

# AWARENESS, BENEFITS AND BOTTLENECKS IN THE EDUCATION SCHEMES MEANT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRIBALS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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## **Abstract:**

In Jammu & Kashmir, eight communities vide the Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989 and four communities, namely Gujjar, Bakarwal, Gaddi and Sippi were notified as the Scheduled Tribes vide the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 1991. All the twelve (12) Scheduled Tribes (STs) were enumerated officially for the first time during the 2001 Census recording a population of 1,105,979. The Scheduled Tribes account for 10.9 per cent of the total population of the State and 1.3 per cent of the total tribal population of the country. The Scheduled Tribes are predominantly rural as 95.3 per cent of them reside in villages. Among the districts, Kargil (88.3 per cent) has the highest proportion of Scheduled tribes followed by Leh (Ladakh) (82 per cent), Punch (40 per cent) and Rajauri (33.1 per cent). Out of twelve (12) Scheduled Tribes, Gujjar is the most populous tribe having a population of 763,806, thus forming 69.1 percent of the total ST population. Bot is the second major tribe having a population of 96, 698, followed by Bakarwal (60,724) and Brokpa (51,957). Gujjar along with the three tribes constitute 88 per cent of the total tribal population whereas Balti, Purigpa and Gaddi having population ranging from 38,188 down to 35,765 form 10.2 per cent of the total ST population. Remaining five (5) tribes, Sippi, Changpa, Mon, Garra and Beda along with generic tribes constitute the residual proportion (1.9 per cent). Among all the tribes, Beda is the smallest group with a population of 128.

At the district level, Gujjar have the highest concentration in Punch and Rajauri districts, followed by Anantnag, Udhampur and Doda districts. Bot, Bakarwal and Brokpa tribes have the highest concentration in Leh, Anantnag and Baramula districts respectively. Balti and Purigpa are mainly concentrated in Kargil district, Gaddi are in Kathua district.

Gujjars and Bakarwals constitute a significant proportion of the population of the state. In general, they are nomadic in character and largely depend on rearing livestock for their livelihood. Gujjars and Bakerwals are rich in terms of cultural heritage. They have an edge over other communities of the State so far as a distinct cultural identity is concerned. They have their own language Gojri that is an offshoot of the Indo-Aryan school. They have their own costumes, traditions, food habits, lifestyle, and arts and crafts, which vary from area to area.

More than 66 per cent population of nomad Gujjar-Bakerwals in the state of Jammu & Kashmir is living Below Poverty Line. Both groups of Gujjar community are without sufficient food, fodder for their animals. They lack basic facilities like proper schemes of the state and central governments for their upliftment under Scheduled Tribe category. Gujjars in the state are the poorest, living in sordid conditions, have no access to

education as they are of migratory characters. The tribal economy got shaken up due to rapid development and globalization. Because of absolute poverty, illiteracy, the nomadic Gujjar-Bakerwals especially Dhodhi (milk sellers) and Bakerwals (goat rearers) are suffering for want of clean and fresh water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter reason being that they are not able to afford them. More than 66 percent of total population of nomadic Gujjars-Bakerwals is shelter-less and are facing economic instability, food insecurity, and acute shortage of basic facilities, absolute illiteracy and lack of health facilities. The Gujjars, Bakerwals constitute 20 percent of total populations of the State and more than 85 percent of Jammu and Kashmir's total tribal population. Among Gujjar and Bakerwals, a sizeable population is living nomadic life.

Though the Central and the State Governments have taken much interest in the tribal welfare programmes, projects and schemes, much remains to be done. The progress achieved in this field is far from satisfactory. These decades of development have not had the desired impact on the socially, economically and educationally handicapped section.

The welfare programmes have not been effective due to inadequacies in the administrative machinery, lack of sensitive, trained management, lack of general preparedness for large investments, deficiency in accounting systems, procedural delays and lack of proper monitoring and evaluation.

