

POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS IN KASHMIR PROVINCE - AN EVALUATIVE STUDY

Neelofar Khan*
Syed Yatu**

ABSTRACT

The Study was conducted with an objective to evaluate the role of Social Welfare Department for granting the scholarships at Post-Matric level to the physically challenged students in all Districts of Kashmir Province. The Sample of 300 beneficiaries was drawn, Self constructed Information Schedule and Questionnaire was used. The results of the study depict that Post-Matric Scholarship scheme to Physically challenged students during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10) has been utilized by all Districts of Kashmir Province except the Ladakh Division (Leh and Kargil).

Key words: Social Welfare, Post-Matric, Scholarship and Physically Challenged.

Introduction

The J&K state social welfare Advisory Board was originally set up by an order of the state cabinet dated 27th October, 1954. The Board was reconstituted for the first time in December, 1954 and then in August 1960. The department of social welfare is implementing a number of schemes at the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric levels. Thus grants scholarships to the students of schedule tribes, economically backward and other backward classes for proceeding of higher education, subsidely for building residential homes, rehabilitation of uneducated young men by imparting them training in various crafts in technical institutions started by the Department, providing land to the landless, setting up of residential institutions of economically backward, other backward classes (OBC) and schedule tribe people of society. Opening of social welfare centers, ladies vocational and welfare centers, setting up of technical institutions such as cottage industries centers, destitute homes orphanages and home for blind and physically handicapped members of the schedule tribes, economically backward and other backward classes. The Directorate of social welfare assist the schedule tribes, economically backward and other backward class students by providing various types of scholarships and with respect to the utilizations of Post-matric scholarship scheme to Physically challenged students for the years (2008-09) and(2009-10) the study interprets as under:

Post-Matric Scholarship scheme to Physically Challenged

The Government of India has proposed to launch a new centrally sponsored scheme of Post-Matric scholarship for physically challenged students. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the physically challenged students studying at post matriculation or post secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. The annual income, from all sources, of parents or guardian of the student should be Rs 44,500/p.a. and the disability certificate of the concerned student should indicate 40% disability or above as per norms. Under this background, the present study is directed to evaluate the role of social welfare department for granting the scholarships at Post-Matric level to Physically challenged students in all Districts of Kashmir Province. The study will be focused to know the problems, deficiencies, difficulties and prospects of such scheme being implemented to these students.

* Director, Directorate of Distance Education, University of Kashmir, Srinagar

** Research Scholar, Faculty of Education, University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

Statement of the Problem

The problem for the present study is formulated as under:

**Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Social Welfare Department to Physically Challenged Students in
Kashmir Province - An Evaluative Study**

Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the present study is to evaluate the role of state social welfare department in implementing the scheme regarding the grant of scholarships to Physically challenged students at Post-Matric level. Hence the objectives are stated as under:-

1. To know and evaluate mode of distribution and execution of scholarship to the target group.
2. To know and evaluate the proper utilization of the scheme to the target group.
3. To suggest recommendation for better provision and execution of the scheme on the basis of data and evidence.

Sample

The sample of the present study comprised of 300 beneficiaries randomly drawn from various Districts of Kashmir Province considering the two sessions i.e., (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Tool Used

The investigator used the following tools in order to collect the accurate data as; self constructed information schedule and questionnaire.

Statistical Analysis

The statistical technique employed in the analysis of the data was based on the Percentage statistics.

Analysis and Interpretation

In order to achieve the objectives formulated for the present study, the data collected has been tabulated as under:

Table 01: Mode of Distribution and Execution of Post-Matric Scholarships.

Mode of Distribution	Sample	Percentage
Payee's Cheques	284	94.66%
Demand –Drafts	16	5.34%
Total	300	100.00%

Table 01 shows the Mode of Distribution and execution of Post-Matric Scholarships. The above table reveals the percentage of the mode of distribution of scholarships among the beneficiaries. The data collected indicates that out of the total sample, 94.66% of the beneficiaries have received their scholarships through Payees cheques and 5.34 % of the beneficiaries get through Demand-Drafts.

Table 02: Distribution and Execution of Post-Matric Scholarships.

Distributors	Receivers	Percentage
Main offices of the project	283	94.33%
District social welfare offices	17	5.67%
Total	300	100.00%

The above table shows the Distribution and execution of Post-Matric scholarships. The above table depicts the percentage of the distribution and execution of such scholarships among the beneficiaries. The data reveals that out of the total sample (300), the percentage of the beneficiaries that have received their scholarships in the main offices of the project and in the District social welfare offices of the Kashmir province is 94.33 % and 5.67 % respectively.

Table 03: Utilization of the Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes by the Beneficiaries.

Purpose	Clientle	Percentage
Academics	180	60.00%
Vocational and Technical	120	40.00%
Total	300	100.00%

The above table shows the utilisation of Post-Matric scholarship schemes by the beneficiaries. The above table reveals that these schemes have been utilized by the beneficiaries in their Academics, Vocational and Technical courses. The collected data indicates that out of the total sample (300), 60% of the scholarships have been utilized by the beneficiaries in the Academics and 40% of the scholarships have been utilized in the Vocational and Technical courses.

Table 04: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs.	%age
2008-09	Srinagar	100	70	4,96,000	70.00%
2009-10		110	91	10,54,000	82.72%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Srinagar, Kashmir. The table indicates that 100 applications were received in District Srinagar, Kashmir in the year 2008-09 in which 70 beneficiaries are benefitted with the said scholarship which amounted Rs 4.96 Lakh and the percentage of beneficiaries is 70 %. The table also reflects that there were 110 applicants during the year 2009-10 in which 91 beneficiaries have received the scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 10.54 Lakh and the percentage of beneficiaries is 82.72%.

