

CHAPTER V

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

In the present chapter the problems faced by the heads of families at the time of availing the educational schemes and the solution suggested by them to tackle them are covered. The problems have been discussed with particular reference to conditions of eligibility, value of scholarships, selection of candidates, duration and renewal of stipends / scholarships, mode of payment, mode of publicity and submission of applications. The discussion includes problems as well as suggestions to tackle them.

Sufficiency of the Schemes

The question aims at ascertaining the views of scheduled castes heads of family regarding sufficiency of stipends / scholarships, etc. to meet the expenditure on the education of their wards. The responses given by them are presented in Table 5.1.

It is evident from the table that more than one half of the respondents feel that the facilities provided by the government cover only a part of the expenditure incurred

Table :5.1: Sufficiency of the Existing Educational Schemes

| Category | Respondents | Percentage of Responses given by the Heads of Family to the Total Respondents |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Sufficient | 51 | 17.0 % |
| Partially sufficient | 173 | 57.66 % |
| Insufficient | 76 | 25.33 % |
| Total | 300 | 100.00 % |

on the education of their children. About one fourth of the scheduled caste respondents felt that the schemes for their welfare were insufficient while 17.00 percent of the heads of the family are of the opinion that existing schemes are sufficient to meet the expenses of their children's education. The respondents fully satisfied with the existing facilities were mostly from the rural areas. The findings of the present study are in tune with the findings of some earlier studies. Aggarwal (1976), Rath (1974), Dubey (1974), Chitnis (1977) and Rastogi (1976) concluded that educational facilities provided to them are inadequate and unsatisfactory.

To overcome this problem, most of the respondents suggested that the rate of stipend must be increased. The present rates of stipends were fixed long back but these have now become inadequate because of rising prices. The majority of the respondents suggested that Rs. 10.00 per month for classes I to V Rs. 20.00 per month for the middle classes

(VI - VIII) Rs. 30.00 per month for the secondary classes (IX - X), Rs. 40.00 for + 2 stages and at least Rs.100.00 per month for the college stage should be the minimum rate of scholarships so that they can bear the expenditure on education of their wards. The heads of family also want the government to provide ancillary services like provision of writing materials and uniforms and mid-day meals. Free hostels for scheduled caste children have been demanded to provide educational environment at home. Table 5.2 provides an overview of the suggestions made by heads of family regarding the educational schemes.

Table :5.2: Suggestions to increase the Various Schemes

| Sr.No. | Suggestions | Total Respondents | Response by Suggestions | Percentage of response by suggestion to the total Respondents |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Increased rate of scholarships | 300 | 226 | 75.33 % |
| 2. | Ancillary Services | 300 | 96 | 32.0 % |
| 3. | Uniform | 300 | 85 | 28.3 % |
| 4. | Picnic/Excursion | 300 | 76 | 25.3 % |
| 5. | Residential Hostels | 300 | 61 | 20.3 % |
| 6. | Mid-day meals | 300 | 47 | 15.6 % |

It is evident from the table that 75.33 percent of the heads of family suggested that the rate of scholarship should be increased while 32 percent suggested that the ancillary services i. e. books, slates and other essential materials for the school children should be given free of cost. As many as

28.1 percent respondents suggested that free uniforms should be distributed to the scheduled caste children free of cost in both summer and winter season while about one fourth (25.3 percent) of the respondents favoured that the expenditure incurred on picnics, educational tours, excursions etc. should be borne by the government. Yadav (1979) and Khurana (1980) suggested that liberal financial assistance should be given to scheduled caste children in the form of reading material, school uniform, mid-day meal, stipend, scholarship to enable them to educate their children. About one fifth (20.3 percent) of the heads of family have made the suggestion that there should be residential hostels for their children so that they can get congenial environment for their study while 15.67 percent of the respondents are of the opinion that there should be provision of mid-day meals in the school for the scheduled caste children. Singh (1974) and Commissioner for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (1971-72) and (1972-73) also suggested that hostel facilities for both boys and girls need to be improved especially for the later. The S.C.E.R.T.,^a Tamil Nadu (1974-76) recommended that there is need to improve the percentage of residential scholarships so as to enable scheduled caste children to stay in special hostels with better facilities for studies.

