

Promotion of Primary School Education through Implementation of Ammavodi Scheme in the Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This study is conducted with Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs) families to know their perceptions on Ammavodi Scheme and its implementation in the tribal areas. The respondents of the present study are mothers/fathers/guardians, who have the children, and studying from class I to XII (intermediate) in any private, aided or government schools or colleges of Andhra Pradesh. The Ammavodi Scheme is initiated by Government of Andhra Pradesh to promote Primary Education in Andhra Pradesh State. Under this scheme the mothers/guardians receive Rs.15000/- per annum for sending their children to the school and the amount will directly deposit in the bank account of mother or guardian. An Exploratory research design is formulated for the present study and adopted multistage sampling method to identify the respondents. The researcher collected data from 74 households (parents / guardians). The study found that 98.2 per cent of all eligible students living in tribal villages are receiving the Ammavodi Scheme. And 60.8 per cent of the respondents are spending the amount for their children education. And 82.4 per cent of the parents' responsibility has been increased while receiving the Ammavodi amount. The government of Andhra Pradesh is sanctioning Ammavodi amount Rs.15000/- at a time. The study suggested that the amount should be given two times after starting of the academic year. It will be useful to the parents. The government should strictly monitor the 75 per cent attendance of the students.

Keywords: Ammavodi, Welfare Scheme, Education, Tribal population, PVTGs

Introduction

*'No mother shall be deprived of sending her children to school because of Poverty' –
Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy*

Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced new welfare schemes with the title of “Navaratnalu” in 2019. Among them, Ammavodi is one of the schemes in Navaratnalu in Andhra Pradesh and gained positive impressions from the general public. Ammavodi scheme was initiated to promote and enhance primary school education in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Under this scheme Rs.15.000/- per year is credited to the mothers' or guardians' bank account, who are sending their children studying between 1st standard to 12th standard in any private or government schools or junior colleges. It was announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in First Cabinet Meeting held on 10th

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June 2019 (Srinivasarao Apparasu, 2020). The financial assistance under this scheme is provided to all the mothers living in below poverty line. This scheme was launched on 9th January 2020 at the PVKN Government Degree College, Chittore and the amount was deposited directly in the mothers' bank account on the same day. It is an effective scheme for increase of the responsibility of mothers towards their children's education and **to reduce the illiteracy rate in Andhra Pradesh** (Clear Text, 2021). The following table presents the year-wise budget of Ammavodi scheme.

Table No: 1
Year wise Budget and Beneficiaries of Ammavodi

S. No	Academic Year	Budget in rupees	Total Students benefited
1	2019-2020	6109 Crore	42,24,302
2	2020-2021	6336 Crore	44,00,891

Source: Pavan Kumar Bandari (2020), www.thehansindia.com

According to the data in the above table, the Government of Andhra Pradesh spent 6109 crore budget for the year of 2019-20 and 6336 crore for the year 2020-21. The budget and the students are increasing every year.

Process of Ammavodi

The teachers of the schools upload the details of eligible students, Aadhaar number, address, mother/guardian details and bank account number in Ammavodi website. Then the village/ward volunteers and ward/village welfare officer collect the list of students from their village or ward from Ammavodi website (Abraham, 2023). They visit door to door to verify the eligibility of students and submit the report to village secretariat. Then the final list is submitted by the ward/village secretariat to the government (Srinivasarao Apparasu, 2020). Andhra Pradesh Centre for Financial Systems and Services (APCFSS) thoroughly check the bank account numbers and IFSC codes. Then the financial assistance of Rs.15,000/- is directly deposited in the savings bank accounts of the mothers or guardians on the said date by the government. The amount is transferred to the accounts of the beneficiaries through the respective welfare corporations by the mode of direct benefit transfer (DBT) method. The scheme is applicable to all government, private schools and colleges of the state. Orphans and street children who are studying in voluntary organisations are also covered under this scheme. This scheme provides the assistance to the children studying from 1st standard to 12th standard. The education department and Ministry of Education, Andhra Pradesh monitors **the implementation of the Ammavodi Scheme** (Alekhya, 2020).