Table 5: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
2008-09	Ganderbal	Not utilized			
2009-10		05	01	4000	20.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Ganderbal, Kashmir. The table reveals that the scheme has not been utilized by the District Ganderbal, Kashmir during the year (2008-09), and therefore, the percentage of the beneficiaries for the said scheme is zero (0). The table also reflects that there were 05 applicants for the same scheme in

the District Ganderbal, Kashmir during the year (2009-10) and in which only 01 applicant has been considered. Which amounted Rs 4 thousand and thus, the percentage of beneficiaries is only 20 %.

Table 6: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
2008-09	Baramulla	20	12	49,000	60.00%
2009-10		30	22	1,87,000	73.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Baramulla, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), there were 20 applications in District Baramulla, Kashmir in which 12 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship worth Rs 49 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 60 %. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 30 applications in which 22 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District worth Rs 1 lakh and 87 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 73.00%.

Table 7: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the Years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	%age
2008-09	Budgam	20	18	1,84,000	90.00%
2009-10		30	25	2,58,000	83.33%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Budgam, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), there were 20 applications in District Budgam, Kashmir in which 18 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship worth Rs 1 lakh and 84 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 90 %. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 30 applicants in which 25 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District worth Rs 2 lakh and 58 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 83.33%.

Table 8: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the Years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
2008-09	Anantnag	20	13	89,000	65.00%
2009-10		40	37	3,58,000	92.05%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Anantnag, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 20 applications in District Anantnag, Kashmir in which 13 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship worth Rs 89 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 65 %. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), out of 40 applicants, 37 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District worth Rs 3 lakh and 58 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 92.05%.

Table 9: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the Years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
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2008-09	Pulwama	10	08	42,000	80.00%
2009-10		30	22	2,26,000	73.33%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Pulwama, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 10 applications in District Pulwama, Kashmir in which 08 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship worth Rs 42 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 80 %. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), out of 30 applicants, 22 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 2 lakh and 26 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 73.33%.

Table10: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the Years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
2008-09	Kulgam	05	03	5000	60.00%
2009-10		03	01	3000	33.33%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in district Kulgam, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year (2008-09), there were 05 applications received in District Kulgam, Kashmir in which 03 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 5 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 60%. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 03 applicants in which 01 beneficiary are benefitted with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 3 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is only 33.33%.

Table 11: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the Years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount In Rs	%age
2008-09	Kupwara	05	02	4000	40.00%
2009-10		15	11	37,000	73.33%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Kupwara, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), there were 05 applications received in District Kupwara in which 02 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 4 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 40%. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 15 applicants in which 11 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 37 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 73.33%.

Table 12: Utilization of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Physically Challenged during the Years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
2008-09	Shopian	03	01	2000	33.33%
2009-10		05	03	11,000	60.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Shopian, Kashmir. The table reveals that in the year(2008-09), there were 03

applications received in District Shopian in which only 01 beneficiary have received the said scholarship which amounted Rs 2 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is only 33.33%. The table also reflects that in the year (2009-10), there were 05 applicants in which 03 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 11 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 60.00%.

Table 13: Utilization of Post-Matric scholarship scheme to physically challenged during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Year	District	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount in Rs	%age
2008-09	Bandipora	10	07	24,000	70.00%
2009-10		15	09	88,000	60.00%

The above table shows the Post-Matric scholarship scheme given to the physically challenged students in District Bandipura, Kashmir. The table indicates that in the year (2008-09), there were 10 applications received in District Bandipura in which 07 beneficiaries are benefited with the said scholarship which amounted Rs 24 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 70.00%. The table also reveals that in the year (2009-10), there were 15 applicants in which 09 beneficiaries have received the said scholarship in the same District which amounted Rs 88 thousand and the percentage of beneficiaries is 60.00%.

With regards to Ladakh division (Leh and Kargil), the Post-matric scholarship scheme to physically challenged has not been utilized during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10).

Conclusions

On the basis of analysis, interpretation and discussion certain meaningful conclusions have been drawn which are given below:

1. It has been found that the scholarships are being distributed among the beneficiaries through payee's cheques and demand-drafts.
2. The beneficiaries have received their scholarships in the main offices of the project and District social welfare offices too.
3. The beneficiaries have utilized these scholarships for different purposes like for Academics, vocational and also for the attainment of technical courses or trainings.
4. It has been found that the Post-Matric scholarship scheme to physically challenged during the years (2008-09) and (2009-10) has been utilized at all Districts of the Kashmir province except the Ladakh Division (Leh and Kargil). The disabled children utilised this scholarship at the school level as well as during their college studies.

In general the facilities with regards to free- tuition, scholarships, reading writing materials, and hostel facilities etc. have been found accommodative with the above enlisted scheme. But shall be extended towards the benefit of the receivers. Simultaneously the various parents of such children have positive attitude towards the government policies for providing such scholarships and also recommended for the increase in the present amount of such scholarships and also in the policies of protective discrimination for their wards.

Suggestions

The following suggestions were recommended by the investigator:

1. The Social welfare Department may go for wider publicity while offering the various types of scholarships, in the state.

2. The Department should take up the evaluation of scheme at regular intervals that shall be focussed towards the proper utilization, distribution and execution of the said scheme.
3. It is suggested that the Social welfare Department may take the corrective measures for the implementation of the scheme as is envisaged in the study and to improve the operational machinery to bring strength in the implementation.
4. The same study can be taken with the population of larger sample, and can be conducted throughout the state.

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