

## CHAPTER IX

### The Government's and Social Welfare in Bihar (2000-2010)

After independence no commission was set up or established by the state government for the welfare of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. But in 2007 the state government led by Nitish Kumar decided to set up a commission i.e. State Mahadalit Commission for the development of the underprivileged and deprived sections of the people i.e. for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bihar. According to the Commission, there are 22 (twenty-two) Scheduled Castes in Bihar. Among them 21 (twenty-one) were categorized as most deprived in the sphere of educational, economical, Socio-cultural and political status. As per the 2001 census, the Scheduled Castes constitute about 15.7 percent of its population and 0.9 percent of the state's population are considered as Scheduled Tribes.

**Schemes for the SCs & STs:** There are various schemes that were adopted by the JD (U) and BJP government in Bihar for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The schemes are:

- i) Scholarships and stipends are provided to the pre-metric and post-metric students;
- ii) State Government has established 65 (sixty-five) residential schools for Scheduled Castes [52 High schools, 1 Middle school and 12 Primary schools] and 15 (fifteen) residential schools for Scheduled Tribes (8 High Schools and 7 Middle Schools) for 28520 students during 2010-11 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.231).
- iii) For the School and College students, the State Government has provided 130 Hostels for lodging facility during 2010-11.
- iv) As per the Economic Survey of 2011-2012 training facilities has been provided to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students for the preparation of competitive examinations, such as UPSC, BPSC, Railways, Banks etc (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.231).

- v) Legal and financial assistance was provided for victims of atrocity under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- vi) The Government as claimed has implemented a Special Programme for the Development of Tharu Tribe which was included in Scheduled Tribes category on 2003.

As claimed by the Government the total allocation for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes welfare has been increased from Rs.311.2 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.403.36 crore in 2010-11 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2010-11, p. 249).<sup>1</sup>

### **Mahadalits**

For the Development of the 21 (twenty-one) most deprived sections amongst the Scheduled Castes, the Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission (BMVM) has taken several initiatives on the recommendations of the State Mahadalit Commission (2007). BMVM was established in 2008 on the recommendations of the State Mahadalit Commission as an autonomous body functioning under the SC/ST welfare department.

- i) Under the Mukhamantri Mahadalit Pashak Yojana till 2009-10, 8,42,537 students were studying in Government schools.
- ii) The State Government helped the Mahadalits for the constructions of Toilets free of cost with assistance from the Mahadalit Vikas Mission under the Scheme of total sanitation campaign.
- iii) As per the claims of the Government under the Mahadalit Development Scheme, the State Government has been provided 3 (three) decimals of land to

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<sup>1</sup>The Government also claimed that a.22000 Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes students have been benefitted from the Post Matric Scholarship scheme with an expenditure of 5 (five) core during the financial year 2005-06. Through this scheme 55823 BC & EBC students has also been benefitted during the financial year 2007-08 b. Under Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department 80 residential schools are in operation in the State. The sanctioned strength of the school was 13208 which have been increased to 30560 at present. The amount of real and other articles of residential schools has been increased. Government has taken several initiatives to fill the vacant posts through the 680 retired Teachers in residential schools(See, Government of Bihar, Marching Ahead, Agenda of Good Governance, 2010-2015, Government of Bihar, Patna, n.d.&Government of Bihar, Marching Ahead, Agenda of Good Governance, 2005-2015, Government of Bihar, Patna, n.d).

each Landless Mahadalit Family for the construction of houses (GOB, Economic Survey, 2010-11, p.249).

- iv) Some other welfare schemes were also adopted by the State Government for the Mahadalits which are Mahadalit Awas Yojana, Mahadalit Water Supply Scheme, Mahadalit Anganwadi, Mahadalit Crèche Special School or Hostel for Mahadalits, Mukhamantri Nari Jyoti Scheme, Mobile Public Distribution System, Eradication of Scavenging System, Construction of Community Hall-cum-Work shade, Mukhamantri Jeevan Drihsti etc.
- v) As per the Government of Bihar the State Government has appointed 9530 Vikash Mitra for the proper implementation of Mahadalit Vikash Schemes.
- vi) The State Government has provided vocational training to the 8000 educational Mahadalits with the co-operation of 5 distinguished institutes/ non-Government Organizations under Dashrath Manjhi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.233).<sup>2</sup>

