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Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

# *Executive Summary*

## Evaluation Study on Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)



Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,  
Government of India



Prepared by:



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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## **Introduction**

The inclusive growth being the core concern of Government of India, it launched a number of schemes to benefit the poor and marginalized, youth and women of the country. In order to reach the lowest ladder of the society, communication plays a vital role in generating awareness towards development schemes leading to availing of benefits of the schemes. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India along with National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) initiated Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers across all states of the country. The main objective of the programme is to rehabilitate the Identified manual scavengers and their dependents by providing them One Time Cash Assistance, Skill development training and by providing them financial assistance in the form of loan subsidy for undertaking alternative occupations.

### **I. Background**

National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India has spearheaded Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers in several states of India. NSKFDC has played a leading role in planning, providing technical inputs and monitoring of SRMS on behalf of MoSJE. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India entrusted Research and Development Initiative (RDI) for evaluating the above-mentioned programme. A total of 3816 interviews of the identified Manual Scavengers were assigned to RDI for the evaluation study across 13 states of India. In response to this RDI has successfully completed 3813 interviews in all the 13 states.

### **II. Objective of Evaluation Study**

The broad objectives of Self-employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers are as follows:

1. To assess the current employment status of the manual scavengers.
2. To evaluate the process of skill development training, availing loan subsidy and their outcomes.
3. To identify whether liberated manual scavengers have received One Time Cash Assistance
4. To study whether the children of manual scavengers are getting scholarships.
5. To identify the income status of manual scavengers who are engaged in other sustainable alternative occupation.
6. To identify cases of social exclusion in schools and work places.

### III. Methodology

The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative approach.

#### **Semi Structured Interview with the Identified Manual Scavengers and their dependents:**

Quantitative research was conducted with the Identified Manual Scavengers and their dependents. Care was taken to select the respondent in a particular household

- ✓ Initial interaction with MoSJE and NSKFDC officials to understand the content and focus area of the assignment.
- ✓ Literature study about the manual scavengers.
- ✓ Sampling.
- ✓ Chalking out proper plan to implement the study in the entire 13 states.
- ✓ Interaction with identified Manual Scavengers keeping all the components of the study.

These interviews elicited following information covering the qualitative aspect:

- Awareness about the One Time Cash Assistance Programme
- Awareness about the skill development training programme provided to the manual scavengers and their dependents
- Experience of attending the skill development training course and its outcome
- Status of scholarships to the children of manual scavengers
- Awareness about loan and subsidy to engage in alternative sustainable occupation
- Suggestions for improvement in future

### IV. Findings

- i. The information gathered from the the field were consolidated, compiled and tabulated for analysis and representation. The prime focus of the survey was the four major components of the SRMS scheme. A total of 3813 beneficiaries were interviewed and responses were recorded across all 13 states.
- ii. The study shows that a majority of respondents (45%) are in the age group of 31-45 years followed by 25% in 46-60 age group. Gender wise classification shows that out of total 56.5% beneficiaries were female. This shows that more than half of the identified manual scavengers were female. Uttar Pradesh recorded maximum (92%) number of females followed by Tamil Nadu (81%). Punjab recorded highest (93%) number of male beneficiary in the survey followed by Karnataka (90%).

- iii. As per the responses from the beneficiaries it was found that 47 percent of them are illiterate followed by 21 percent who has reported themselves to be literate. 0.4 percent of the respondents responded that they are graduate.
- iv. The study reveals that majority 42.3% of the respondents are working as sanitation worker in their area followed by wage labourers (21.6%). 22.2 percent have reported that they are not working anywhere. This percent includes housewives, elder persons etc. 1.8 percent of respondents reported that they are permanent sanitary worker in the municipality.
- v. The respondents have opined that they have changed their occupation after receiving the One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) of Rs. 40,000/-. 1.8 percent respondents have reported that they are working as permanent sanitation worker in the municipality. The financial assistance and skill development training given to the identified manual scavengers has played very vital role in upgrading their occupation status. It is also reported that the manual scavengers are having land holdings and they are working as agricultural labours (2.9%). The Swachh Bharat mission, a flagship program of Government of India has given the manual scavengers an opportunity of working as sanitary worker and safai karamchari in their area. 3.4 percent of respondents have reported that they are self employed after getting some skill training in the sectors of beautician, tailoring, driving, plumbing, electronics etc. It is also reported that very less number of beneficiaries are working as housekeeping worker in urban areas.
- vi. The data shows that the income of the manual scavengers has increased after leaving manual scavenging and adopting alternate occupations. A very high proportion of 65.3% of the manual scavengers were earning less than Rs. 3000/- per month when they were engaged in manual scavenging and only 23.1 percent of them were earning Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/- per month. Whereas after leaving manual scavenging and adopting alternate occupations with the assistance provided under SRMS, the proportion of low income earners of less than Rs. 3000/- has come down drastically to 35.8 percent and the proportion of higher income between Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/- has significantly increased to 36.6 percent. Even in case of income range of Rs. 5000/- to Rs 10,000/- the corresponding proportion has shown significant improvement from 7.9% to 19.4%. This shows that the monthly income of identified manual scavengers has increased significantly after leaving their traditional occupation of manual scavenging and adopting alternative occupations.