Mode of Publicity

Mode of publicity means the ways through which the schemes are publicised. The question regarding the mode of

publicity aimed at the assessment of the present mode of publicity adopted for the educational schemes. The difficulties faced by the heads of family and their suggestions have also been ascertained. The questions were open ended. The responses were content analysed into eight categories as indicated in Table 5.3 below :

Table : 5.3: Difficulties faced by Due to Mode of
Publicity Adopted
(N = 300)

| Sr. No. | Difficulty | No. of Respondents facing difficulty | Percentage |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Indifferent officials | 69 | 23.0 % |
| 2. | Short Notice | 89 | 29.6 % |
| 3. | Inconspicuous advertisements | 57 | 19.0 % |
| 4. | Repulsive language of communications | 88 | 29.3 % |
| 5. | Illiteracy among parents | 133 | 44.3 % |
| 6. | Inadequate Publicity | 66 | 22.0 % |
| 7. | Absence of publicity in local papers | 43 | 14.3 % |
| 8. | Difficult language | 41 | 13.6 % |

The above table reveals that 23.0 percent respondents faced the difficulties on account of indifference of the officials while 29.6 percent felt that the authorities give very short notice for submitting the applications. About

one fifth (19.0 percent) of the heads of family reported the difficulty of inconspicuous advertisement which implies that the advertisement appears at a space which usually goes unnoticed. Some heads of the family (29.3 percent) had the experience of repulsive language of communication used by officials either at the time of submission of applications or utilisation of the schemes by them. Karlekar (1975) reported the case of four students who were insulted by the teacher before others and were unhesitatingly declared as 'drag on the community'. About one half of the respondents (44.3 percent) belonging to scheduled caste faced difficulties on account of illiteracy because the printed media are pre-dominantly used for the publicity of educational schemes. Soni (1975) found that communication of government policies in small towns and rural areas was not adequate and Nautyal (1979) found that there was not enough publicity regarding the exact nature of concessions and facilities permissible to scheduled caste students. Absence of publicity in local newspaper was reported by 14.3 percent respondents while 13.6 percent respondents felt that the language used in the prescribed forms for the submission of applications was rather difficult.

The heads of family were called upon to give suggestions to overcome the difficulties faced by them due to the present mode of publicity for the educational schemes. The suggestions were classified into fifteen categories arrived

at through content analysis of the responses. The categories along with the responses are given in Table 5.4 below :

Table : 5.4: Suggestions given by the Heads of Family for Effective Publicising the Educational Schemes

(N = 300)

| S.No. | Suggestions | No. of Respondents making the Suggestions | Percentage |
|-------|---|---|------------|
| 1. | Literate the mass | 89 | 29.6 % |
| 2. | Use of local means for publicity | 187 | 62.3 % |
| 3. | Use of simple and regional language | 67 | 22.3 % |
| 4. | Use of mass media (other than newspaper) | 208 | 69.3 % |
| 5. | Effective supervision by head of institution | 49 | 16.3 % |
| 6. | Effective Implementation | 56 | 18.6 % |
| 7. | Guidance / Counselling in School/ College | 156 | 52.0 % |
| 8. | Publicity through local newspaper | 68 | 22.6 % |
| 9. | Classified advertisement | 56 | 18.6 % |
| 10. | Special bulletins, brochures | 87 | 29.0 % |
| 11. | Parent-teacher Association | 42 | 14.0 % |
| 12. | Parent contact programme | 37 | 12.3 % |
| 13. | Adequate publicity | 174 | 58.0 % |
| 14. | Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation | 62 | 20.6 % |
| 15. | Utilising different agencies | 124 | 41.3 % |

