-up of target-oriented behaviour among

the beneficiaries more in keeping with the focus on continuing with education with better performance. The IEC strategy has catered to the tribal communities to access the information regarding incentives to the scheme and encouraged them to be active participants.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs vouches for publicity before the commencement of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for the needy beneficiaries. The use of local print media can enhance the outreach of the programme in those pockets of the tribal area where information is possibly not through. TV, Radio, Social Media, a dedicated notice board for Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship can improve meaningful efficacy. The triangular attempts should be laid down from Center, State and Districts to publicize the scheme. The aim of such advertisements is not only to encourage people to adopt a positive approach but also to raise awareness and disseminate information regarding availability and access to financial support for the needy scheduled tribe students. Repetitive announcements regarding scholarship schemes can enhance the coverage of the said scheme.

**e) Asset /Service Creation & Its Maintenance Plan**

Both Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes have helped the needy tribal children to continue their education.

**Table 4.38: Total Coverage of Beneficiaries in 2014-18 for Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Year	Beneficiaries		Total
	Pre-Matric	Post-Matric	
2014-15	1213318	2037448	3250766
2015-16	1262068	2033741	3295809
2016-17	1134167	18513388	19647555
2017-18	1407967	1931117	3339084
<b>Total</b>	<b>5017520</b>	<b>24515694</b>	<b>29533214</b>

A total of 29,53,3214 Pre and Post Matric beneficiaries have been covered in the last four years i.e. 2014-18. Out of the total beneficiaries covered, 2,45,156,94 beneficiaries have been benefited under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme whereas 5,01,7520 beneficiaries under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. As a result of the implementation of the schemes, the students have completed their education, and have become an asset to the nation. Side by side, the human resource deployed staff members have got jobs and contributing to the implementation of the schemes. Since education is one of the indicators in human development, they have been mainstreamed.

**f) Benefits (Individual/Community)**

The scholarship schemes have benefitted individuals and communities in many ways. First, individuals after learning knowledge can make use of the acquired potentials to get a job in the public and private sectors. Second, the scholarship amount has reduced the financial burden of the parents. Third, in the absence of scholarship, wretched socio-economic conditions of parents could have forced their children to work as child labour. Fourth, the Post Matric scholarship has enabled the female beneficiaries to continue their education even after marriage.

Though the scheme's benefits have been harvested by the needy ST beneficiaries of Pre and Post Matric Scholarships, the intensity of benefits accrued has to be in agreement with the need of the hour. Therefore, in order to enhance the efficacy of both Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, we need to ensure the fund disbursement to beneficiaries account in a timely manner ascertaining judicious use of remittance. This would elevate beneficiaries from any invisible duress and facilitating them to continue with improved scholastic academic activities.

**g) Convergence with Scheme of Own Ministry/Department or of Other Ministry/Department**

The schemes are distinct but their operation depends on situational conditions. The situational conditions are like availability of teachers who can teach in the tribal language, Presence of required infrastructure at Institutions, the effective school ecosystem, quality teachers, and so on. In order to ensure that the objectives of the schemes are met, we need to lay down a framework within which an effective education system can operate. The convergence with different relevant HRD schemes may be expedited.

**4.5. Gaps in Achievement of Outcome**

1. A substantial gap in the publicity part of Pre-Matric and Post Matric Scholarship schemes was identified because only 4.9 % of Pre-Matric beneficiaries received the information about the announcement of the scheme through local newspapers. Hence, the identified gap turns out to be 95.1% of the responses shared by the beneficiary students. In addition to this, 17% of the beneficiaries did not know about the documents required to apply for the scholarship.
2. Although the government introduced and made it mandatory to process the applications online in all the states and UTs but still Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are processed manually in Goa.

3. Many states/UTs are still not able to furnish the important financial and other information to the ministry in time. For example, Utilization Certificate (UC) of Previous year & release grant, details of the committed liability, physical progress achieved during the last financial year, the preparedness of the state to roll out the DBT, digitalization of beneficiary database and covert data in excel sheets, APB etc. have confronted with innumerable challenges. Though such cases are not rampant, it requires to be flushed out completely through effective measures.
4. As per the scheme 100% beneficiary students should have bank accounts seeded with Aadhar Payment Bridge and the scholarship amount should have been transferred directly to the accounts of the students. Around 94.4% Pre-Matric students and 96% of Post-Matric students getting the scholarship in their bank account in lieu of 100%.
5. Approximately 90% of the students are getting the benefits of the scholarship however; we came across and interviewed many students who were not availing the benefits of the schemes in spite of applying in time. Consequently, there is a gap in achieving the 100% target.
6. In Post-Matric Scholarship, about 68% of the students renewed their applications and the rest 32% got the scholarship for the first time. It indicates the gap that even after qualifying class 12<sup>th</sup> many of the students did not get the opportunity to renew their scholarship.