- vii. The study envisaged the receiving of One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) with the Identified Manual Scavengers across all 13 states. Out of total interviewed, 3375 (88.5%) number of respondents said that they have received OTCA. In Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh all the Identified Manual scavengers reported that they have received the cash assistance whereas in Punjab and Uttrakhand only 1 beneficiary has reported that they have not received OTCA. 3 respondents each in Odisha and West Bengal reported that they have not received the cash assistance. Out of total surveyed in Uttar Pradesh 215 respondents have reported that they have not received the cash assistance followed by 112 beneficiaries of Karnataka.
- viii. The data shows that 98 percent of the beneficiaries have received the OTCA amount in their bank account and 2 percent have reported that they have received the amount in cash. The instance of cash disbursement has been reported from Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ix. The finding shows that majority 20.3 percent of the respondents have utilized the OTCA amount in House Renovation followed by medical expenses (18.1%) and domestic consumption (12.6%). Another 12.6 percent respondents have reported that they have established small enterprises for their livelihood. Close to 18 percent respondents have reported that they have bought cattles like cow, goat, pigs, and buffalo for their livelihood. Some of the respondents also reported that they have bought drain wash tankers and sanitation equipments etc and earning money as their alternative source of occupation. The genderwise bifurcation shows that 830 female respondents have used the OTCA amount in establishing small enterprises such as tailoring, beauty parlour, and small retail grocery shops etc. This is followed by 576 female respondents who have reported that they have utilized the OTCA amount in the medical expenses of their dependents.
- x. A total of 609 respondents in the age group of 31-45 years have said that they have used the OTCA amount in establishing small enterprise followed by 385 respondents in house renovation of the same age group. It is reported that 355 respondents in the age group of 15-30 years have utilized the cash assistance in establishing small enterprises.
- xi. *The data shows that no family members of the Identified Manual Scavengers are engaged in manual scavenging as per their current status of occupation.*
- xii. The study revealed that 2151 beneficiaries and their dependents have enrolled for skill training across all 13 states from 3813 households. Close to 40 percent of the



respondents were prompted by the municipal body followed by village Panchayats (30%) and peer groups (20%) and rest have reported that they were prompted by publicity/media and awareness programme/camps and project implementation agencies of the skill development program itself. The 43.6 percent respondents who said that they are not enrolled in the skill development training have said that they were unaware about the skill training program (44%) followed by their eligibility (i.e. above 40 years of age) which is 20%. 18.2 percent respondents has responded that the training is not useful followed by 13.4 percent identified manual scavengers and their dependents have opined that they are not interested in such trainings. And very minimal responses came out that they are already involved in other sustainable activities. The peer groups (35.7%) of the respondents have played a major role in selection of skill trade for undergoing skill training followed by self motivation (33.8%) and training institutes (28.4%).

- xiii. 60 percent of the respondents reported that they have received stipend during the skill training. The stipend amount of Rs 3000/- per month is given to those trainees who have attended the training class without absent.
- xiv. The study reveals that 24.4 percent of the respondents have faced difficulty in joining the training programme. The major problems reported by the respondents are location of the training center (60%) followed by documentation process (16.5%) and age bar (15.7%).
- xv. Out of total trainees, 11.1 percent have reported that they have been offered job by the training institute. And from those, close to 25 percent said that they have joined the job offered by the institute. Out of total, 57 percent of respondents have opined that they are satisfied with their jobs. *It has been observed that only those trainees who have attended their full course of training i.e. 3 and 6 months have been offered job by the institutes.*
- xvi. It is reported that the trainees who have offered job after skill training have joined the job nearby their home town or are self employed. The main sectors of self employment were reported to be stitching & tailoring, beauty parlour, vegetable vendoring, shops, security guard, plumbing, computer operators, auto- rickshaw driving, sanitary tank operator etc.
- xvii. The data shows that close to 42 percent reported that they are earning Rs 5000 – Rs 10,000/- per month followed by 26.6 percent reported that they are earning upto Rs 3000/- per month after the skill training and self employment.