An examination of the table reveals that majority of the respondents (52.0 percent) favoured that there should be

guidance centres for publicising the educational facilities in school and colleges. These guidance centres can be more helpful to the children belonging to rural areas. Sixty two percent respondents suggested that the government should use the local means such as social workers, scheduled caste panchayat member in villages, welfare associations and religious places for publicising the various educational schemes. George (1975) concluded that the students need to be educated and guided about the existing facilities because a considerable number of scheduled caste students suffered from inferiority feelings. The use of mass media other than newspapers for publicising these schemes was recommended by 69 percent scheduled caste heads of family. Pimpley (1974) found that the exposure to mass media at college stage had quite high and national leaders and government servant were the most popular reference person. Chauhan and others (1975) found that the three indicators i. e. radio, newspapers and the cinema suggest that more than 75 percent of the students are exposed to mass media to a limited extent. The respondents of some earlier studies also made similar suggestions. Lakshamana (1974) and Yadav (1979) suggested that the Government should propagate the available facilities to scheduled castes parents to avoid dropping-out and stagnation among scheduled castes children. Forty one percent

respondents favoured establishment of helping agencies i.e. voluntary organisations, public, and private agencies for publicising the schemes while 29 percent publicity through special bulletins and brochures, so that they can get help from others also in knowing about schemes. About one fifth of respondents (22.3 percent) have suggested the use of simple and regional language in newspapers and other publications while 22.6 percent of head of family have suggested publicising the schemes through local newspapers. Classified advertisements have been favoured by 18.6 percent respondents. These should be fixed place and column in local or standard newspapers and magazines in bold letters so that everybody can read it easily and can come to know about the schemes. Fourteen percent respondents suggested to publicise schemes through Parent Teacher Associations. Effective supervision by the heads of institutions was suggested by 16.3 percent while parent-teacher contact programmes were recommended by 12.3 percent. Jha (1973) and Singh (1974) recommended that a separate cell should be set up in the Directorate of Public Instructions for dealing with complaints, and disbursement of scholarships and proper up-to-date record should be maintained. Effective implementation of programmes was suggested by 18.6 percent respondents. The government should supervise and evaluate from time to time the implementation of the schemes. If there is a gap some where, the authorities

should take steps to remove it immediately. About 20 percent respondents favoured monitoring and evaluation of the programmes. The surveys should be conducted about schemes by different organisations, so that they can find out the importance and usage of the various schemes provided by them. Khurana (1980) and Yadav (1979) also recommended that a review should be made to see whether the programmes reach the more backward amongst these castes or not. The amount of concessions will have to be revised so that it meets the cost of children's education.

Conditions of Eligibility.

The heads of family have a number of reservations about the conditions of eligibility. Difficulties faced by the respondents were ascertained through open ended questions. Their suggestions were also sought through the same procedure. The responses were classified into categories carved out of content analysis of the responses. The difficulties were classified into six categories. The responses in different categories are given in Table 5.5 on the next page.

Table : 5.5: Difficulties faced in Availing Schemes for Education due to condition of Eligibility

(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Difficulty | Response by Problems | Percentage of response by problem to the total Respondents |
|---------|---|----------------------|--|
| 1. | Inadequate income criteria | 202 | 67.3 % |
| 2. | Inadequate amount of scholarship | 138 | 46.0 % |
| 3. | Scheduled caste certificate | 225 | 75.0 % |
| 4. | Limited number of scholarship in a family | 34 | 8.6 % |
| 5. | Birth certificate | 130 | 43.3 % |
| 6. | Failed student | 141 | 47.0 % |

As many as 75 percent respondents reported that production of scheduled caste certificate was the main hurdle in getting scholarships. The procedure for obtaining the certificate is so tedious that it becomes very difficult for them to produce it. Pimpley (1974) has also reported that without someone's recommendation, the authorities usually do not issue certificates and very frequently indulge in corrupt practices. About two third (67.3 percent) heads of family faced difficulties due to inadequate income ceiling. The income limit is so less

that a child of Class IV employees cannot avail stipend 8.6 percent respondents faced difficulties due to the limited number of scholarships admissible in a family. The percentage is low because it affects the parents whose children are studying in institutions of higher education. The post-matric scholarships are given to only two children in a family belonging to scheduled caste. As many as 46.0 percent respondents have complained that the amount of scholarship was quite inadequate. Some earlier researchers have also reported these difficulties. Goyal (1974), Rajagopalan (1974), Shama (1976), Gangrade (1974), Pimpley (1974), Singhi (1975), Lal (1974), Singh and Others (1974), Nayer (1975), George (1975), Desai (1975), Parvathanma (1974), Rath (1974), Chitnis (1977), Trivedi (1977) and Chauhan (1975) found that most of the students do not find the scholarship amount to be adequate. Forty three percent heads of family faced the difficulty of producing birth certificate to avail educational facilities for their children. These people are mostly Khanabados and have no permanent residence. Those who have permanent residence, they are mostly illiterate and do not know the importance of registration at the time of birth of the child. As many as 47.0 percent heads of the family faced the difficulty due to the failure of their wards in the examination leading to discontinuation