#### **4.6 Key Bottlenecks & Challenges**

Both the Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme have some bottlenecks and challenges, which not only hinders the overall progress of the scheme but also needs to be tackled by taking up corrective measures. The first and foremost issue is the information dissemination system about the scheme in Pre as well as in the Post-Matric Scholarship. It was observed that the awareness level of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders such as state and district officials, schools and institutions were very rudimentary and they were not fully aware of the whole structure, procedure, eligibility etc. about the scheme. There was a lack of awareness on documents required for the application. Also, not many correspondence and disable students were found availing the benefits of the schemes, which was due to lack of information. Hence, the student beneficiaries had to rely on the information given by the institutes. Though institutes are playing a good role in last-mile dissemination, their efficacy needs to be intensified.

Another challenge faced by the beneficiaries and other stakeholders was untimely disbursement of the funds. Post Matric beneficiaries who have other expenses apart from fees, particularly students enrolled in practical subjects, mainly face the issues. This problem directly

affects the scholarship scheme. There is no provision for, purchase of stationery items for the students.

States/UTs and district officials have also faced several issues, which slow down the pace of implementation of the schemes. For instance, untimely disbursement of funds from the centre, non-cooperation of schools/institutes, non-cooperation of banks, lack of funds to appoint GROs and non-conduction of training through NIC for the officials and schools/institutes and communication gap between the centre and state are the major identified pitfalls. Apart from these bottlenecks, the officials face considerable Pressure on different stages while finalizing the applications.

One of the major challenges identified in the schemes was the interrupted network connectivity and inaccessibility of banks. These problems not only de-motivated the beneficiaries and their parents but also held back resulting in the delay of the application process. The access to the banks' accounts, parents have to travel many miles taxing more money on their pockets. The manual application process still exists in Daman and Goa, and that is why they face a lot of pending applications and grievances from schools/institutions, parents and beneficiaries. It also requires extra workforce, resources and funds. In fact, many of the institutes complained of having very less administrative/dedicated staff to implement the scheme. As such, keeping in view escalation in the number of scholarship, setting up of dedicated team is the need of the hour.

On the financial level, there is a gap in disbursement of the funds, as only three states, namely Chattisgarh, Odisha and Gujarat got the funds for all five years i.e. from 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. As far as project management is concerned, the main challenge is to keep the scheme running, even if there is a scarcity of funds, which not all states are able to manage. However, some states like Maharashtra and Manipur try to manage; the opportunity cost involved in fund disbursement by the states/UTs is major pitfall because the scholarship may not be the only priority of States/UTs.

## **4.7 Input Use Efficiency**

### **i. Input Use Efficiency in Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

In the context of the evaluation study on Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, Input Use Efficiency (IUE) may be defined as the ratio of input use (actual expenditure) to the total number of beneficiaries covered in the scheme. Improvements in input use refer to a reduction in the input used for a given scheme's beneficiaries, and then they indicate input use efficiency.

However, the impact of actual expenditure incurred on the number of beneficiaries covered over the years informs the efficient use of resources.

**Table 4.39: Input Use Efficiency in Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Disbursed on Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme (in Lakh)</b>	<b>Pre-Beneficiaries Covered</b>	<b>Input Use efficiency</b>
2014-15	200.70	1213318	0.000165
2015-16	228.69	1262068	0.000181
2016-17	84.17	1134167	0.000074
2017-18	294.1	1407967	0.000209
<b>Total</b>	<b>807.66</b>	<b>5017520</b>	<b>0.000161</b>

The table above represents the input use efficiency deduced by dividing the input by output. It confirms that efficient input use is reflected for the year 2017-18. The maximum amount of fund has also been pumped in the same year. It seems that fund disbursement is directly proportional to input use efficiency. The total input use efficiency is visible at 0.000165 for the year 2014-15. However, the efficient use of input is reflected for the two consecutive years, namely 2014-15 and 2015-16. The highest level of input use efficiency is visible for the year 2017-18.