## **Women's Empowerment**

Women in Bihar are socially and economically disadvantaged in the sphere of literacy and education. The sex ratio of the State was 919 in 2001 which was reduced to 916. Though the sex ratio has been reduced inspite of this we find that Gender disparity still exists in the State. The reasons behind gender inequality in the state are some social norms, cultural traditions which directly and indirectly bring out social change in attitude and perception towards women. The State Government has made some interventions for the reduction of gender disparity such as child protection (Kanya Suraksha Yojana to stop female feticide) and social and economic security (Laksmibhai Social Security Pension Scheme, KanyaVivah Yojana and Nari Shakti Yojana) (GOB,

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<sup>2</sup> The Government also claimed that a. for the implementation of 'Mahadalit Sanchalaya Nirman Yojana', Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission i.e. Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission has given RS.900 crore to the beneficiary for the successful implementation of the scheme. 301401 Mahadalit persons are the beneficiaries of the scheme and the total expenditure of Rs.19.42 crore has been spent by the State Government. b. Another programme for the Mahadalits is 'Dashrath Manjhi Kaushal Vikash Yojana' started in 2010-11. Its main aim is to improve the Socio-economic condition of Mahadalit community. Through the programme the State Government has been provided employment opportunities by giving them skill development training in different trades through different reputed agencies (GOB, Marching Ahead, Agenda of Good Governance, 2005-15, GOB, Patna, n.d. p. 144).

Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.236). Another programme i.e. The Mukhamantri Nari Shakti Yojana (MNSY) was launched in 2007-08 by the Women's Development Corporation throughout the State for the empowerment of Women and make them self-reliant. The main objective of this programme is to sensitize and empower and assist women to lead a life based on self-respect and confidence by boosting their economic position through collective behaviour. The Programme lays stress on social, economic and cultural empowerment of women as well as the holistic empowerment of women (Government of Bihar, Economic Survey 2010-11, p. 252).

For the economic empowerment of Women, the State Government had taken steps under the SHG programmes. Through the SHGs women has become self-dependent and mentally strong. As claimed the State Government has given Rs.535.8 lakh to the 61 (sixty-one) women SHGs for livelihood creation, food security, self-development and employment generation (GOB, Economic Survey, 2010-11,p.252). Through this programme women can develop their collective strength and leadership qualities so that they can manage and own their institutions i.e. SHGs and Federations. The State Government has taken several initiatives for the economic empowerment of women.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Later on the Government of Bihar claimed that: a. The State Government has provided 50 percent reservation to women in local level Panchayati Raj institutions and also in Urban level which is very much higher than the other Panchayati Raj system in India for the of equal rights, equal social status and equal opportunities to women. This is one of the historical initiatives by the State Government in Bihar. More than 50 percent women in Bihar plays an important role in the election of the tiers of the three tier Panchayat Raj system; b. The State Government has provided 50 percent reservation to women in Primary School teaching, so that they get equal opportunities in School Teaching; c. The State Government has launched Mukhyamantri Balika Poshak Yojana to attract Girls and Guardians towards Schools. For the School going girls in classes 1-8 the State Government has provided a fixed amount for the school uniform, under Bihar Shatabdi Mukhyamantri Balika Poshak Yojana from 2011-12 onwards the State Government has also provided a fixed amount to the Girls in classes 9-12 in Schools (Inter Colleges for the Purchasing of School Uniforms), d. another programme i.e. Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana has been introduced in 2007 to increase the Girl's attention in Schools. Many Girls cannot attend regular schools due to long distance from their native place. About 40 lakh school girls has been benefitted from this scheme e. Under Mukhyamantri Balika Protsahar Yojana Scheme the girls who secure 1<sup>st</sup> Division in Matriculation Examination are being provided an incentive amount of Rs.10,000/- only f. Construction of 530 Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas for the Girls and 535 Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas are in operation with an enrolment of 46,000 Girls. Among them about half of them are from the Scheduled Castes and 4,200 Girls are belongs to Minority Communities(See, Government of Bihar, Marching Ahead, Agenda of Good Governance, 2010-2015, Government of Bihar, Patna, n.d.&GOB, Marching Ahead, Agenda of Good Governance, 2010-2015, Government of Bihar, Patna, n.d.).

For the Social Empowerment of Women, the State Government has given several facilities for women such as helpline, short stay home, protection home, working women hostel, crèche etc. Apart from these, the programme proposes to create awareness among the various women on the issues of female feticide, child marriage, dowry, domestic violence and witchcraft through various means such as Nuked Noatak, Puppet Shows etc. (Government of Bihar, Economic Survey, 2008-09, 2010-11, p. 188, p. 253). The government claimed that Rs.95.00 lakh has been disbursed among the district level from the Social Rehabilitation fund to help the women victims in cases like trafficking, rape, domestic violence etc (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.238).