of the scholarship. This, they feel, is not due to the lack of effort by their wards, but it is due to cultural deprivation and faulty system of examination that they are put at a disadvantage. The procedure and standard marking in examination is the same for all the students. So, there is heavy bias in the system against the scheduled castes. Chauhan (1975) reported that some students who were getting scholarships, had to discontinue due to failure in the examination.

The heads of the family were called upon to give suggestions to overcome the difficulties faced by them due to the present conditions of eligibility for the educational schemes through an open ended questions. The suggestions were classified into eight categories arrived at through content analysis of the responses. The categories along with the responses are given in Table 5.6.

Table : 5.6: Suggestions for Removing Difficulties due to Conditions of Eligibility
(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Suggestions | Response by Suggestion | Percentage of response by suggestions to the total respondent |
|---------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Revised income criteria | 107 | 35.6 % |
| 2. | Simplified procedure | 214 | 71.6 % |
| 3. | More chance for failed students | 138 | 46.0 % |
| 4. | Relaxation of scholarship in a family | 47 | 15.6 % |
| 5. | Proper implementation | 49 | 16.3 % |
| 6. | Educate the masses | 87 | 29.0 % |
| 7. | Economic backwardness criteria | 37 | 12.3 % |
| 8. | Amount of scholarship / stipend | 124 | 41.3 % |

An overwhelming majority of the heads of family (71.6 percent) have suggested that the procedure for implementing various educational schemes should be simplified. The attestation by the Principal, Sarpanch and M.P./M.L.A. councillor should be accepted and the certificate issued by them should be recognised. The prescribed form should cover only necessary information. Forty six percent heads of family have suggested that more chances should be given to failed students. The scholarship should not be discontinued after failure for the first time because most of the students do not get conducive environment for studies. As many as 35.6 percent respondents have favoured that the income ceiling should be revised keeping in view the present economic conditions. The income limit should be increased so that at least the class IV people can avail the benefits of the educational schemes easily. About one sixth (15.6 percent) of the respondents have pleaded for the relaxation of the condition regarding number of scholarships in a family. Twenty nine percent of the respondents have recommended that the masses should be educated through programmes like adult education, social gatherings, and dramas etc. for creating consciousness about schemes for their children's education while 16.3 percent respondents have opined that the various educational schemes should be implemented properly through by making it obligatory on

the part of high officials to keep vigilant eyes on the lower machinery and by making evaluation of the programmes from time to time so that their problems arising out of the short comings in the procedure, are solved. Dubey (1974) also recommended that programmes should be revised and properly implemented. People belonging to so called, high castes should be removed from such work and more institutions should be started in scheduled caste area. Randhan (1978) found that unless government enacts a law which provides for punishment for all those officers who fail to implement the constitutional safeguards, these safeguards will continue to be flouted with impunity. About one tenth (12.3 percent) of the heads of the family have suggested that economic backwardness should be the basis for providing educational facilities instead of caste alone while 41.3 percent of the respondents have demanded an increase in the amount of scholarship because of the rising prices.

Procedure for Submission of Application

The scheduled caste heads of family face some difficulties in the submission of application also. The formalities at the time of submitting the application under the educational schemes create lot of difficulties in the utilisation of schemes. The question on this subject brought out a variety of responses which have been classified into nine categories as given in Table 5.7.