The impact of the amount disbursed to 1133 beneficiaries has been calculated on the response of feeling being motivated. It considers motivation received by the hostellers and day scholars through the application of regression analysis. The regression model has also been run to assess input use efficiency of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. We have taken the disbursed amount for 1133 beneficiaries covered in the study. We have considered the amount disbursed for 1133 beneficiaries on Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme as X variable which is independent and the responses received against motivation, as Y which is dependent. The Multiplier  $R=0.99$  is the correlation coefficient that measures the strength of the linear relationship between fund disbursement and the number of responses received against motivation being received by beneficiaries covered. Since it is close to one that shows a strong positive relationship between fund disbursement and responses registered against feeling motivated. R Square is the coefficient of determination which has been used as an indicator of the goodness of fit. R square is 0.99 which very good. It means that 99% of our values fit the regression analysis model. In other words, 99% of the dependent variable (Y-Value) is explained by the independent variable (X-Values). However, R Square of 99% or more is considered a good fit. The standard error is 15.42 that show another goodness of fit measuring that Precision of regression analysis. The 15.42 standard error shows the average distance that the data points fall from the regression line. Since

significance  $F=0.000379$ , meaning there is an obvious impact of fund disbursement on motivation. The regression further shows that an increase of 1lakh in the fund disbursement leads to 8.9% of the beneficiaries' perceived motivation.

## ii. Input Use Efficiency in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

On a similar line, Input Use Efficiency in Post Matric Scholarship has been worked out.

**Table 4.40: Input Use Efficiency in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

Year	Amount Disbursed on Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (in Lakh)	Post Beneficiaries Covered	Input Use efficiency
2014-15	721	2037448	0.000353874
2015-16	857.15	2033741	0.000421465
2016-17	1555.67	1851338	0.000840295
2017-18	1464.31	1931117	0.000758271
<b>Total</b>	<b>4598.13</b>	<b>7853644</b>	0.000585477

The table above represents the input use efficiency deduced by dividing the input by output. It confirms that the efficient input use is reflected for the year 2016-17 in the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme. The maximum fund has been disbursed for the same year. The total input use efficiently is visible at 0.000585477 for the year 2014-18. However, the efficient use of input is reflected for the two consecutive years, namely 2016-17 and 2017-18. The highest level of input use efficiency is visible in the year 2016-17.

The impact of the amount disbursed to 1324 beneficiaries has been calculated on the response of feeling motivated. It considers motivation received by the hostellers and day scholars through the application of regression analysis. The regression model has also been run to assess input use efficiency of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. We have taken the disbursed amount for 1324 beneficiaries covered in the study. We have considered the amount disbursed for 1324 beneficiaries on Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme as X variable which is independent and the responses received against motivation as Y which is dependent. The Multiplier  $R=0.96$  is the correlation coefficient that measures the strength of the linear relationship between fund disbursement and the number of responses received against motivation by beneficiaries covered. Since it is close to one that shows a strong positive relationship between fund disbursement and responses registered against feeling motivated. R Square is the coefficient of determination which has been used as an indicator of the goodness of fit. R square is 0.92 which very good. It means that 92% of our values fit the regression analysis model. In other words, 99% of the dependent

variable (Y-Value) is explained by the independent variable (X-Values). However, R Square of 92% or more is considered a good fit. The standard error is 25.07 that show another goodness of fit measuring that Precision of regression analysis. The 25.07 standard error shows the average distance that the data points fall from the regression line. Since significance  $F= 0.009187$ , meaning there is an obvious impact of fund disbursement on motivation. The regression further shows that an increase of 1lakh in the fund disbursement leads to 0.9% of the beneficiaries' perceived motivation.

## **5. Observations and Recommendations**

### **5.1 Thematic Assessment**

Considering the thematic assessment as a method for qualitative analysis, the observation and FGD based information on the structure and procedure of the scheme have synoptically been explained. The data corpus informs that the awareness level of beneficiaries about both Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes are not effective. The supply-side stakeholders/implementing agencies in many ways are also not aware of the complete structure and procedure of the schemes. For instance, even though States/UTs were instructed to make immediate payments to the beneficiaries in 2013, the timely payment stands out to be an issue.

