



A REPORT ON

An Evaluation of Schemes under Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in the context of Mizoram

1. Name of the Collaborative Activity: **An Evaluation of Schemes under Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in the context of Mizoram**
2. Nature of Activity: **Research Project**
3. Name of the Collaborating Agency/ Individual with affiliation, and contact details: **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Gol.**
4. Summary of collaboration: **This was a research project done by Dr. Ambedkar Chair, TU in collaboration with the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi whereby evaluation of different schemes with a special focus on the medical aid scheme in the context of Mizoram was done. The project was initiated in the FY. 2018-19 and was submitted in the FY. 2020-21.**
5. List of year-wise activities under the collaboration:
FY. 2018-19 – Conceptualisation of the project in terms of draft of methodology of conducting the project.
FY. 2019-20 – Tool preparation/finalisation and Data Collection.
FY. 2020-21 – Data Entry, Data Analysis, and Report Writing/Submission of the report.
- 6.

Signature of Faculty	Signature and Seal of Head of Department/ Centre/ Cell
 Name: Prof. Kedilezo Kikhi Designation: Chair Professor	 Name: Prof. Kedilezo Kikhi Designation: Chair Professor



*An Evaluation of Schemes
under Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in the
context of Mizoram*

*Research Project Done in Collaboration with the Dr. Ambedkar
Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI.*

*Submitted To:
Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,
GoI, New Delhi*

*Submitted By:
Dr. Ambedkar Chair
Tezpur University, Assam*

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Kundharam
(Prof. K. K. Kishor)
Chair Professor
B.R. Ambedkar
Tezpur University

Executive Summary

In the light of philosophy inherent in the ideas of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, various schemes yielding social as well as economic empowerment (of Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes) were conceived and continued by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. These schemes are broadly a support, against (cost intensive) Medical Ailments and Social Atrocities, promoting social cohesion by incentivizing inter-caste marriages, and instilling feeling of self-respect by promoting education of meritorious students among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and by financial support towards celebration/observance of birth/death anniversary of great saints among the communities of SCs and STs.

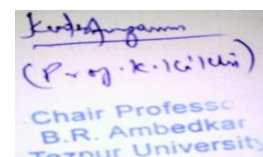
Mizoram being the state with highest literacy rate (above 91 percent), and with highest density of tribal population (95 percent) (GoI, 2013) has ample potential to become a beneficiary state for various schemes announced by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation towards upliftment/cohesion of STs/SCs as a part of larger Indian society. As a matter of fact (with inputs from Dr. Ambedkar Foundation) the state is one of the major beneficiaries for the medical aid scheme in the year 2017-18. Thus, it can be assumed that the population of the state is aware towards various schemes announced. And it may be appropriate to study Mizoram as a case study to explore the effects (both in objective as well as subjective terms) of different schemes of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation. Apart from this, as a part of request from the ministry of social justice & empowerment, the study investigated the status and associated aspects of medical aid scheme in the state. Further, the study was designed to comprehend the effects and potential of different other schemes of DAF in the state which may have implications for Mizoram as well as other states of the north-eastern region.

The study was conducted with an aim for following objectives-

- a) To comprehend the awareness for different schemes under Dr. Ambedkar Foundation
- b) To check veracity of the medical aid scheme in Mizoram
- c) To gather information about need for extension of schemes amongst the people (SCs/STs) of Mizoram
- d) To build a critical reflection about the schemes (in terms of impact) and its extension to other states of north eastern India.

The present study was evaluative in nature and therefore designed to collect necessary information highlighting objective and subtle lying aspects relating to the experiences/awareness of the beneficiaries/people residing in the state of Mizoram. In this way, the study included mixed method, i.e., both quantitative and qualitative research to know about the veracity of the existing schemes in terms of fulfilling needs and aspirations of the scheduled tribe/caste people in Mizoram.

Initially the study was conceived with an idea to see the implementation of the Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid scheme in the state of Mizoram by checking the veracity of the claims. However, this was further developed to make it comprehensive for the evaluation of different schemes under Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in Mizoram. The medical aid scheme was evaluated with the beneficiaries of two years (2016-17 and 2017-18) whose list was provided from Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. Total number of such beneficiaries was 157 which included 37 beneficiaries of 2016-17 while 120 beneficiaries belonged to 2017-18. From the given list



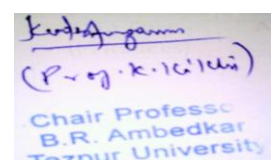
of beneficiaries, forty people (25 percent of the total number) were randomly selected as a sample for the study on the basis of availability and willingness to become part of this exercise. In order to gain comprehension and awareness about the scheme among the people of Mizoram, 98 willing respondents were made a part of the present study. Apart from these, few respondents were contacted in the selected hospitals/health centres in the state of Mizoram which were instrumental in providing treatment to the beneficiaries of Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid scheme in the state.