Table : 5.7: Difficulties faced by Scheduled Caste Heads of Family in the Submission of Application for Availing Different Educational Schemes

(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Difficulty | Response by Difficulty | Percentage of response by difficulties to the total Respondents |
|---------|---|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Cumbersome procedure | 209 | 69.6 % |
| 2. | Illiteracy among parents | 187 | 62.3 % |
| 3. | Short notice | 193 | 64.3 % |
| 4. | Inadequate income criteria | 129 | 43.0 % |
| 5. | Indifferent officials | 83 | 27.6 % |
| 6. | Difficult language | 47 | 15.6 % |
| 7. | Humiliating behaviour | 63 | 21.0 % |
| 8. | Difficult procedure for scheduled caste certificate | 189 | 63.0 % |
| 9. | Renewal procedure | 191 | 63.6 % |

Two hundred and nine scheduled caste heads of family i.e. 69.6 percent of the respondents have explained that the procedure for submitting the applications was cumbersome. The forms are in difficult language and lengthy also. Attestation of forms for these people is very difficult and time consuming. It requires a pretty long time to complete all the formalities like production of birth certificate, scheduled caste certificate etc. Among scheduled caste, there are gypsies who are homeless people.

As many as 63.6 percent respondents experienced that the procedure for renewal of schemes was rather difficult. The same procedure is repeated every year. Dubey (1974) concluded that the entire process of submitting applications and their sorting out was cumbersome. Sixty three percent respondents have reported that they generally face difficulties in getting caste certificate. About one fifth of the heads of family (21.0 percent) have felt that they have to experience humiliations. The authorities including teachers and other members of the administrative staff do not behave properly at the time of supplying as well as receiving application forms and tease them by saying 'Government Brahman'. About one fourth (27.6 percent) of the heads of family have reported that the officials are generally indifferent to them. Thus, their behaviour is unsympathetic and unhelpful. Sixty two percent respondents have faced difficulties because of their illiteracy. Due to the obligation of completing lengthy forms in English or difficult Hindi, and some other administrative requirements, illiterate parents prefer not to submit applications of their children and thus are deprived of these benefits.

Sixty four percent of the heads of family have reported that the authorities generally give a very short notice for submitting the applications. It is very difficult to complete all the formalities within available time which is invariably very inadequate. Goyal (1974) found that due to the advantages of programmes they find themselves discriminated

in behaviour and social status. They have to experience a number of humiliations at the hands of high caste people.

The heads of family were called upon to give suggestions to overcome the difficulties faced by them in the procedure for submitting the applications for various educational schemes. The suggestions were classified into eleven categories arrived at through content analysis of the responses. The categories along with the responses are given in Table 5.8 on the next page.

About one half of the respondents (49.0 percent) have suggested that there should be rational distribution of the materials under the ancillary services at the primary stage while 50.3 percent heads of the family suggested that the schemes should be advertised with sufficient time and notice. As many as 40.6 percent respondents are of the view that there should be simplified procedure for submitting applications. The requirement of completing all formalities in lengthy forms should be abolished and only minimum essential information should be required so that the every student fills up and submits his application in time. As many as 42.6 percent of the heads of family have pleaded for the easy availability of application forms for various schemes, while 15.6 percent felt that forms should be in simple language. About one

Table : 5.8: Suggestions given by the Heads of Family for Removing the Difficulties for Submitting Applications for the Educational Schemes

(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Suggestions | Response by Difficulty | Percentage of Response by Difficulty to total Respondents |
|---------|--|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Rationale distribution | 147 | 49.0 % |
| 2. | Notification with sufficient time | 151 | 50.3 % |
| 3. | Simplified procedure | 122 | 40.6 % |
| 4. | Simple regional language | 47 | 15.6 % |
| 5. | Easy availability of forms | 128 | 42.6 % |
| 6. | Relaxation in submitting necessary documents | 63 | 21.0 % |
| 7. | Establishing helping agencies | 46 | 15.3 % |
| 8. | Simplified renewal procedure | 77 | 25.6 % |
| 9. | Parents' education | 131 | 43.6 % |
| 10. | Proper implementation | 66 | 22.0 % |
| 11. | Sympathetic attitude of officials | 51 | 17.0 % |

fifth (21.1 percent) of the respondents demanded that there should be relation in the submission of necessary documents so that they can get the benefit of these educational schemes. About one fourth (25.6 percent) of the respondents have pleaded for the simplification of the renewal procedures. Application forms for scholarships/ stipends etc. should be got filled up only once in college/