In the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, the beneficiary pool is generated by concerned School. The list of beneficiaries is sent to District Office and thereafter examines the eligibility criteria and then the scholarship is awarded. The list is sent to the State/UT. In the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, the applications are forwarded by college/Institutions and the beneficiaries are awarded the scholarship after examining whether the laid down criteria have been fulfilled particularly means test.

The socio-economic backgrounds of beneficiaries' parents were deplorable in supporting their ward for studies. However, most of the beneficiaries due to delay in the scholarship payment could continue their education with parental support. Side by side, after receiving the scholarship, the parents were compensated by their wards.

In both Pre-Matric and Post Matric Scholarships, the beneficiaries receive institutional support related to information as well as the application submission. Most of the applications in both Pre and Post-Matric schemes have been applied online. There is a significant percentage of manual applications too in of both the schemes. Interestingly, it has been found that despite high quantum of support to hostellers, the majority of beneficiaries were found to be day scholars. Neither beneficiaries nor implementing agencies were properly aware of the other allowances of the scheme. The evidence of NIC customized training on the scheme implementation has not been found in any State/UT for implementing the schemes.

The beneficiaries of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes were found appreciating the scholarship schemes during FGDs. The critical issue reasoned out was mostly regarding the delay in payment. Thus, even if they expressed that amount was aptly used, the amount when they received was not actually required. The fact that most of the beneficiaries expressed that the scholarship amount was too little. Like any other student, tribal students have also started paying

more attention to studies. To complete their education effectively, they were found purchasing supplementary books so that they can have a command on the subject.

While studying the Pre-Matric beneficiaries in Uttarakhand (Udham Singh Nagar) and Jharkhand (Paschim Singhbhum and Ranchi), the students had scored fairly better. In one of the Schools at Udham Singh Nagar, tribal students were the toppers of that school. In Chaibasa, the students were quite eager to improve upon their previous performances.

In Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, the students of St. Xavier College Ranchi and Ranchi College, Ranchi were asking desperately about their payments. They went on saying that either they should get their complete payment or State government should stop the scheme. The Scholarship schemes are unequivocally helping the beneficiaries, the only problem rests is the timely transfer of money in their accounts.

**During FGD with Post-Matric Beneficiaries, Principal/Senior official of the Institutions (Schools/colleges) and District Official it was shared that the duration between commencement and closure of the call for applications by the Centre, should be extended so to cover all the beneficiaries. Further it was stressed by many colleges that they are short of manpower and dedicated staff is required to handle all the scholarship related activities of the huge number of applications.**

## **5.2 Externalities**

The externalities imply those factors which influence (are influenced) the efficacy of the Schemes irrespective of not being part of it. Both the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes boil down to financial incentives given to the needy tribal students so that they can complete their education without being a burden on their parents or guardians. In the study, it has been found that the scholarship amount is not credited timely to their bank account. As a result, the money received from scholarship might be spent on items other than education. That might be items related to household requirements or recreational stuff.

Parents of the beneficiary students (especially girls) have been found scouting them to bank branches until the amount is received. One can sense that accompanying a beneficiary with parents might be an attempt to get the money and use the amount on domestic items. However, it was found in the informal communication that the students who receive scholarships are considered as an asset to their families. For instance, a married beneficiary girl receiving the

scholarship was scouted by her husband. Moreover, the Scholarship amount provides a cosy cohesiveness and strengthens the familial ties. It helps provide resurrection to the network of social relations.

The other boys and girls who did not get scholarship felt a sense of estrangement. They felt devoid of public resources on the simple reason that they were not tribes. While arranging required documents, a tribal boy or girl gets to know situational conditions.

However, both the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are important schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India. The States/UTs have well-established staff strength for delivery of the schemes. It covered all the ST students who got admission in the recognized educational Institutions under eligible criteria of parental income. The schemes are centrally sponsored Scheme of Government of India for STs Pre Matric and Post Matric Stage development with substantial outlays of Rs. 1643 lakh and 310 lakh, respectively. It has a good delivery mechanism in place at State/UTs, district and Institutions for effective implementation. The scheme has proven track record of improving the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric education to deserving needy ST bright students.