No positive steps have been taken to ensure that scheduled tribes obtained their share of the benefits of public distribution. Even after the completion of these many five year plans things have not profoundly improved. It is necessary that in the current plan and in the years to come, due attention is to be paid for the overall improvement of the tribals.

**Keywords:** Gujjars & Bakerwals, Tribal Welfare, Education Schemes

## Introduction:

Education plays a very important role in the overall development of any community. It not only helps in the development of human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Due to illiteracy, extreme poverty and nomadic way of life, most of the Gujjars and Bakerwal children residing in the backward, hilly and border areas are deprived from the education due to which they are unable to compete with other communities. The respondents in the sampled areas were asked if they knew about the education schemes (as listed in the Table 1.1). Most of the respondents were unaware and ignorant about the different schemes while a few respondents knew about some of the schemes meant for educational development of Gujjars and Bakerwals. The Table (1.1) shows the index of awareness about various education schemes in the sampled villages.

**Table-1.1: Awareness of Educational Schemes**

S.No.	Scheme	Distribution of Respondents across Districts (Yes, responses only)			Total (N=360) Yes responses
		Rajouri (N=120)	Poonch (N=120)	Anantnag (N=120)	
1	Free Books/Uniforms Scheme	21 (17.5)	15 (12.5)	19 (15.83)	<b>55</b> <b>(15.27)</b>
2	Schemes of Hostel for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls	14 (11.66)	12 (10)	11 (9.16)	<b>37</b> <b>(10.27)</b>
3	Scheme of Coaching for Scheduled Tribes Students	15 (12.5)	9 (7.5)	12 (10)	<b>36</b> <b>(10)</b>
4	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students	17 (14.16)	19 (15.83)	17 (14.16)	<b>53</b> <b>(14.72)</b>

5	Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students	13 (10.83)	10 (8.33)	9 (7.5)	<b>32</b> <b>(8.88)</b>
6	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)	14 (11.66)	16 (13.33)	12 (10)	<b>42</b> <b>(11.66)</b>
7	Scheme of Provision of Mobile Schools	21 (17.5)	17 (14.16)	14 (11.66)	<b>52</b> <b>(14.44)</b>

*\*Figures in parenthesis denote percentage*

*Multiple Response Table*

From the analysis of the data, it was found that a little less than one fifth (17.5 percent) respondents in Rajouri, 12.5 percent in Poonch and 15.83 percent respondents in Anantnag were aware about the Free Books and Uniforms Scheme. Under this scheme, Free Books and Uniforms are provided to the tribal students of 1st to 10th class studying in Government run schools. It was found from the study that 11.66 percent respondents in Rajouri, 10 percent in Poonch and 9.16 percent respondents in Anantnag stated that they knew about the Scheme of Hostel for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls. The scheme aims to promote literacy among tribal students by providing hostel accommodation to such scheduled tribe students who would otherwise have been unable to continue their education because of their poor economic conditions and the remote location of their villages. The scheme covers the entire ST population in the country and is not area-specific. Presently, the State Government runs only 23 Gujjars and Bakerwal hostels with around 2125 inmates (1600 boys and 625 girls). These hostels are in no way sufficient to cater the demand of such a huge Gujjar and Bakerwal population.

From the study, it was found that 12.5 percent respondents in Rajouri, 7.5 percent in Poonch and 10 percent in Anantnag were aware about the scheme of Free Coaching for Scheduled Tribe students. This scheme is meant for the coaching of disadvantaged ST candidates in quality coaching institutions to enable them to successfully compete in examinations for jobs/admission to professional courses. It supports free coaching to scheduled tribe students for various competitive examinations viz. Civil Services/State Civil Services, other exams conducted by Union Public Service Commission like Combined Defence Services (CDS), National Defence Academy (NDA) etc. professional courses like Medical, Engineering, Business Administration/Banking/Staff Selection Commission/Railway Recruitment Boards/Insurance Companies, etc. Further, it was found that 14.72 percent respondents were aware about Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, out of which 14.16 percent respondents in Rajouri, 15.83 percent in Poonch and 14.16 percent respondents in Anantnag were aware about this scheme. The aim of this scheme is to support parents of ST students for education of their wards studying in Classes IX and X so that the incidence of dropout, especially in transition from the elementary to secondary and during secondary stage of education, is minimized, and to improve participation of ST students in classes IX and X of Pre-Matric stage, so that they perform well and have a better chance of progressing to Post-Matric stages of education. Further, it was found that 10.83 percent respondents in Rajouri, 8.33 percent respondents in Poonch and 7.5 percent respondents in Anantnag were aware about the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students. The objective of Post Matric scholarship scheme is to provide financial assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Tribes pursuing Post-Matriculation recognized courses in recognized institutions. The scheme covers professional, technical as well as non-professional and non-technical courses at various levels and the scheme also includes correspondence courses including distance and continuing education. The scheme aims at improving the participation of ST