For the cultural empowerment of women exhibition -cum- gender fair 'Sapnokochalichhoone' programme has been launched in 20 women's colleges in 6 districts. From Bakkho community a programme has been started for capacity development of women (GOB, Economic Survey, 2010-11, p.253). Organization of Nari Shakti Utsav is another initiative by the state government for the cultural empowerment of women.

### **Welfare of Backward and Extremely Backward classes**

60 percent of Bihar's populations are considered as backward classes. So development of the backward and extremely backward classes is very necessary for Bihar's human development. In April 2007 the state government has constituted a separate department of Backward Classes (BC) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) welfare for the welfare of their educational and economic development.

There are some welfare measures that have been taken by the state government in collaboration with the central government for the BC and EBC.

- i) In October 2010, Scholarships to students from backward and extremely backward classes were launched. About 4.44 lakh students have availed this facility till Dec.2011.
- ii) Stipendis being given for primary middle and high school.

- iii) Pre –Matric Scholarship which is a centrally sponsored scheme with a cost sharing basis of 50:50 between central and state government for the students. Till 2011-12, 91.5 thousand students have benefitted from this scheme.
- iv) The state government has also provided for residential school and hostels.
- v) Merit UnnayanYojona (Up gradation Scheme)
- vi) Mukhamantri Medha Vritti Yojona for the Extremely Backward Classes.
- vii) Jananayak Karpuri Thakur Hostels for Extremely Backward classes.
- viii) Another programme i.e. Swayam Saksham which is included in the educational loans, Rs. 5 lakh has been utilized for professionals and Micro Finance Scheme and for other important measures.

**Table: 9.1**

**Financial Progress of BC and EBC Welfare (Rs. crore)**

<b>Details:</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10 (upto Oct., 2009)</b>
Total outlay	6,150.5	6,742.0
Total approved amount	6,022.5	6,742.0
Total Expenditure	4,785.8	6,684.0
Expenditure as percentage of approved amount	79.5	99.1
Expenditure as percentage of total outlay	77.8	99.1

Department of BC and EBC welfare, Government of Bihar (GOB, Economic Survey, 2010 – 11, p.255).

### **Minority welfare**

In Bihar, Muslims constitute around 16.53 percent of the population 0.03 percent are Christians and 0.21 percent belong to other religious minorities. So it is seen that total religions minorities constitute about 16.71 percent of the population of the state. Anaria, Purnia, Katihar and Kishanganj– these districts is basically important for Muslims because the largest population share of Muslims lives in these districts and the lowest share of minorities is in Lakhisarai. Since in the state Muslims are large in

number, the state government has taken several welfare measures for the upliftment of the minority sections of the people. As per the Sachar Committee Report, the status of education among the Muslims is not so well as compared to the other general population so the state government has tried to remove this disparity of this deprived section of the population. So it has adopted the following welfare measures and the welfare measures are:

- i) Constructions of Hostels for minority students both for boys and girls in Katihar, Begusarai, Madhubani, Khagaria, Madhepura, Bhagalpur, Jehanabad, Rohtas, Gaya, Patna and Bhojpur Districts. In Patna Mother Teresa Hostels are established for minority girls which are operational and work for the construction of similar hospitals is in progress in East Champaran, Gaya and Nalanda.
- ii) From the Minority Community there is construction of monuments in the memory of great personalities.
- iii) Scholarship is also provided to the college students of minority community.
- iv) During 2006-07 for better job opportunities in administrative, technical and commercial sector, the State Government has started coaching plans to the minority students. As per Government reports about 151 students have availed this facility (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.243).
- v) Under Muslim Mahila Parityakta Yojana Rs. 10,000/- is to be given to the Muslim women for the improvement of their economic condition, 600 women have benefited from the scheme during 2010-11 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.243).
- vi) The Government had claimed that for the training of minority artisan and Unemployed Youth Mukhamantri Shram Shakti Yojana have been launched in the State. Rs.1.00 lakh has been provided to the Youths for their self-employment through the Bihar State Minority Finance Corporation (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.243).
- vii) Under Mukhya Mantri Vidyarthi Protsahar Yojana about 20,201 students have benefited from the Scheme in 2010 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.243).