There are different components of the Schemes with allowances to make the scheme for a wider reach to ST students' population in rural and urban areas and for disabled girls etc. to promote inclusive growth of the tribal communities. There is an inbuilt mechanism in the schemes to revitalize and mould according to growth in the educational institutions with a change in norms for more allowances and coverage over the years. As per the past, there is strong Government support and policy backing for the schemes to grow in future.

As large coverage of the schemes across the States/UTs through district Officials and Institutions have been found the scheme needs to be retrofitted to ensure with timely disbursement. In fact, States/UTs have their own mechanism of monitoring the scheme that results in the delay of crediting the amount to the beneficiaries' account. The scheme is enormously covering the number of beneficiaries across States/UTs, lack of training or lack of technologically know-how; the records are not properly managed. Due to the late release of central assistance, the States are not necessarily liquidating their money for the scheme because the priorities of States are different. Hostels are limited in numbers and States/UTs Governments are not in the position to provide adequate residential accommodation to all ST Students. In Purnea, the college selected for Post Matric Scholarship Study, the hostel for ST students was there but due to improper or maintenance, the required funds were not being

released for renovation from the State government. There is a lack of schematic action in the quick disbursement of funds.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 Issues and Challenges**

Awareness level of the beneficiaries about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, particularly its components, selection process and criteria were found ineffective. Many beneficiary students were not aware of the sources of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, i.e. awarding agency. The Institutions were found as the main source to disseminate information about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarships Schemes. In fact, approximately 90% of students of Pre- Matric Scholarship and 93% of students of Post Matric Scholarship had information about the Scheme from the Institutions concerned. Newspaper, Radio/TV, Friend played a very marginal role in creating awareness about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes.

Interestingly, approximately 85% of Post Matric Scholarship holders and 79% of the Pre-Matric beneficiaries were aware of documents required for the Scholarship. A considerable Pre-Matric Beneficiaries (21%) of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme and 15% of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme holders were not aware of the documents required to apply. The schools/Institutions mostly give information about applications to the beneficiary students. Most of the beneficiaries were aware of the application procedures and required enclosures for accessing Pre and Post Matric Scholarships Schemes. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Government websites play a marginal role in creating awareness about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes among beneficiary students. However, making the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme IT savvy is yet to become a reality. Several beneficiaries have encountered issues connected with documents arrangement like income certificate etc.

Information about the award of the Pre and Post Matric Scholarships reached the beneficiaries mostly through School/ Institution. It indicates that most of the beneficiaries either do not have access to IT facilities or do not visit the office at the District level to find the process to award Scholarships. Most of the beneficiaries of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes are not aware of the other allowances. In fact, only 35.39% of the Pre-Matric Beneficiaries were found aware of other allowances. Significantly, Reader Allowance, Escort Allowance, Coaching allowance, and association with the research studies for Post-Matric level were not known to the Post Matric Beneficiaries. However, an enfeebling 1.2% of the Post Matric Beneficiaries know about thesis allowance, and 2.6% about study tour allowances.

Most of the Pre-Matric (73%) and Post- Matric beneficiary students (85%) have applied online applications. However, due to constraining externalities a substantial percentage of Pre

and Post Matric beneficiary students have also applied manually for the Scholarships. 78% of the Post-Matric and 90% of the Pre-Matric beneficiaries have received institutional support in applying for the scholarship. 62% of the beneficiaries of Pre-Matric and 32% of Post-Matric beneficiaries have received scholarships on a renewal basis. The case of Post Matric looks better in sharp contrast with Pre-Matric, as it inducts more beneficiaries considering the disbursement of the fund as an independent variable. It indicates that the size of fund envelop for Pre-Matric beneficiaries needs to be increased.

About 25% of Pre Matric and about 22% of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries were hostellers. It is important to note that hostellers are provided with additional financial benefits. Either the hostels are not equipped with better facilities or the beneficiaries are required at households. The other important reason is Institutions in tribal concentrated areas are not having hostel facilities sufficiently. This is the reason why accommodation was not availed adequately by the beneficiaries of the Pre and Post Scholarship Schemes.

Around 40% of the Pre Matric and 82% of the Post-Matric Beneficiaries expressed their concern that the scholarship amount given to them was insufficient. The amount is too inadequate to meet the basic cost of their studies. In fact, 91.6% beneficiaries of Pre-Matric and 86.3% of the Post Matric spent their scholarship amount on education. The beneficiaries spending scholarship amount on other than studies have been identified as 8.38% and 13.7% for Pre-Matric and Post-Matric, respectively.