Government of Andhra Pradesh brought changes in transferring amount under Ammavodi. In 2021, Government of Andhra Pradesh deposited Rs.14000/- in mother's bank account and transferred Rs.1000/- to the account of school management to improve and maintain the

toilets and sanitation facilities in the schools. Again, in 2022 Government of Andhra Pradesh offered Laptops to the students studying 9th standard and above to replace Rs.14000/-. The interested students/mothers may apply for the laptop in place of Ammavodi amount. The government directly provide the laptops to the students (Kalyan Krishna Kumar, 2020). As we know that due to Covid-19 the education changed its paradigm from classroom to online. The rural poor students have no laptops and faced many challenges to attend online classes. Due to this reason, the Government of Andhra Pradesh offered laptops in place of Ammavodi amount. It is optional. The students have the chance to choose a laptop or Ammavodi amount based on the interest and need.

Guidelines of Ammavodi Scheme (Eligibilities and Ineligibilities)

As per the Ammavodi guidelines which have been framed by the expert committee, the following conditions apply for this scheme. Students' names should be included in the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) or Child info to be eligible for Jagananna Ammavodi Scheme. Students name and date of birth is unique in all documents such as Aadhaar Card and Ration Card which are needed to be submitted to claim this scheme (Raghavendra, 2020).

Eligibilities of Ammavodi Scheme

- 1) Irrespective of number of children studying in the same family, only mother or guardian is eligible to get the benefit of Rs.15,000 per year for students who were studying from class I to XII mostly the preference is given to younger child.
- 2) Mother or guardian should come under below poverty line, and family must be white ration card holder.
- 3) Both student and guardian must possess a valid Aadhaar number. It is mandatory.
- 4) In case mother is not alive, natural guardian can apply for Ammavodi scheme on behalf of the student.
- 5) Students who are studying Classes I to XII in all types of Government and private schools are eligible for this scheme
- 6) Student's attendance should be 75% or more, to be eligible to get Rs.15, 000 under this scheme. But for the academic year 2019-20 attendance was not considered due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- 7) Students who drop their studies are not eligible for this scheme. They have to continue their studies in order to qualify under this Ammavodi Scheme. (Reena Sharma, 2022)

Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups is a separate category and less developed communities among scheduled tribes. There are 75 PVTGs are there out of 705 tribal groups (2011 census). Since these tribes are in a very poor economic condition, backward, special central assistance is given to the state for their development (Virginius Xaxa et al 2014).

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

Tribal communities are often identified by a number of characteristics, such as geographic isolation, primitive features, distinctive culture backwardness and shyness when

contacting the community in general. In addition, some tribal groups have some special characteristics such as dependence on hunting, food gathering, pre-agricultural technology level, zero or negative population growth and very low literacy. These groups are called PVTGs. (G Muralidhar, 2014). There are 12 primitive tribes living within Andhra Pradesh State. Among them Gutob Gadaba, Dongria Khond, and Parengi Porja are living in Visakhapatnam district. This study is conducted with PVTGs families.

Purpose of the Study

Education is one of the most important aspects of the human beings for their development. Some sections of the society are still backward in accessing the education due to many reasons. According to 2011 census, the literacy rate among the tribal population in India is 58.95 per cent. It is very less, compared with the national average i.e. 74 per cent. Female tribal population literacy rate in India is 49.35 (Census, 2011). The literacy rate of PVTGs is very low in India and Andhra Pradesh. Due to poverty, non-availability and accessibility of schools, some parents are sending their children to daily wage work, *podu* cultivation or collection and sale of forest products (Abraham Mutluri, 2020). More involvement in these occupations leads to become child labour or school dropouts. Many a mother are struggling to send their children to school regularly. This issue was noticed by Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his *padayatra* and decided to give financial assistance to the poor mothers/guardians who want to send their children to school. After forming the government he initiated the Amnavodi scheme.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh provides Rs.15000 per annum to mothers/guardians who send their children to study in classes I to XII. The children who may study in any private or government schools or junior colleges are eligible. It is successfully implementing in the state of Andhra Pradesh from last two years and the money was already transferred two times to the parents. This is a new scheme and never initiated this type of scheme in other states of India to promote education and eradicate child labour and dropouts. No studies have been conducted till now on this topic. In this connection, the present study has been conducted with PVTG mothers/parents to understand their perceptions in implementation of Amnavodi scheme in tribal areas of Visakhapatnam district.

Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic and demographic profile of the parents / guardians who receive Amnavodi scheme belonged to PVTG families;
2. To know the perceptions of the parents/ guardians towards Amnavodi scheme;
3. To understand the attitudinal changes in the parents/guardians, after receiving the Amnavodi scheme amount;
4. To find out the challenges in execution of the Amnavodi scheme in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh; and
5. To provide the suggestions for effective implementation of Amnavodi scheme in tribal areas

Research Design and Sampling

This study adopted both quantitative and qualitative research approaches (integrated research approach) to understand various aspects of implementation of Jagananna Ammavodi Scheme initiated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Exploratory research design is formulated because it is a new scheme and no study has been conducted on this scheme in Andhra Pradesh and India. The study was conducted in Visakhapatnam district which represents more tribal population in Andhra Pradesh. The study adopted multi-stage sampling method for identification of the respondents. In the first stage, the study selected one high-populated and one low-populated mandal i.e., Araku and Anantagiri from Visakhapatnam District. Then, in the second stage, the study designated three more-populated villages and three less populated villages from the selected mandals. The designated villages from these two mandals are Jakara Valasa, Boribori Valasa, Singarbha, Chityala Garuvu, Putta Chintla, Pedda Gangudi and Sangam Valasa. Later, the researcher collected the data from all the households (PVTGs only) who are benefited by Ammavodi scheme and living in the seven villages. The sample size of the present study is 74 households (parents / guardians).

Data Collection and Analysis

The primary data have been collected through the personal interviews through a well-structured, pre-tested interview schedule at both the village and household level. The study also conducted four focus group discussions and interacted with the elders, youth, Self Help Group leaders, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and Government staff to know their perceptions on Ammavodi Scheme in Andhra Pradesh. The data were collected between the months of May – August 2021 and the data were coded and analysed through MS Excel and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.

The interview schedules were pre-coded. Data collected through interview schedules were edited for any omission or errors. Then the quantitative data were analyzed by using the software of SPSS 17th version and generated tables. The data were analyzed both vertically and horizontally to explain the variations both within and across the parameters. Chi-square test, cross tables and frequency tables were presented based on the data.

Findings and discussions

The study aimed to understand the implementation of Ammavodi scheme among PVTGs families and understand the perceptions of the PVTGs families on Ammavodi scheme. The data were analysed and the results were presented. The mandal wise sample of respondents are presented below:

Table No.: 2
Living Mandal of the Respondents

Mandal	Frequency	Percentage
Anantagiri	38	51.4
Araku	36	48.6
Total	74	100.0

The majority (51.4%) of the respondents are from Anantagiri mandal, and 48.6 per cent of the respondents from Araku mandal. The study selected two mandals from Visakhapatnam scheduled area. Araku is a high populated mandal and Anantagiri is a low populated mandal.

Table No.: 3
Living Village of the Respondents

Village	Frequency	Percentage
Jakara Valasa	9	12.2
Boribori Valasa	9	12.2
Singarbha	6	8.1
Chityala Garuvu	6	8.1
Putta Chintha	8	10.8
Pedda Gangudi	24	32.4
Sangam Valasa	12	16.2
Total	74	100.0

It is found that 32.4 per cent of the respondents are from Pedda Gangudi, followed by 16.2 per cent of the respondents belong to Sangam Valasa. All beneficiaries in the seven villages have been identified and collected the data. These are the small villages, so that the beneficiaries from these villages are less in number.