children in classes XI and XII of the Post-Matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to college education.

Further from the study, it was found that 11.66 percent respondents in Rajouri, 13.33 percent respondents in Poonch and 10 percent respondents in Anantnag were aware about the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme. The main aim of this scheme is setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging primarily to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward blocks of the country where the female literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The scheme provides for a minimum reservation of 75 percent of the seats for girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC or minority communities and priority for the remaining 25 percent, is given to girls from families below poverty line. It was found from the study that 17.5 percent respondents in Rajouri, 14.16 percent respondents in Poonch and 11.66 percent in Anantnag were aware about the Scheme of Provision of Mobile Schools. The State Government launched the Scheme of Mobile Schools for providing basic education to the nomadic children of Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes in their respective habitations. There are 175 one man 'Mobile Primary Schools' working under education department in the State to provide education to children of 6 to 12 age who mainly belong to migratory population of Gujjars and Bakerwals.

During the field survey, it was found that there was no respondent (out of 360) who had awareness about the other education schemes like Special Grant for Scheduled Tribe Girl Students, Grant to Scheduled Tribe Medical and Engineering Students, Upgradation of Merit of ST Students, Scheme of Top-Class Education for ST Students, Adivasi Shiksha Rrinn Yojana, Award to Sports Students and Brilliant Students, Scheme of Strengthening Education Among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme (RGNF).

From the forgoing discussion, it can be scrutinized that the awareness level of Gujjar and Bakerwals about the different education schemes is very low. A very small percentage of respondents knew about these schemes. It is because the Gujjar and Bakerwals live in remote and far-flung areas closer to forests and natural resources, most of these tribals put up in inaccessible areas. These areas are economically backward and living conditions of the people are also poor. Most of these areas are under developed. The facilities like schools are almost non-existent or located at long distances from the habitations. During the field survey, it was found that most of the children were not enrolled in schools, neither they were getting any benefit from the schemes meant for their education. Besides, rampant illiteracy and ignorance of these tribals, extreme poverty of this tribe, corruption in the implementing agencies, nomadic life style of this community, and lack of extension services of the Government also contribute to the unawareness and ignorance about these schemes. These conclusions are further supported by the survey conducted by Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation (TRCF) which revealed that more than 71 percent of nomads were not aware of the schemes of the State and Central Government for their upliftment under Scheduled Tribe category.

## BENEFITS DRAWN FROM THE SCHEMES RELATING TO EDUCATION OF GUJJARS AND BAKERWALS

Education is an important means for improving the social and economic condition of the Gujjars and Bakerwals of Jammu and Kashmir. Although, there are a number of educational schemes meant for the education of the Gujjars and Bakerwals, yet their education status has not improved significantly. During the study, we inquired about some selected education schemes meant for the education development of Gujjars and Bakerwals. Since most of these schemes (as enlisted in the Table 5.2) relate to the school or higher education, the respondents were asked whether their wards/children were availing these schemes at the time of data collection.

From the study, it was found that just 11.38 percent respondents were benefited by Free Text Books & Uniforms Scheme, out of which, 13.33 percent respondents in Rajouri, a little more than one tenth (10.83 percent) respondents in Poonch and 10 percent respondents in Anantnag had received the benefits from this scheme. Under this scheme, free books and uniforms are provided to the tribal students of 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> class studying in Government run schools. The ratio of benefits received decreases while moving from primary to higher education as the dropout rate of this community is alarming and the retention rate is very low.

