

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE) is implementing 'Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls' to provide hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education. Presently 703 hostels are being run under this scheme in 10 states namely, Tamil Nadu (203); Karnataka (155); Andhra Pradesh (86); Uttar Pradesh (98); Telangana (61); Gujarat (29); Jharkhand (33); Rajasthan (22); Manipur (9); and West Bengal (7).

The evaluation of the scheme based on outcome serves a two-fold benefit. *First*, the findings generated from this study may act as strategic inputs for modelling need based approach of implementing the proposed interventions. *Secondly*, it yields estimates of the desired indicators, which would enable measuring the outcome and impact of the schemes. The study also make an assessment of the need to continue the scheme; and suggests measures for further improvements.

Sampling of Hostels

- State wise list of hostels along with their complete address and total number of beneficiaries in each hostel was taken from respective state offices.
- The list was then arranged in descending order of total beneficiaries in each hostel.
- A Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) procedure was adopted to select the required number of hostels in each state.

Sampling of Beneficiary

- List of all the beneficiaries residing in the hostel was taken 50 beneficiaries were then selected from each hostel randomly.
- In all 200 hostels and 10,000 inmates were proposed to be covered under the study. For selection of hostels, state wise list of hostels with addresses and total number of beneficiaries in each hostel was taken from respective state offices; it was arranged in the descending order of total inmates in each hostel; and required number of hostels was selected by Systematic Random

Sampling technique. Selection of beneficiaries was done randomly from the list of beneficiaries provided by respective hostels. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were applied for generating desired information. Informant specific survey questionnaires were developed and used to pursue study objectives and interviews conducted with District Social Welfare Officers/State Nodal Officers, hostel management officials and hostel inmates.

This report provides a detailed description of findings; outcome of the scheme; and impact indicators pertaining to key areas of interest to the Ministry, as a result of the evaluation.

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

- Among the 200 sampled hostels selected for the study, only 175 were found operational with 7729 inmates.
- 66% hostels are for boys and 34 % are for girls.
- Address of 90% of the hostels were matching with the provided address.
- Out of total inmates majority (47% inmates) were in the age group of 'up to 15 years'.
- 69% inmates belonged to Scheduled castes.
- Overall 94% inmates were Hindus.
- 69% belongs to BPL category with average annual income of Rs. 30,359/-
- Highest educational qualification for majority of the respondents are higher secondary pass (44%).
- Total sanctioned capacity of the hostel was 12626 out of which 83 % are residing in the hostel.
- Average rooms per hostel constructed was 14as per norms.
- Average occupancy per room was 10 against 9 sanctioned per room.
- Average gap in sanction and construction of hostel was 6 years. There is no gap between construction and hostel getting fully operationalized.
- 77% hostels have reported having some kind of rule book.
- Major criteria for adopted for selection of inmates was merit of the applicant, permanent resident of the state, annual family income, caste of the student etc.

- 74% hostels have provision for reservation of disabled children.
- Availability of facilities like toilets, bathrooms, water facility in toilets and bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, warden room, electricity connection, lights, fans, recreational facilities, regular cleanliness, drinking water are available and functional in almost all the hostels with some degree of variations.
- Standard of available facilities like boarding & lodging arrangements, quality of mess food, variety in mess food, cleanliness in mess, spaciousness in hostel room, furniture's, toilets, bathrooms, cleaning frequency of toilets and bathrooms, availability of water in toilets and bathrooms, overall environment, health facilities, cleanliness of hostel premises, overall rules and regulations are rated average or below average except for security measures especially for girls and curb of ragging in campus and recreational facilities. It needs lots of attention for improvement.
- Account book was available in 78% hostels.
- Admission register was available and maintained in 88% of the hostels.
- Attendance register of students and staffs was available and maintained in 89% of the hostels
- Stock register was available and maintained in 71% of the hostels.
- Salary register was available and maintained only in 55% hostels of Odisha.

Impact on Health

- Students stay healthy due to availability of timely & regular meals.
- Facility of Regular health checkup especially in PHC/CHC is improving the health condition of inmates.
- Availability of first aid kits is helpful in providing on site instant treatment for minor injuries and illness. It is a big step towards ensuring good health of inmates.

Impact on Education

- Most of the higher educational institutions or institutions of repute are located in urban areas and thus not accessible for students of poor families residing in remote rural areas. The scheme has benefitted such children especially girls.