In case of non-availability of scholarship, around 60% of Pre-Matric scholarship and 70% of Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries would have continued their studies with the help of parents' support. This indicator informs that the majority of beneficiaries of the schemes are interested in pursuing education. But for 40% of Pre-Matric and 30% of Post Matric beneficiaries, Scholarship Scheme turned out to be the only hope.

With the aim to establish book banks in all medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Law and Veterinary Degree Colleges and Institutes imparting chartered accountancy, MBA and alike Management Courses and Polytechnics where scheduled tribes were receiving Post Matric Scholarship, book banks are were to be set up. 12.16% of students reported about the availability of the book bank facility. However, library facilities were available for the students. The Prescribed book bank facility was not available aptly.

The perceived benefits of both the Pre-Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes in empowering the needy students from the Scheduled tribe Communities by creating opportunities

for them to pursue Pre and Post Matric level of education has been analyzed in light of their feedback on motivation. 98.14% of the Pre-Matric and 16.24% of the Post Matric beneficiaries received motivation from the schemes. The major reason expressed by beneficiaries as well as implementing officials of the States and Districts was untimely disbursement of scholarship amount. In fact, getting an income certificate issued was reported a major glitch in the duress of scholarship holders.

## **6.2 Vision for the Future**

Though the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes help needy tribal boys and girls to complete their education, the effectiveness of their study needs to be linked with employability. Since the tribal community is considered to be one of the backward social groups, the Scholarship Scheme should develop their condition through ongoing professional courses. The Institutions with considerable enrolments of tribal students were required their educational ecosystem to be improved like any mainstream educational institution. The tribal schools/Institutions need to be equipped with modern facilities so that students feel more connected with Institutions and implicitly enhance their employability in future.

Linguistic competence, connectedness, text with smart contents are important indicators of academic success. It helps enhance the size of cultural capital that the students own over the period. The Prescription of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) should be followed, particularly to do away with the rote technique of learning. A pool of best-talented teachers to be formed and they should essentially be sent to tribal Institutions for some duration. If required, an additional incentive may be given to such teachers for their stay in tribal concentrated schools and colleges. To enhance their learning, tribal world related curriculum may be designed so that they feel connected. The schools and colleges should be suggested to organize linguistic proficiency events for tribal students at least on a quarterly basis and earmark fund to be spent on encouraging the talents.

The Scholarship Scheme appears a means to an end, and not end in itself. To ensure the objectives of schemes to be fully realized, the State Tribal Department can establish resource base with State Education Department to ensure quality education, attendance of teachers and the taught, schematic completion of syllabus, and effective with learning outcomes. Even if a tribal scholarship holder is continuing with conventional courses, opportunities available in the said course should also be given. The exposure of the tribal boys and girls to developing sectors need to given by organizing workshops in schools and colleges so that they can know the possibilities of making their future career.

Last but never the least, in order to ensure that girl child continues the education and does not drop out, we need to earmark 30% scholarships for tribal girl students in a State/UT. It may be transferred to male students of the group in case non-availability of female students. 30% should be the floor and not the ceiling for eligible girl students. The *Divyangjan* (specially able) requires special attention in such a way that scholarship schemes reach them out.

Most importantly, mandatory training for all the officials involved in scholarship implementation is needed to be given by NIC so that they become well aware of the schemes, particularly its pitfalls.

### **6.3 Recommendation for Scheme with Reasons**

It is worth mentioning that the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes have been able to meet their objectives to a large extent. The schemes have reached the needy ST students, raised their realistic aspirations to progress to the Post Matric stage of education in case of Pre-Matric Scholarship and helped to complete higher education for Post Matric Scholarship holders. The schemes have also reduced the financial burden of poor parents, enabling a large proportion of beneficiaries to stay through their academic courses; and more significantly raised their further study potentials. The schemes have contributed significantly towards the developmental objectives of empowering the tribal communities by attracting needy ST students to studies. At the same time, feedback from beneficiaries indicates the scope of improving the management of the schemes requires improved accessibility and accountability. The following specific recommendations may be considered to improve the management of various aspects of the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes:

1. Since both the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes have helped the needy students of the tribal groups, **the schemes are recommended to be continued** with the following riders:
  - a. There is a need to raise awareness about the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes through locally circulated print and electronic media. At least the medium of publicity should be, a considerably circulating newspaper, in the tribal language. The local news channels should also be considered to disseminate the information, scaling up to more physical targets. The matter given to newspaper and electronic media should be the part of record-keeping at States/UTs Tribal Department.
  - b. The customized training on the implementation of Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes should locally be organized by NIC for State, District and Schools/Institutions' Heads. The training should be conducted with well-defined learning outcomes, feedback

on training by the trainees and evaluation of each trainee by the trainer concerned should be made part of the training framework. The assessment of the training/s should be done both by the trainees and the trainers.