**Table 1.2 Benefits Drawn from Educational Schemes**

S.No.	Scheme	Distribution of Respondents across Districts (Yes, responses only)			Total (N=360) Yes responses
		Rajouri N=120	Poonch N=120	Anantnag N=120	
1	Scheme of Free Books/Uniforms	16 (13.33)	13 (10.83)	12 (10)	<b>41</b> <b>(11.38)</b>
2	Schemes of Hostel for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls	14 (11.66)	12 (10)	7 (5.83)	<b>33</b> <b>(9.16)</b>
3	Scheme of Coaching for Scheduled Tribes	13 (10.83)	7 (5.83)	12 (10)	<b>32</b> <b>(8.88)</b>
4	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students	16 (13.33)	17 (14.16)	15 (12.5)	<b>48</b> <b>(13.33)</b>
5	Post Matric Scholarship for ST students	9 (7.5)	10 (8.33)	7 (5.83)	<b>26</b> <b>(7.22)</b>
6	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)	12 (10)	7 (5.83)	10 (8.33)	<b>29</b> <b>(8.05)</b>
7	Scheme of Provision of Mobile Schools	9 (7.5)	12 (10)	10 (8.33)	<b>31</b> <b>(8.61)</b>

*\*Figures in parenthesis denote percentage  
Multiple Response Table*

A very few students of the community reach to the higher classes as most of the students fail in the class 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> board examinations. The dropout rate among the Gujjar and Bakerwal students is the highest when compared with the other communities. These nomad tribes employ their children at an early age in rearing the livestock which prevents them from continuing their education. Extreme poverty, ignorance, and nomadic life style of this community also contributes to the high dropout rate in this community. Further, the analysis of the data shows that only 10.83 percent respondents in Rajouri, 5.83 percent respondents in Poonch

and 10 percent respondents in Anantnag were benefited by the Coaching Scheme meant for the tribal children. The reasons for such a low percentage of respondents receiving the benefits has been associated with the historical neglect of nomads in terms of education. Unawareness and ignorance of the tribals about these schemes. Corruption and favouritism of the officers and officials at the implementation level. These and many other such factors prevent the Gujjar and Bakerwal children to receive the benefits from these schemes.

As is evident from the data presented in Table 1.2, just 9.16 percent respondents (11.66 percent respondents in Rajouri, one tenth (10 percent) respondents in Poonch and 5.83 percent respondents in Anantnag) were benefited by the Scheme of Hostel for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls. The reasons being the difference in Tribal culture and formal schooling system. Tribal children enjoy lots of freedom in their society and interaction with nature. On the other hand, children in schools are highly expected to be disciplined and to remain restrained to the four walls of the classroom. This conflict between the discipline of the school and freedom of home results in opposition and unwillingness on the part of the tribal children to attend schools especially the residential type schools where they are supposed to remain all the time.

It was found in our study that only 13.33 percent respondents in Rajouri, 14.16 percent in Poonch and 12.5 percent respondents in Anantnag were benefited by Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme. Ignorance about the scheme, social distance of the tribe, poverty and nomadic lifestyle prevent the children of this tribe from receiving benefits from the scheme. Further, it was found that only 7.5 percent respondents in Rajouri, 8.33 percent respondents in Poonch and 5.83 percent respondents in Anantnag were benefited by the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The dropout rate at the Post-Matric stage is the highest as most of the tribal children fail to qualify the Matric exams conducted by the State Board of School Education as the standard of education in Government run schools in J&K is very miserable which prevent a vast majority of the tribal students from receiving the benefits of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme. The study also reveals that a total of 8.05 percent respondents were benefited by Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), out of which one tenth (10 percent) respondents in Rajouri, 5.83 percent respondents in Poonch and 8.33 percent respondents in Anantnag were benefited by this scheme. The reasons for such a small proportion of the beneficiaries being that most of these tribals live in difficult terrains, forests and remote areas. The dearth of schools in these areas leads to absenteeism and lack of interest in education among these tribal children. These tribal children usually have to walk 3 to 4 km on foot to reach their school every day. In our study, it was found that only 7.5 percent respondents in Rajouri, 10 percent respondents in Poonch and 8.33 percent respondents in Anantnag were benefited by Scheme of Provision of Mobile Schools. The reasons being that due to militancy in the State, the migratory schools were adversely hit. These mobile schools could not function at the designated places. Most of these schools, because of security reasons, had to be shifted to safer places due to which the purpose for which these were set up was lost. Also, the Gujjars and Bakerwals are usually at higher altitudes and the locations of these schools at the foot hills due to which the purpose for which these schools were established is not achieved.