The present study was extended to evaluate the awareness and effectiveness of different schemes announced by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi. Therefore, there were other respondents corresponding to different schemes. This included 131 respondents from selected schools for Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Award Scheme for Secondary Examination, 310 respondents from selected schools (including 5 beneficiaries) for Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Award Scheme for Senior Secondary Examination, 4 respondents for Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages, and 110 respondents to gauge information about Dr. Ambedkar National Relief to the Scheduled Caste victims of Atrocities. It is important to note down that due to time restraint and remoteness of the location from the evaluating institute (Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Tezpur University, Assam), the sample collection procedure was limited to the availability and volition of the participant to become a respondent for the study.

Research tool of questionnaire and semi-structured interview was utilised for the conduct of the study. Separate questionnaires were prepared for each scheme along with semi-structured interview schedule for Medical Aid Scheme. The questionnaires for Medical Aid scheme were prepared for the beneficiary/general populace and for the selected hospitals. Questionnaires as were prepared to gather information pertaining to awareness, implementation, and effectiveness of different selected schemes under Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi. Semi-structured interview schedule was built to gain in-depth information about Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme. This schedule was created in English language however was communicated in Mizo language. For the analysis of collected information, descriptive statistics were utilised to draw generalisations.

Findings of the report have emerged from the collected empirical data of the respondents towards their awareness and experience about Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid and other schemes of DAF. Broad dimensions under which the present study was conducted could be stated as:

- 1) Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme
 - a) Beneficiaries of the scheme
 - i. Demographic profile
 - ii. Health status
 - iii. Financial support from the scheme
 - iv. Experience with the scheme
 - b) Hospitals
 - i. Amount of the grant received
 - ii. Process of application and receipt of the fund
 - iii. Awareness about the scheme
 - iv. Reflection about the scheme
 - c) Other respondents
 - i. General information



- ii. Economic and educational status
 - iii. Health status
 - iv. Reflection about this and other schemes of DAF
- 2) Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Scheme for Secondary Education (DANMASSE)
- i. Demographic profile
 - ii. Reflection about the scheme
- 3) Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Scheme for Senior Secondary Education (DANMASSSE)
- i. Demographic information
 - ii. Reflection about the scheme
- 4) Dr. Ambedkar National Relief to the Scheduled Caste Victims of Atrocities (DANRSCVA)
- i. Experience and reflection about the schemes from
 - a) Local/Village Council members (Mizos)
 - b) Other respondents (Non-Mizos)
- 5) Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-caste Marriages
- i. Experience and reflection about the scheme

On the basis of the findings of the results from the responses, the present study has highlighted few recommendations for implementation of schemes in the context of Mizoram as well as other north-eastern states. These are:

A) Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme

- 1. In the wake of low awareness among the people there should be provision for spreading awareness among general populace.
- 2. There should be revision of the scheme in view of enhanced cost of treatment.
- 3. There should be provision for post-surgery medical health check-up especially in critical illness.

B) Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Award for Secondary School Examination (DANMASSE)

- 4. There's a need for generating awareness among schools, students, and parents.
- 5. In compliance with National Education Policy 2020, there's a need to restructure the scheme especially the level of examination under new (5+3+3) scheme.

C) Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Award for Senior Secondary School Examination (DANMASSSE)

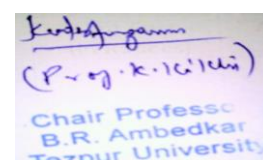
- 6. There's a need for including aspirations of students from scheduled tribe community apart from those belonging to the scheduled caste community as being considered in scheme at secondary level of education.
- 7. In compliance with National Education Policy 2020, there's a need to restructure the scheme especially the level of examination under new (5+3+3) scheme.

D) Dr. Ambedkar National Relief to the Scheduled Caste Victims of Atrocities (DANRSCVA)

- 8. The scheme should revise the guidelines by making its ambit sensitive to the needs of scheduled tribes especially in the context of migration in the Mizoram and other north-eastern states. (Note- The scheme got revised on 03.11.2020 and has included scheduled tribes for consideration).

E) Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-caste Marriages

- 9. There is a need to expand the inclusive philosophy of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar by integrating tribes with the existing social structure through incentivising the matrimonial alliances with different tribes/castes.



Photographs



Field Photo: Hospitals and Beneficiary related to Medical Aid Scheme in Mizoram

K. Arjunam
(Prof. K. Arjunam)
Chair Professor
B.R. Ambedkar
Tezpur University



Field Photo: Institutions related to implementation of different DAF Schemes in Mizoram

K. J. Angam
(Prof. K. J. Angam)
Chair Professor
B.R. Ambedkar
Tezpur University