school period and after that information given by the head of the institution concerned should be considered sufficient for the sanction and disbursement of the scholarship. About one sixth (15.3 percent) of them have suggested that government should set up helping agencies. Even the voluntary organisations may be utilised for this purpose. As many as 43.6 percent respondents have suggested that the scheduled caste parents should be made literate so that they can have awareness of the educational schemes for their progress. Twenty two percent of them feel that steps should be taken for the proper implementation of the schemes. Every head of the institution should see whether the distribution of forms and receipt of forms etc. are done properly by the administration or not. If not, he should take necessary steps to remove the gap, so that these people feel encouraged in getting benefits of these schemes. As many as 17.0 percent of the heads of family have suggested that the attitude of the officials towards the children and parents of scheduled castes must be sympathetic. High officials should discuss with the subordinate staff and problems, difficulties etc., faced by them and should discuss ways and means to solve their problems.

Award of Facilities under Educational Schemes

The current procedure for availing facilities under

different educational schemes has been considered to be difficult by the parents. In response to a question, they were required to specify their difficulties. Their responses duly classified, have been summarised in Table 5.9.

Table :5.9: Difficulties faced by in the Award of Facilities under Educational Schemes
(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Difficulty | Response by Suggestions | Percentage of response by suggestion to the total respondents |
|---------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Unsympathetic officials | 169 | 56.33 % |
| 2. | No representation of scheduled caste member in a selection committee | 69 | 23.0 % |
| 3. | Outdated selection procedure | 24 | 8.0 % |
| 4. | Rigidity in assigning college/university | 36 | 12.0 % |

In the award of facilities under different educational schemes, 56.33 percent heads of family have reported difficulties on account of unsympathetic officials, High officials of the government knowingly try to cause delay on account of being jealous towards these people. They advertise the schemes with short notice and reject applications on flimsy grounds. Twenty three percent of them have reported that no representation was given to scheduled caste people on the committees considering the award of facilities under the schemes. Twelve percent respondents disfavour

rigidity in assigning, a college or a university for their children by the authorities while some of the respondents (8.01 percent) have criticised the selection procedure for availing the facilities because it is outdated. The percentages in the above responses are very low because the respondents were mostly from educated class and urban areas.

The respondents were also required to give suggestions to overcome the problems and difficulties faced by them. The suggestions offered by them have been classified into five areas. Table 4.10 presents the information in this regard.

Table :4.10: Suggestions given by the Heads of Family for Removing Difficulties in the Award of Facilities under the Scheme

(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Suggestions | Response by Suggestion | Percentage of Response by Suggestion to the total Respondents |
|---------|--|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Separate selection board | 31 | 10.0 % |
| 2. | Parents - teacher association | 81 | 27.0 % |
| 3. | Modified procedure of awarding facilities | 39 | 13.0 % |
| 4. | Freedom to choose college/ university | 26 | 8.6 % |
| 5. | Representation of scheduled castes in selection committees | 61 | 20.3 % |

The heads of families belonging to scheduled castes have suggested some solutions for removing the difficulties which they face due to the procedure of awarding facilities under schemes. As many as 27.0 % of them have suggested that there should be Parents Teacher Associations to make them aware about the selection procedure of different schemes; 13.0 percent of the respondents have suggested the use of modified procedure for awarding facilities like test and interviews; about one fifth of the respondents (20.3 percent) have suggested that there should be representation of scheduled caste members on various selection committees so that their problems can be considered more sympathetically. Some respondents (8.6 percent) are in favour of allowing freedom to students to choose college/university. The percentage of respondents making this suggestion is low because it has been made only by those respondents whose wards are studying in colleges and professional institutions and their number is obviously quite small.

Mode of Payment

The scheduled caste parents face difficulties due to the mode of payment. The formalities at the time of disbursement of money or materials under the educational schemes are considered to be the cause of some of the difficulties in their utilisation. The question on this subject brought out a variety of responses which are given in Table 4.11.