From the forgoing discussion, it can be witnessed that the awareness level of Gujjar and Bakerwals about the different education schemes is very low. A very small percentage of respondents knew about these schemes. Majority of the respondents did not avail any benefits from these education schemes as they were

not having any knowledge or information regarding these schemes. There were also other reasons and the most important among them were rampant illiteracy and ignorance of these tribals, unawareness and ignorance, extreme poverty of this tribe, difficult and uneven topography of these tribal regions, superstitions, corruption in the implementing agencies, nomadic lifestyle of this community, social distance and lack of extension services of the Government. These conclusions are further supplemented by the survey conducted by Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation (TRCF) which revealed that more than 71 percent of nomads were not aware of the schemes of the State and Central Government for their upliftment under Scheduled Tribe category.

The results of our study are further supplemented by the study conducted by Koundal (2012) who in his study found that the poor economic condition of these tribal Gujjars and Bakerwals is a big hurdle in completion of their children's education. Low income of these tribals and high indebtedness makes the direct and indirect costs of education unbearable for them. These tribal parents compel their children to contribute in economic activities like cattle rearing and grazing, gathering of fodder and leaves from the forests. Tribal girls are often withdrawn from the schools by their parents for a wide range of household work. Another study conducted by J & K State Resource Centre (2009) highlights that the high level of parental illiteracy among the Gujjar and Bakerwal families also constraints the education of their children. Lack of parental support and poor learning environment at home makes learning for these tribal children very difficult. The study postulates that the present education system does not fit to their needs, which lead to stagnation and wastage among them. Also, the content of education taught in the schools is far distant from what these tribes are familiar with. These tribals should be provided with a curriculum which is related to the economic activities of their local circumstances. Thus, modern education is often seen as irrelevant to the life and needs of these tribal Gujjars and Bakerwals.

### **IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE GUJJARS AND BAKERWALS DUE TO EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES**

Education is a key indicator of socioeconomic development of a community. It increases the knowledge and vision of a person. It is considered as an essential element in bringing change in social, political, economic fields in a society. Enfranchisement and upliftment of people can be achieved only through education. The progress and development of a country largely depends upon the educational attainment of its people. The position of education among the Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir reflects wretched scenes. Their level of education is very low and declines sharply at higher level. When compared to tribes at national level, the Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir are educationally backward. It is a matter of serious concern and problem for the entire country as it affects every individual of the society. Against this presumption, this section presents information about the extent of improvement in the educational status of the sampled Gujjars and Bakerwal households in the area of the study.