In this study, 70.3 per cent are females, while 29.7 per cent are males. The females are high in this study, and it may be the reason that the Ammavodi scheme is meant for mothers of children.

Looking at the data in the table above, most of the (60.8%) respondents belonged to 31-40 years age group, followed by 29.7 per cent belonged to 41-50 years age group. Ammavodi scheme is giving the priority to the younger child in the family. So that all age group parents are involved in this study. The following table presents the education details:

Table No.: 4
Education Details of Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	51	68.9
1-5	14	18.9
6-7	7	9.5
8-10	2	2.7
Total	74	100.0

The per the data in the above table showed that majority (68.9%) of the respondents are illiterates, while 18.9 per cent have completed 1-5 classes and 9.5 per cent have studied up to 6-7 classes and only 2.7 per cent of the respondents have studied up to 8-10 classes. It may be the reason that the literacy rates in PVTG families are very less than national average. It is observed that in the present generation also, in entire village one or two girls have completed their intermediate and admitted in graduation.

Table No.: 5
Caste Details of Respondents

Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Kodhu	50	67.6
Porja	24	32.4
Total	74	100.0

There are three PVTG caste people living in the scheduled areas of Visakhapatnam i.e. Kodhu, Gadaba and Porja. The data show that 67.6 per cent belonged to Kodhu caste, followed by 32.4 per cent belonged to Porja caste. Gadaba families are not available in the selected villages.

Table No.: 6
Distribution of the respondents by their relationship with beneficiary

Relationship with beneficiary	Frequency	Percentage
Mother	42	56.8
Father	16	21.6
Grand parent	10	13.5
Guardian	6	8.1
Total	74	100.0

The data show that 56.8 per cent are mothers, 21.6 per cent are fathers, 13.5 per cent are grandparents and 8.1 per cent are guardians of the children. The researcher has given the

priority to talk to the mothers on Ammavodi scheme. But in some places where the mothers did not come forward and were not available to respond to the researcher the father and the grand parents did come forward to provide the information. Some women were engaged with different domestic activities. In such cases the researcher collected the information from father / grandfather. Number of total children living in their family is discussed below;

Table No.: 7
Number of Children living in their family

Number of Children in the family	Frequency	Percentage
1 child	6	8.1
2 children	35	47.3
3 children	19	25.7
4 children	9	12.2
5 children and above	5	6.8
Total	74	100.0

According to the data in the above table, 47.3 per cent families have two children, while 25.7 per cent families have three children, followed by 12.2 per cent families have four children in their family. There are families with more than five children also. The following table presents the total children and Ammavodi children in study area:

Table No.: 8
Total children and Ammavodi scheme children in the villages

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Children benefited in Ammavodi	74	37.2
Children not eligible for Ammavodi due to low age and more income	31	15.6
Children eligible but not receiving due to some other child in the same family receiving the Ammavodi benefit	94	47.2
Total Children	199	100.0

As per the data, the total children in these seven villages are 199, among them 74 children are selected for Ammavodi scheme, 31 children are not eligible to Ammavodi scheme because they are below six years and remaining 94 children are not eligible to receive the Ammavodi scheme because other child in the same family is accessing the scheme. The remaining children were accessing other schemes of state like Gorumudda, Vidya Kanuka, Pre-Primary Schools, and English Medium Schools etc.

Table No.: 9

Distribution of the respondents by the Amount Received

Amount Received	Frequency	Percentage
Amount received for two years	69	93.2
Amount received for last year	5	6.8
Total	74	100.0

The data show that 93.2 per cent reported that they received Ammavodi amount for two years while 6.8 per cent of the respondents received for the last year. These are newly enrolled families. The related to enrolment of children for Ammavodi scheme is discussed below:

Table No.: 10

Distribution of the respondents by the person who enrolled the children name

Children name Enrolled By	Frequency	Percentage
School Teacher	41	55.4
Village volunteer	33	44.6
Total	74	100.0

The majority 55.4 per cent stated that their children name was enrolled by school teacher, followed by 44.6 per cent stated that their children name enrolled by the village volunteer of their village. The village volunteers are very active. They motivate the illiterate parents to send the children to school and enrol for Ammavodi scheme in PVTG villages. So, that the respondents mentioned the name of village volunteer. Caste and helped person to enrol the children in Ammavodi scheme is discussed below.