Table : 5.11: Difficulties faced by the Scheduled Caste's Heads of Family at the Time of Receiving Payment

(Total Respondents : 300)

| Sr. No. | Problem | Response by Problem | Percentage of response by problem to the total respondents |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Irrational Distribution | 241 | 80.3 % |
| 2. | Inefficient officials | 71 | 23.6 % |
| 3. | Indifferent attitude of officials | 169 | 56.3 % |
| 4. | Mode of payment | 34 | 11.3 % |
| 5. | Cumbersome procedure | 181 | 60.3 % |
| 6. | Delayed payment | 199 | 66.3 % |
| 7. | Donation in schools | 83 | 27.6 % |

An overwhelming majority (80.3 percent) of the respondents face difficulties concerning irrational distribution of ancillary services. The authorities send the uniforms to the various schools only after considering the age of the children. It is not possible for the students to arrange uniforms for themselves. The uniforms supplied by the government are either ^{of} inferior quality or are inadequate in supply. The other materials are also inadequate in supply and are not given to all scheduled caste students. As many as 66.3 percent of the heads of family have reported that they experience

difficulties because of delayed payment. The amount of scholarship is given after the end of session until that time students belonging to scheduled caste families drop out from school/college because of financial difficulties. The money given at the end of session is of no use because parents generally utilise the amount in domestic affairs. As many as 60.3 percent respondents have reported that the procedure of disbursing money is cumbersome. The students have to complete so many official formalities at the time of taking money. Another difficulty is that authorities refund the scholarship money to the administration, if father or mother who signed the application form at the time of filling up forms is not at home. George (1975) also reported that the system of disbursing stipend money was complicated. Indifferent attitude of officials has been reported by 56.3 percent respondents. The officials cause delay and tease those people knowingly at time of disbursement of scholarship money and have hatred towards scheduled caste people. Karlekal (1975) also reported that the students had experienced discrimination and few of them felt insulted when they went to collect their scholarship money, as the clerical staff called them the 'Son-in-laws' of the government. As many as 23.6 percent respondents faced difficulties due to the inefficiency of officials. Sometime administrative people leave some column blank or

fill up wrong information and send the forms to administrative offices. The process of getting the mistake corrected, delays the grants unnecessarily. Some respondents (11.3 percent) reported that the college authorities generally make payment through cheque. It is inconvenient for these people because they are required open accounts in the Banks for the encashment of cheques and 27.6 percent heads of family have reported that the teachers/head of institution compel them to donate some amount of the scholarship to the school/college.

The heads of family were called upon to give suggestions to overcome the difficulties faced by them due to the prevalent mode of payment of the scholarship/stipend. The suggestions were classified into eight areas, as given in Table 5.12.

Table : 5.12: Suggestions given by the Scheduled Caste Respondents to solve the Problems faced at the time of receiving Payment
(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr.No. | Suggestions | Response by: | Percentage to |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Suggestions: | the total |
| | | | : respondents |
| 1. | Rational distribution | 211 | 70.3 % |
| 2. | Payment in convenient instalments | 137 | 45.6 % |
| 3. | Direct release of grants | 147 | 49.0 % |
| 4. | Legal guardians | 154 | 51.3 % |
| 5. | Fixed date and time | 102 | 34.00 % |
| 6. | Payment in cash amount | 34 | 11.3 % |
| 7. | Sympathetic attitude of officials | 74 | 24.6 % |
| 8. | Payment in full | 53 | 17.6 % |

As many as 70.3 percent of the heads of family have pleaded for the rational distribution of ancillary services. Ancillary services i.e. the uniforms, books, slates and mid-meals, etc. at primary stage should be given at proper time to every scheduled caste student. There should not be any kind of application form etc. at the primary stage to be filled up. The facility of making payment to the legal guardians has been suggested by 51.3 percent respondents because parents are mostly busy at the places of their work and can't spare time to visit the school many times to receive the money. About one half of the respondents (49.0 percent) are in favour of direct payment or direct release of grants to scheduled caste parents. This will solve a problem of parents as well as discrimination between scheduled caste and high caste people. Chauhan (1975) also recommended that the scholarship amount for the students should be sent to their parents. This is necessary not only to check the misuse of money by the students but also to avoid any possible discrimination among the students in schools. As many as 45.6 percent respondents have suggested that there should be prompt payment of scholarship/stipend in convenient instalments. They prefer monthly payment in the case of scholarships. Singh and Others (1974), Jha (1973) and Dubey (1973) suggested that the scholarships should be awarded within one month of the submission of application and