- Due to availability of free boarding and lodging facility, drop outs have started reducing especially for OBC boys and girls from poor families.
- Those students who are preparing for competitive exams get opportunity to attend good coaching institutions which gives impetus to their career.
- As the inmates stay in the hostels located near to their educational institutes, it reduces the travel time which gives them more time for studies. This also minimizes their fatigue.
- Academic performance of both boys and girls during their stay in the hostels had reportedly improved across states. However, the improvement was rated 'excellent' in states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat; 'Very good' in Telangana; 'Good' in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; and 'Average' in Manipur. However, after moving out of the hostel they adopted different trend of activities. Most of the students in Gujarat continued their higher studies; in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh they continued their studies till they got some job; in Rajasthan and Manipur most of them started their own work, only few students continued their studies. No information was available with regard to students in Jharkhand in this regard.

Outcomes of the scheme

- So far 703 hostels have been constructed under this scheme in 10 states only. Therefore, only some states have taken full advantage of the scheme.
- The scheme had significant effect in Tamil Nadu; followed by Karnataka; Andhra Pradesh; Uttar Pradesh; and Telangana. The effect in Gujarat; Jharkhand; and Rajasthan can be described as limited. However, in Manipur and West Bengal it has been poor.
- The socio-economic profile of the inmates shows that the benefit of providing hostel facilities reached to the right category of target groups. Majority of 63% hostel inmates were OBCs; 23% SCs; 11% STs; and only 4% 'Others' category. Maximum of 89% OBC inmates were in Karnataka; and minimum of 42% each in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Majority of 65% inmates came from BPL families. Their average annual family income was only Rs.39,396. It was highest for the inmates of Jharkhand (Rs. 58,568/-) and lowest for those

from Telangana (Rs. 11,252/-). The hostels constructed benefited the target group of poor OBC students coming for studies from long distances.

- The establishment of the hostels facilitated children of poor socio economic background to pursue their school and college education and raise their standards. Thus the outcome of the scheme in study areas has been in conformity with the objectives of the scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance

- Budget for major repair & maintenance work goes to PWD department. This often causes delay in implementation. There must be some mechanism to speed up the repair & maintenance process. Some budget for maintenance must be provided to the hostels.
- There should be a regular and adequate budget provisions for regular repair and maintenance of hostels including regular cleaning of rooms, toilets, kitchen, compound etc. The amount should be adequate enough and provided to the hostels or the inmates account directly.
- The MoSJE may work out a mechanism to ensure the maintenance of hostels does not suffer due to non-availability of adequate funds.
- All hostels should be provided with basic facilities like computers, RO/water cooler, Solar Heater, Television, games facility etc. as these are requirements as per today's need.

Security

- Permanent staffs are required to be posted in the hostels, as several hostels reported their non – availability. Especially wardens are required in every hostel.
- All girls hostel should have female wardens only.
- Warden quarters may be constructed in all the girls' hostels and it should be made mandatory for warden to stay in them.
- No outsiders like families and friends of staffs or teachers families must not be allowed to occupy the hostel.

- Mandatory construction of boundary wall around the hostel and posting of night watchman in every hostel.
- Other security measures like installation of CCTV cameras in all hostels.
- Locations selected for construction of hostels must have adequate security for girl students and access to good roads, potable drinking water.

Scholarship

- Scholarship amount should be increased to compensate escalation of prices and should be paid on time (monthly basis) as this forms major source of funds for food and other components of expenses by hostel inmates.
- The scholarship and other amount like food expense, maintenance expense etc. should be directly given to inmates account.
- Diet charges should be enhanced to meet the rising prices.
- Mess facility should be strengthened and free food should be must.

Additional Educational Facility

- The hostels sanctioned under the scheme should be located in educational hubs for the benefit of the targeted beneficiaries.
- All hostels should have library facility for reading and studying to improve their knowledge and learning.
- Special coaching classes for students preparing for competitive exams and facility of career counseling should be provided for all inmates. There should be provision for e-learning facility.
- The hostels should have the additional facility for technical training / skill training in convergence with other departments.

Others

- Regular medical check -up of inmates should be ensured in all hostels.
- All the hostel wardens must send periodical, preferably on monthly basis, progress report in a structured format about maintenance and upkeep of hostels to the concerned district administration. District Social Welfare Officers should personally check the progress by surprise checks and ensure corrective measures are taken for the benefit of the inmates.
- In cases where inmates are more than the sanctioned strength, provision for additional amenities such as toilets, living rooms etc. should be made.

- A satisfactory mechanism for dissemination of guidelines issued by nodal agencies to implementing agencies must be ensured.
- There should be uniformity in terms of rules and regulations for boarding and lodging across states.
- The number and spread of hostels should be increased and income limit for admission of inmates should be increased so that more and more disadvantaged students are benefitted under the scheme.
- There should be a proper monitoring mechanism from the Ministry and uniform norm for maintenance and upkeep of hostels should be provided to produce a better result from this scheme.