Table No.: 11

Distribution of the respondents by their caste and helped persons to enrol their child name in Ammavodi scheme

Caste	Children name Enrolled By whom		Total
	School Teacher	Village Volunteer	
Kodhu	21	29	50
Porja	20	4	24
Total	41	33	74
Pearson Chi-Square: 11.213(b)		Df: 1	Significance: .001

Analysis of the data on the caste of the person who enrolled their child name were cross tabulated and it showed that the Kodhu community people are enrolled by the village

volunteers, because Kodhu is a backward community in PVTGs. It is proved in the statistics as the Pearson Chi-Square 11.213(b), Df.1, Significance is 0.001. The following table presents the type of school their child pursuing their education.

Table No.: 12
Type of school their children are studying

Type of school where child studying	Frequency	Percentage
Government School/College	74	100.0

All children (100%) are studying in the government schools/colleges only. It may be the reason that they are PVTGs, live in the remote forest areas, where the private schools and transportation facilities are not available. The children go to the government school on foot which is located in major gram panchayat. This study is in contrast with the study of Ram Mohan G (2019), who reported that the admissions will be increased in the private schools with Ammavodi amount and it leads to reduce the strength of Government schools. But it was not observed in this study because all the students are studying in the government schools even after receiving two years benefit. How the parents spending the Ammavodi amount is discussed in the below table;

Table No.: 13
Distribution of the respondents by nature of spending

Nature of spending Ammavodi amount	Frequency	Percentage
Spending for children education	45	60.8
Saving in the Bank on children name	11	14.9
Using for Household expenditure	18	24.3
Total	74	100.0

The majority (60.8%) stated that they spent the amount for their children education. They brought additional books, bags, notebooks for all children in the family and pay school fee for Ammavodi child and also used for remaining children of the family. The remaining 24.3 per cent of the respondents spent the amount for family expenditure, while 14.9 per cent of the respondents deposited the amount in the bank accounts in the name of their children. The study is in contrast with the study of Srinivasarao. K (2021) who reported that the families may not spent the Ammavodi amount for children education and spends for Sankranthi festival. The following cross table presents the information on religion and spent Ammavodi money for their children education

Table No.: 14
Religion and spending of Ammavodi money for their children education

Religion	Do you spend Ammavodi money for your children education		Total
	Yes	No	
Hindu	44	20	64
Christian	1	9	10
Total	45	29	74
Pearson Chi-Square: 12.526(b)	Df: 1	Significance:.001	

The majority of the Christian families have not spent the Ammavodi amount for their children education, it may be the reason that they are in poverty and deprived of basic needs. It may be the reason that these people use Ammavodi money for their family expenditure. It is showed in the data as the Pearson Chi-Square 12.526(b), Df.1, Significance is 0.001. The following table presents the dropout children information.

Table No.: 15
How many years they dropped out from the school

if child is a dropout previously, from how many years	Frequency	Percentage
1 Year	5	6.8
2 years	14	18.9
NA	55	74.3
Total	74	100.0

According to the data in the above table, 18.9 per cent of the families accepted their family have school dropouts from two years, while 6.8 per cent of the families accepted that their family have school dropouts and they are not going to school regularly from last one year. They readmitted into the school after initiation of this scheme. The major reasons for dropout is discussed in the below table.

Table No.: 16
The major reasons to become dropouts from the school

Major reasons for dropouts	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	10	13.5

Not interested	9	12.2
Not Applicable	55	74.3
Total	74	100.0

The data show that 13.5 per cent stated that the poverty is a major reason for dropout from the school while 12.2 per cent stated that their children have no interest to attend the school. They were trying to send their children to the school but the children are not going regularly.