- viii) The State Government has also provided financial assistance to abandoned Muslim women.
- ix) Forencouraging minority students Mukhamantri Alpasankhyak Vidyarthi Protsahar Yojana has been introduced in the State.
- x) A large amount was allocated for Bihar State Sunni wakf Board (Rs.23 lakh) and Bihar State SiyaWakf Board (Rs.10 lakh) during 2010-11 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.243).
- xi) The State Government has disbursed a grant of Rs. 34.76 lakh for the development of Bihar Urdu Academyin 2010-11 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12, p.243)

### **Social welfare for Old and Disabled**

The State Government had not only shown concern about the Welfare of Women and Child it also focuses on the Welfare of the differently abled persons through various pension schemes. There are several schemes both in the Central Sector and State Sector for the old aged, widow and those with disabilities. The Central Sector Schemes are Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme and the State Sector Schemes are Laxmi Bai Pension Scheme, Bihar State Social Security Pension Scheme. Bihar Disability Pension Scheme, Kabir Antyesti Grant Scheme, Mukhamantri Samarth Yojana, Scholarship to Disability Scheme, MukhamantriNitishktjan Rin Yojona, Survey of Handicapped, Up gradation of Special Schools etc (GOB, Economic Survey, 2012-13, p.249).

Apart from these, the state has taken some more initiatives that have been taken by the State Government for the welfare of Senior Citizens and disabled persons which are given below:

- i) During the period of 2012-13 Chief Minister's Disabled Empowerment Scheme (SAMBAL) has been implemented by the state government by merging new and old schemes for the betterment or welfare of disabled persons in the

society. Under this scheme Scholarship, artificial limbs, machines, certification, special schools, service provider centres, education loans, self-employment loans and protection homes are provided to these people. A budget of Rs.300 lakh is released by the state government for this scheme in the year 2017-18 (GOB, Economic Survey, 2012-13, p.249).

- ii) Under Laxmi Bai Pension Scheme income limit of Rs. 30,000/- has been increased to Rs. 60,000/-.
- iii) Under IGNWPS (Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme) scheme the rate of pension from Rs.200/- and the eligibility criteria from the present age grant of 40-59 years has been increased to Rs.300/- and 40-79 years respectively (GOB, Economic Survey, 2012-13, p.250).
- iv) The same has happened in the IGNDPS (Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme). Under this Scheme the rate of pension has been increased from Rs.200/- to Rs.300/- per month per beneficiary and also the eligibility criteria have been increased from age group of 18-64 years to 18-79 years.
- v) At Purnia, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul, West Champaran, Rohtas, Bhagalpur, Seven District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC) has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide integrated facilities for persons with Disabilities (GOB, Economic Survey, 2011-12).
- vi) From the above discussion it can be argued that the JD(U) government under the regime of Nitish Kumar has taken several initiatives for the improvement of the Mahadalits, Scheduled tribes and Scheduled castes, women, old and disabled. Number of schemes has been adopted by the state government for Mahadalits such as Special School or Hostel for Mahadalits, Mahadalit Toilet Construction Scheme, Mukhyamantri Jeevan Dristi Programme etc. Through the Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti Yojana women have become empowered and self-reliant. For the welfare of minorities different schemes has been taken by the JD(U) government in Bihar such as Mukhyamantri Alpasankhyak Vidarthi Protsahan Yojana, Mukhyamantri Shrama Shakti Yojana, Muslim Mahila Parityakta Yojana. The state government has also taken some steps for the

welfare of the old and disabled such as SAMBAL, Laxmi Bai Pension Scheme. So it can be said that in Bihar from the year 2005 there have been some improvement in different field but before that there was no noticeable improvement in those field in the state. So it can be said during the Laloo Prasad's regime (1990-2005) there was no development in the social sector in Bihar. Laloo Prasad Yadav had emphasized more on 'izzat' and 'security' of the downtrodden sections of the people what one may call the 'respect' agenda instead of development. But his 'izzat' and 'security' cards did not last long. Though Lalu had succeeded in providing political stability, ensuring communal harmony and bringing the marginalised groups into political mainstream but he failed to provide other facilities to the people of the state such as electricity, pensions, pukka houses and the subsidised saris and dhotis for those below the poverty line. So it is correct to say that during the 2005-2010 under the Nitish Kumar's regime development has shown in different sectors whether it is in education or health or social welfare sector.