Table 1.3: Improvement of Educational Status as Perceived by the Respondents

Scheme	Responses	Distribution of Respondents across Districts (Yes, responses only)			Total
		Rajouri	Poonch	Anantnag	
Scheme of Free Books/Uniforms	Improved	14 (87.5)	13 (100)	11 (91.66)	<b>38</b> <b>(92.68)</b>
	Not Improved	2 (12.5)	0 (0)	1 (8.33)	<b>3</b> <b>(7.31)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>13</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>41</b> <b>(100)</b>
Schemes of Hostel for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls	Improved	12 (85.71)	12 (100)	6 (85.71)	<b>30</b> <b>(90.90)</b>
	Not Improved	2 (14.28)	0 (0)	1 (14.28)	<b>3</b> <b>(9.09)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>33</b> <b>(100)</b>
Scheme of Coaching for Scheduled Tribes	Improved	13 (100)	7 (100)	10 (83.33)	<b>40</b> <b>(95.23)</b>
	Not Improved	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (16.66)	<b>2</b> <b>(4.76)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>42</b> <b>(100)</b>
Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students	Improved	14 (87.5)	13 (76.47)	15 (100)	<b>42</b> <b>(87.5)</b>
	Not Improved	2 (12.5)	4 (23.52)	0 (0)	<b>6</b> <b>(12.5)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>17</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>15</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>48</b> <b>(100)</b>
Post Matric Scholarship for ST students	Improved	9 (100)	10 (100)	7 (100)	<b>33</b> <b>(100)</b>
	Not Improved	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>0</b> <b>(0)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>33</b> <b>(100)</b>
Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)	Improved	12 (100)	6 (85.71)	10 (100)	<b>28</b> <b>(96.55)</b>
	Not Improved	0 (100)	1 (14.28)	0 (0)	<b>1</b> <b>(3.44)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>29</b> <b>(100)</b>
Scheme of Provision of Mobile Schools	Improved	9 (100)	12 (100)	10 (100)	<b>31</b> <b>(100)</b>
	Not Improved	0 (0)	0 (100)	0 (0)	<b>0</b> <b>(0)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>31</b> <b>(100)</b>

\*Figures in parenthesis denote percentage

Multiple Response Table

From the study, it was found that out of total a little more than nine tenth (92.68 percent) respondents, an overwhelming (87.5 percent) respondents in Rajouri, all the respondents in Poonch and 91.66 percent respondents in Anantnag stated that there has been improvement in their educational status due to the Free Books & Uniforms Scheme, while 7.31 percent replied in negative as they think that their educational status did not improved as a result of this schemes. The reason for not improving the educational status of some of the respondents was that the books and uniforms provided were insufficient and were provided very late when they were already in the mid of the session and the books provided were mostly in English and Urdu language which were hard for the tribal students to comprehend. It was also found from the study that out of total respondents who benefited from the Schemes of Hostel for Scheduled Tribes Boys and Girls, majority (90.90) stated that there has been improvement in their educational status, while 9.09 percent replied in negative as



they think that their educational status did not improve as a result of the said scheme. The reason being that there are only 13 hostels functional for about one lakh fifty thousand Gujjar and Bakerwal students which are insufficient and insignificant to cater the needs of these huge number of tribal students. Besides most of the seats in these hostels are occupied by the children of influential and white-collar people. These Schools do not possess sufficient and competent human resources and infrastructural facilities.

It was found that from the field study that a little more than nine tenth (95.23 percent) respondents were of the view that their educational status improved due to the Scheme of Coaching for Scheduled Tribes, while 4.76 percent replied in negative as they think that their educational status did not improve as a result of this scheme. These coaching facilities are usually available in English, Urdu or in Kashmiri language as most of the qualified and subject specific professional teachers are of Kashmiri or Dogri background. The tribal teachers are very meagre in number and most of the times unqualified and inexperienced. Language barriers and communication gaps in these coaching facilities prevents these tribal students from receiving the optimum benefits out of these initiatives.

During our study, it was found that the educational status of a little more than four fifth (87.5 percent) respondents improved due to the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST students, while that of a little more than one tenth (12.5 percent) respondents did not improve as a result of this scheme. Further, all the respondents in Rajouri, Poonch and Anantnag stated improvement in their educational status due to the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for ST students. The schemes of Pre and Post matric Scholarship are implemented in the J&K State by the Social Welfare Department, which gives a wide publicity through print and electronic media to these schemes all around the year especially in the months when the forms of these schemes are issued in schools and respective offices of the department. The tribal students are also informed by their respective school management by displaying the notification on the display boards and also through their institution websites and social media groups and pages.