Jagananna Vidya Kanuka

It is one of the welfare schemes. Under this scheme, government school students get uniform, books and other education related material (Sumit Arora, 2020). The following table presents the information on receiving status of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka.

Table No.: 17
Receiving Status of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka Scheme

Did you receive Jagananna Vidya kanuka	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	74	100.0

All respondents (100%) stated that their children received Jagananna Vidya Kanuka scheme. The quality of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka Material is discussed below.

Table No.: 18
Perceptions of the respondents on quality of vidya kanuka material

Quality of material	Frequency	Percentage
Average	2	2.7
Good	29	39.2
Very good	43	58.1
Total	74	100.0

The data show that 58.1 per cent stated that the Vidya Kanuka material is very good, followed by 39.2 per cent stated that the vidya kanuka material is good and only 2.7 per cent stated that the Jagananna Vidya Kanuka material is average. The government of Andhra Pradesh is taking more care to provide the quality products to the beneficiaries. It may be a reason that majority of the respondents stated that the products are good and very good. The underneath table offer the information on changes noticed in parents' behaviour after initiation of Ammavodi scheme.

Table No.: 19
Distribution of the respondents by noticed attitudinal changes in their behaviour after receiving Ammavodi

Noticed attitudinal changes in the parents behaviour after receiving Ammavodi	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	61	82.4
No	6	8.1
Don't know	7	9.5
Total	74	100.0

The data show that 82.4 per cent stated that the parents' attitude was changed after initiation of Ammavodi scheme. They are taking more care and sending the children to the school at right time. The mothers are feeling more responsible towards their children education, only 8.1 stated that there is no change in the parents' behaviour. As per the government rules every child has required 75 per cent attendance. The mothers take responsibility to send their children to the school regularly. The next cross table dowries the information on religion and change in attitude of the parents after receiving Ammavodi.

Table No.: 20
Classification of the respondents by their religion and Noticed attitudinal changes in the parents' behaviour after receiving Ammavodi.

Religion	Noticed attitudinal changes in the parents behaviour after receiving Ammavodi			Total
	Yes	No	Don't know	
Hindu	54	6	4	64
Christian	7	0	3	10
Total	61	6	7	74
Pearson Chi-Square: 6.311 (a)		Df.: 2	Significance: 0.43	

Analysis of the data on the religion and changes noticed in the parents' behaviour were cross tabulated and it showed that majority of the Hindu families and Christian families have changed after initiation of Ammavodi scheme. It is proved in the statistics as the Pearson Chi-Square 6.311(a), Df.2, Significance is 0.43. The next table discuss the changes noticed in the behaviour of parents after initiation of Ammavodi scheme.

Table No.: 21
Type of changes noticed in the behaviour of parents

Type of changes noticed	Percentage	Percentage
Parents sending children to the school regularly and doing follow-up regularly about their children education	32	43.2
Parents are willing to send their children to school after initiation of this scheme	29	39.2
No changes	6	8.1
Don't know	7	9.5
Total	74	100.0

The data show that 43.2 per cent of the parents stated that they are sending their children to the school regularly at right time and doing follow-up their education, followed by 39.2 per cent of the parents stated that before initiation of this scheme parents have not taken abundant care because they engaged with their livelihood issues and challenge the poverty. Now they are getting Rs.15,000/- per year and the burden of children education was reduced. So that they are taking more care. And only 8.1 per cent stated that there were no changes in the attitudes of parents. It is observed that all the children are studying in government schools only and no child was shifted from government school to private school after receiving the Ammavodi scheme. This study is in contrast with the study of Ganesh (2020) who stated that after getting the financial assistance from the Ammavodi scheme there may be a chance of shifting of students from government schools to the private ones. But this study found that, it was not happening in the tribal areas.