should be given to all. A separate cell should be set up in the Directorate of Public Instruction for dealing with complaints concerning disbursement of scholarship and to maintain proper upto date record. About one third of the respondents (34.0 percent) feel that date and time for the disbursement of money should be fixed well in advance, so that they can plan the expenditure. About one fourth respondents (24.6 percent) have made a plea that the officials should have sympathetic attitude towards them and should tackle the problems with considerateness. It has been suggested by 17.6 percent of the heads of family that the practice of compelling the scheduled caste parents to donate a part of their scholarship to the institution should be immediately discontinued. Cash payment has been preferred by 11.3 percent of heads of families instead of payment through cheques. The percentage of parents making this suggestion is low because it concerned only those whose wards were studying in the colleges.

Renewal of Scholarship/Stipend

Renewal of scholarship implies the ways through which the scholarship is renewed in the next session or continued for the next term of the same session. The question regarding the renewal of schemes aimed at making assessment of the present renewal system adopted for the educational schemes by ascertaining difficulties and suggestions offered by the heads of family. The questions were open ended. The

responses were content analysed into four categories which are given in Table 5.13.

Table : 5.13: Difficulties at the Time of Renewal of Scholarship/Stipends

(Total Respondents = 300)

| Sr. No. | Difficulty | Response by Suggestion | Percentage of total response to the total respondents |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Cumbersome procedure | 217 | 72.3 % |
| 2. | Wastage of time and money | 101 | 33.6 % |
| 3. | Short notice | 92 | 30.6 % |
| 4. | Frequent procurement of documents | 203 | 67.6 % |

As many as 72.3 percent heads of family have reported that the renewal procedure is cumbersome because the application forms are lengthy; are printed in difficult language and have irrelevant columns for information which is unnecessary. Moreover, the applications have to be got countersigned from the court on the basis of police verification. Every year the students have to complete the same formalities. It is just repetition of the same procedure which is sheer wastage of efforts. As many as 67.6 percent respondents reported the difficulty of producing the scheduled caste certificate. It is very difficult to get scheduled caste certificate for the children every year

because the procedure for getting such a certificate is very tedious. About one third of the respondents (33.6 percent) feel that the renewal procedure is a mere wastage of time and money because in completing the same formalities lot of time is taken and lot of money is spent. It is reported by 30.6 percent of family that they are given a very short notice for filling up the forms. A large number of students are unable to submit their applications because of the inadequate time at their disposal.

The respondents were required to give suggestions to overcome difficulties faced by them on account of renewal of facilities under various educational schemes. The suggestions were classified into four categories arrived at through content analysis of the responses. The categories along with the number of respondents in each category are given in Table 5.14.

Table : 5.14: Suggestions given for the Renewal of Scholarship/Stipend
(Total Respondents = 300).

| Sr. No. | Suggestions | Response by suggestions | Percentage of total response by suggestion to total |
|---------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Simplified renewal procedure | 219 | 73.0 % |
| 2. | Modified payment periodicity | 72 | 24.0 % |
| 3. | Relaxation for failures | 68 | 22.6 % |
| 4. | Monitoring and evaluation of the present procedure | 52 | 17.3 % |

About three fourth of the respondents (73.0 percent) have suggested that procedure for the renewal of scholarships should be simplified. Rather the renewal of scholarship should be automatic. About one fourth of the heads of family (24.0 percent) felt that there should be periodicity of making payment. It will be better if scholarship is disbursed monthly for the convenience of students. As many as 22.6 percent respondents feel that the condition of failure should be relaxed for the renewal of scholarship stipend. About one sixth (17.3 percent) heads of the family suggested that there should be periodical evaluation of the present procedure for effective working. Chauhan (1975) also reported that some teachers had suggested the necessity of checking whether the scholarships given to students are properly utilised or not. This will help in checking the misuse of the money by the students.

By way of conclusion, the heads of families faced various difficulties in the utilisation of educational schemes. The difficulties faced by them have been summarised under the condition of eligibility, award of educational schemes, duration and extension of the tenure of the scheme, mode of payment, method of publicity and the submission of application for the grant of facilities. They have made some suggestions to counter the difficulties. These suggested solutions have been summarised under the above respective areas. The next chapter presents the summary and conclusions of the present study.