- xviii. Close to 50 percent of the respondents reported that they are not doing any job or self employed after skill training because they are not getting any loans for establishing their enterprises. This is followed by 26.2 percent who said that they have lack of confidence in doing their own work.
- xix. The study shows that the life of the beneficiaries after the skill training has changed. One-third of the respondents opined that their house hold income has increased followed by 27.5 percent who had said that their awareness about the different schemes of the government has increased. 25 percent of the respondents said that their confidence level has increased and their respect in community has also increased after the training.
- xx. It is reported that 42 percent children (6- 15 years) of the identified manual scavengers are going to schools across all 13 states. It was reported during the study that 38 percent of the children of manual scavengers in the age-group of 16-18 years are school dropouts i.e. left schooling after 8<sup>th</sup> standard. 12 percent cases were reported that school dropouts after primary level of education. 8 percent childrens were reported that they are not in the school going age.
- xxi. Cases of discrimination were also reported with the children of identified manual scavengers in the schools. 55.6 percent of beneficiaries have reported that their children face discrimination during the meals, followed by separate sitting arrangements (22.2 percent).
- xxii. The study reported that out of total, 7.3 percent of respondents have applied for loan. Out of those, 72 percent have said that they have received loan. The beneficiaries who have not applied for loans had reported various reasons and the major reason is unawareness about the loan and subsidy (28.6%) followed by 23.6 percent who said that they are not confident of getting loans and 12.3 percent have reported that documentation process for applying loan is very difficult. The respondents who have received the loan have reported that they bought cattle such as cow, buffalo and started small dairy business. Some bought Auro rickshaw and E- rickshaw. The loan amount has helped the manual scavengers in establishing small business such as setting up grocery shops, mobile repair shops etc. Involvement of middle man is also reported in granting of loans from banks (20%).
- xxiii. The study shows that the respondents who are engaged in sanitation works without adhering safety measures are suffering from various health related problem. 44.5 percent



of the respondents responded that they have faced skin related diseases during last one year followed by respiratory problems (19%) and eye infection (12.9%).

- xxiv. 13.9 percent of the total respondents have reported that they face discrimination at their work places and out of that 95.3 percent have reported that the discrimination is caste based.
- xxv. On asking about the level of satisfaction with the SRMS programme, more than half (52%) of the respondents have opined that the SRMS programme of the government is good followed by 44 percent who opined the programme to be average and only 3.8 percent said that the programme of the government is bad.

## **SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The following are the suggestions and Recommendations for future improvement of the programme:

- The SRMS programme had been successful in rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.
- The data shows that only 11.5 percent of the Identified Manual Scavengers have not received the OTCA amount yet. It is recommended that the authorized agency should make sustained effort in monitoring the transfer of OTCA through the banks.
- Around 28 percent of the Identified Manual Scavengers have stated that the OTCA amount is not adequate for their rehabilitation. It is suggested to increase the amount of OTCA.
- The study finding indicates that 56.4 percent of the Identified Manual Scavengers and their dependents have enrolled for the skill training. The major hurdles in enrolment for the program were found to be location of the training centers (58.3%), the documentation process (16.5%), and selection of trade. It is suggested that, in-order to increase the no of enrolments training centers in local area should be opened and the documentation process should be made easier. Besides these the counseling for selection of trade for skill training needs to be enhanced.
- Monitoring and sensitization of skill development training partners needs to be enhanced keeping in mind the vulnerability of the target group.
- It was found that the stipend amount is not adequate enough to sustain their livelihood during the training period, therefore it is suggested to increase the amount of stipend.

- It is found that 11.1 percent trainees were offered jobs after completing the training and out of these close to a quarter only have joined the jobs. The main reasons for not joining stated by them are remuneration not sufficient (32.9%), location of the job (28.8%), not interested (13.7%), work not useful (9.6%). It is suggested to place the candidates near their home town so that they can sustain with their jobs and also to increase the remuneration.
- The finding shows that 44.5% of the identified manual scavengers and their dependents have suffered from skin disease followed by respiratory problems (19.3%). It is suggested that the proper health checkup should be conducted for those who are engaged in sanitation activities.
- The study shows that 13.9 percent of identified manual scavengers have said that they face discrimination at their work place on the basis of their caste (95.3%) and gender (4.7%). It is recommended that the stakeholders for the implementation of SRMS may create an atmosphere through sensitization of employers to minimize the discrimination at the work place at the same time if there is a case of reported discrimination the law enforcing agency should strictly adhere to.
- The findings shows that close to 50 percent of the respondents are not doing any job or self employed because they are not getting loans. It is suggested that the documentation for loan process should be made simpler; the bank officials should proactively sanction viable projects seeing the vulnerability of the target group.
- There should be regular interaction between the stakeholders and Govt. bodies with the lead banks.
- The financial support in the form of micro-credit and loan from the banks being conduit for self employment, it is suggested that the bank officials should be sensitized to take a step ahead to make the loan process less cumbersome and aid in suitable proposals for income generation activities.
- SHGs formation should be encouraged.
- The NGOs and other partners involved in rehabilitation of manual scavengers should sensitize them and their dependents in sending the children to the schools.

➤ Keeping in mind the socio-economic, cultural background of the target group it is suggested that, if proper training, bank support and given opportunities for working in municipal corporation; the life of the manual scavengers will be enhanced.