Further, it was found that a whopping more than nine tenth (96.55 percent) respondents stated that their educational status improved due to the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), while 3.44 percent replied in negative as they think that their educational status did not improved as a result of this scheme as the beneficiaries were made to left the Vidyalayas in the mid-session for moving with the family to the summer pastures in upper reaches of North Kashmir. It was also found from the study that all the respondents in Rajouri, Poonch and Anantnag stated there has been improvement in their educational status due to the Scheme of Provision of Mobile Schools as these tribal students were able to study wherever their Caravan moved.

It can be witnessed from the forgoing discussion that the awareness level of Gujjar and Bakerwals about the different education schemes is very low. A small percentage of respondents knew about these schemes. Further, the status of most of the respondents who availed the benefits of these schemes improved, while that of few respondents did not improved. It is because of variety of reasons and the most important among them is the rampant illiteracy and ignorance of these tribals, unawareness and lack of information about these schemes, extreme poverty of these tribals, superstitions, social distance, corruption in the implementing agencies, nomadic life style of this community, traditional neglect and lack of extension services of the

government. These findings are further substantiated by Rahi (2012), who in his study found that due to the tribal way of life of Gujjars and Bakerwals which is based on bi-annual seasonal migration in search of food and fodder, the education of their children suffer a lot. The hilly and border area locations of dwelling of these tribals prevents their children from attending the schools and thus from benefiting from the different educational initiatives of the Government and Non-Government Organisations. The strolling tribal economy is also a great hindrance in way of tribal education. The study highlights that these tribal, nomadic Gujjars and Bakerwals usually engage their children at an early age to supplement human resources and labour power to run their daily activities and to augment their family income. Also, due to the strong custom of early marriages in these tribal Gujjars and Bakerwals, they do not educate their children instead marry them as soon as they reach the age of 10-18 years. This also contributes to the percentage of school dropouts in the tribe which is already the highest when compared with the other tribes.

### BOTTLENECKS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES

In this section of the study, the researcher tried to find out the different bottlenecks in the education schemes meant for the Gujjars and Bakerwals. During the study, it was found that there were many impediments which prevented the Gujjar and Bakerwal community from deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes. The different prevalent bottlenecks have been given a mention in the Table (5.4).

**Table 1.4: Bottlenecks in Educational Schemes**

S.No.	Bottle Necks	Distribution of Respondents across Districts (Yes, responses only)			Total (N=360)
		Rajouri N=120	Poonch N=120	Anantnag N=120	
1	Ignorance	11 (9.16)	13 (10.83)	10 (8.33)	<b>34</b> <b>(9.44)</b>
2	Communication gap and lack of networking among various stakeholders	9 (7.5)	11 (9.16)	7 (5.83)	<b>27</b> <b>(7.5)</b>
3	Non-Participation of People	10 (8.33)	4 (3.33)	11 (9.16)	<b>25</b> <b>(6.94)</b>
4	Lack of Funds	9 (7.5)	10 (8.33)	8 (6.66)	<b>27</b> <b>(7.5)</b>
5	Lack of competent Human Resources	8 (6.66)	5 (4.16)	6 (5)	<b>19</b> <b>(5.27)</b>
6	Presence of Brokers	7 (5.83)	9 (7.5)	8 (6.66)	<b>24</b> <b>(6.66)</b>
7	Corruption	10 (8.33)	7 (5.83)	11 (9.16)	<b>28</b> <b>(7.77)</b>
8	Favouritism	9 (7.5)	4 (3.33)	5 (4.16)	<b>18</b> <b>(5)</b>
9	Discrimination	8 (6.66)	5 (4.16)	3 (2.5)	<b>16</b> <b>(4.44)</b>
10	Non-Involvement of NGOs and Civil Society	7 (5.83)	5 (4.16)	6 (5)	<b>18</b> <b>(5)</b>
11	Excessive Paperwork	11 (9.16)	8 (6.66)	5 (4.16)	<b>24</b> <b>(6.66)</b>
12	Hostile Behaviour of Officers	8 (6.66)	5 (4.16)	7 (5.83)	<b>20</b> <b>(5.55)</b>