- c. The financial assistance from Centre to State/UTs vis-à-vis State or UTs /Districts to beneficiary accounts need to be released in a timely manner. However, in the last rectification/intervention/suggestion to ensure the flow of fund to be regulated uninterruptedly did not make much change. The liability of Centre and States/UTs to dispense the amount on priority basis should be dovetailed with timely disbursement of the amount to the beneficiaries account. Also, it requires dedicated staff at all levels. The dedicated staff to manage the schemes will be held accountable for any delay in the disbursement. The staff would also be keeping all information related to budget estimate, revised estimate, actual expenditure and the number of beneficiaries targeted. The staff members also need to ensure that the amount reaches the beneficiaries on a yearly basis. All transactions involved in the scheme are to be preserved by States/UTs. The States/UTs demand should be prepared in time by the State Tribal Department and be forwarded to the Ministry. The States/UTs need to ensure that the aforementioned details are shared with the Centre.
- d. For income certificates, income ceiling of parents/guardians of the students should be revised in the light of consumer price index. Side by side, **40% escalation in the scholarship amount of the existing rate is recommended** to meet the educational costs of the Pre and Post Matric Scholarship beneficiaries.
- e. For Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, Book Bank in the Institutions (in prescribed disciplines), as per the Scheme guidelines, need to be set-up immediately and action taken report to be forwarded to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on an urgent basis. The States/UTs Tribal Departments need to ensure the existence of the Book Bank. In case of book banks are not set-up, in coordination with Education Department/Higher Education, the required steps need to be taken.
- f. Educational Institutions may be provided with some non-recurring grant to procure internet facility providing easy access to scholarship processing.

**2. In order to improve the outreach and effectiveness of the schemes, both financial and physical scaling up is recommended.** To cover up all the potential-beneficiaries, fund availability in advance is to be ensured by States/UTs.

**3.** The study also recommends for an annual social audit on Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes in order to assess the actual usefulness and the degree to which needy ST beneficiaries are being covered. The recommendations of the social audit will keep the Scheme resurrected and not let it be obsolete.

## 7. Photographs of Field Visits

### NORTH ZONE



Anantnag District, Jammu & Kashmir

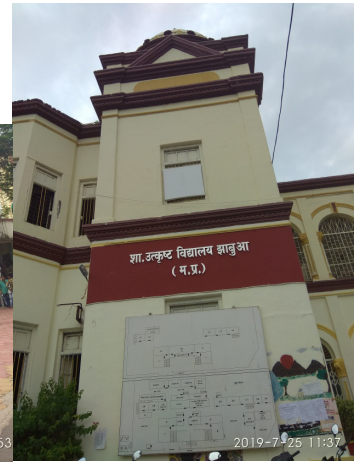
### CENTRAL ZONE



Dhar District, Madhya Pradesh



Jhabua District, Madhya Pradesh



### EAST ZONE



Chaibasa District, Jharkhand



**Charkradharpur  
District, Jharkhand**

**NORTHEAST ZONE**



**Papumpare District, Arunachal Pradesh**



**Papumpare District, Arunachal Pradesh**



**South Sikkim  
District Officers**



**GSS School, Mangan North  
Sikkim District**



**Don Bosco College,  
Maham, Manipur**



**Little Angels' English School,  
Ukhrul, Manipur**



**St. Joseph's College Jakhama, Kohima, Nagaland**



**Govt Chaltlang High School, Aizwal, Mizoram**

**WEST ZONE**



**Rajnandgaon District, Chattisgarh**



**Rajnandgaon District, Chattisgarh**

2019-6-20 13:05



**Shivtarai, Bilaspur District, Chattisgarh**



**Rajnandgaon District, Chattisgarh**