\*Figures in parenthesis denote percentage

#### Multiple Response Table

From the field work, it was found that ignorance and unawareness about the different education schemes meant for the welfare of Gujjar and Bakerwals is a major impediment for not deriving adequate

benefits from these schemes. It was found that a little less than one tenth (9.16 percent) respondents in Rajouri, a little more than one tenth (10.83 percent) in Poonch and 8.33 percent respondents in Anantnag were of the view that unawareness and ignorance about the different education schemes meant for Gujjars and Bakerwals is a major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes. It was also found during the study that communication and networking among various stakeholders in the process and implementation of various welfare initiatives is of utmost importance and any fault in the communication and networking structure could result in the failure of the whole programme. It was also found from the survey that 7.5 percent respondents were of the view that communication gap and lack of networking among various stakeholders is among the major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes.

During the survey, it was found that the participation of people in the proper planning, framing & successful implementation of the women specific schemes is necessary at every step of the process. Without the participation of the people for whom the scheme is meant no fruitful results would be derived. It was also found that 8.33 percent in Rajouri, 3.33 percent in Poonch and a little less than one tenth (9.16 percent) respondents in Anantnag were of the view that non-participation of people is another major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these education schemes.

During the field work, it was observed that lack of funding in any scheme proves disaster in the implementation of that particular schemes which results in the non-achievement of the set targets and goals of that very programme. It was also found from the study that 7.5 percent in Rajouri, 8.33 percent in Poonch and 6.66 percent respondents in Anantnag were of the view that lack of funds is another major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes.

During the field work, it was realised that competent human resource for framing and devising of any policy and for proper and fruitful implementation of the same is pivotal and necessary. On asking about the same, 6.66 percent in Rajouri, 4.16 percent in Poonch and 5 percent respondents in Anantnag were of the view that lack of competent human resources is one of the major bottlenecks for not deriving adequate benefits out of these education schemes.

On asking about the presence of brokers, corruption and favouritism culture in the welfare system, the respondents were of the view that the brokers in the system play a very negative role in the implementation of these schemes as the benefits are distributed unjustly due to which the benefits are reduced for the actual beneficiaries. More than 5 percent respondents in Rajouri, 7.5 percent in Poonch and 6.66 percent respondents in Anantnag stated that presence of brokers is another major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes. The respondents in our study were of the view that corruption at framing and implementation level in these schemes is one of the major impediments in achieving the set targets out of these schemes, as corruption leads to unequal and unjust distribution of benefits. Meanwhile, 8.33 percent in Rajouri, 5.83 percent in Poonch and a little less than one tenth (9.16 percent) respondents in Anantnag were of the view that corruption is one of the major bottlenecks for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes. The respondents were also of the view that favouring one beneficiary over the other leads to biased and unjust distribution of benefits among the beneficiaries. Near about 8 percent of the respondents in Rajouri, 3.33

percent in Poonch and 4.16 percent respondents in Anantnag were of the view that favouritism is among the major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes.

From the data (in the Table 1.4), it was also found that 6.66 percent respondents in Rajouri, 4.16 percent in Poonch and 2.5 percent respondents in Anantnag stated that discrimination is major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes, while as 6.66 percent respondents in Rajouri, Poonch and Anantnag stated that excessive paperwork is another major bottleneck for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes. It was also found from the study that involvement of NGOs and civil society in framing and implementation of the various women specific schemes is very essential, as they have the ground level experience in the implementation of these schemes. About 6 percent respondents in Rajouri, 4.16 percent in Poonch and 5 percent respondents in Anantnag stated that non-involvement of NGOs and civil society is among the major bottlenecks for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes. It was also found from the field study that the hostile behaviour of the officers is among the major reasons that discourages the members of this downtrodden community from asking about the benefits of these schemes. About 6 percent respondents stated that hostile behaviour of officers is one of the major bottlenecks for not deriving adequate benefits out of these schemes.

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