The study found that, the majority 95.9 per cent are satisfied with Jagananna Welfare Schemes while 4.1 per cent are not satisfied with Jagananna Welfare Schemes. It may be a reason that all the welfare schemes were designed with the rich experience got in *Padayatra*.

Chakradhar, 24 years boy studying 9th class from Jaddangi, Rajavommangi Mandal, East Godavari. His father is a daily wage worker. Due to the low wage earnings, his mother is also started working as a tailor. This is a below poverty line family. Teachers helped them to join in this scheme. Ammavodi scheme helps them with Rs.15000/- per annum which indirectly motivating the students and their parents to attend school regularly. This scheme is helping the poor people economically. There is a clause i.e. 75% attendance is compulsory for the school children in an annum. So that the parents are also taking care to send their children to the school regularly. Jagananna Vidya Kanuka is additionally providing them quality books, dresses, a good play ground and sports. Now the children going to the school regularly. The attitudinal changes came in the mindsets of the parents.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- 1) The amount of Ammavodi may not be sufficient to the large size families where three or more children are studying. Hence, it is suggested to provide the amount at least to two children in the family.
- 2) The Ammavodi scheme is applicable to Government as well as private schools or junior colleges. The parents should be encouraged to admit their children in the Government schools. Thereby the strength of children will be increased in the government schools/colleges.
- 3) A few parents were spending this Ammavodi amount for non-educational purposes. Volunteers had better to educate the parents to spend this amount for the child education only.
- 4) The clause mentioned in G.O. i.e. 75 per cent of the attendance of the child in the school for every Ammavodi child is mandatory. But it was inactive due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The clause should be implemented in the schools. Otherwise, it may not improve the education of the children. And it should be strictly monitored by the government.
- 5) The government of Andhra Pradesh is sanctioning Ammavodi amount Rs.15000/- at a time. It should be given in two instalments after starting of the academic year. Then, it will be useful to the parents to meet different educational needs of the child from time to time.
- 6) The amount is sanctioned on 9th January every year because that day is a special day as it was a *padayatra* completion day. But it is a festive time in Andhra Pradesh and people spend amount for festive celebration. The Ammavodi amount should be sanctioned in the month of June when the academic year starts in Andhra Pradesh, every year.
- 7) Formation and strengthening of Village Development Committees and Ammavodi mothers committees is essential to abolish child labour and monitor the attendance of Ammavodi children.
- 8) The scheme may be implemented in all over India by different state governments to promote the children education.
- 9) The media should give wide publicity to the positive stories of Ammavodi to encourage the dropout students to get readmission in to the schools in the state.

Social Work Implications

Social work is a practice based profession. It promotes social change, development, empowerment social cohesion and liberation of the people (IFSW, 2014). Social work professionals always work with poor and backward people in the entire world. There are three types of social work practices viz., micro level, meso level and macro level. The motto of Ammavodi scheme is to increase the grass enrolment ratio, literacy rate and eradicate the child labour and reduce the dropouts in Andhra Pradesh. Social workers encourage the mothers to take the educational responsibility of their children. The social workers educate the PVTG families to send their children schools regularly. There is a scope to apply the social work methods i.e., social case work, social group work, community organisations,

social action, social welfare administration and social research with PVTG families. The social workers counsel the child labour and school dropouts to re-join in the schools. The social workers form and strengthen the Village development committees to abolish the child labour in the villages. Ammavodi parents' committees should be formed to monitor the attendance of each child in their villages.

Limitations of the study

It is an important study. All adequate measures have been taken to conduct this study. Still there are some limitations. This study is conducted with 74 PVTGs families in one district only. The study conducted four focus group discussions. Due to time and financial constraints the present study was limited to that geographical area. The findings may not be generalised.

Conclusion

Shri. Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, Hon'ble chief minister of Andhra Pradesh launched this scheme to reduce the financial burden on mothers to send their children to the schools. This scheme was being implemented for the past two years in the state of Andhra Pradesh and won the hearts of many parents. It is a unique scheme. The admissions and attendance were increased in the government schools after initiation of this scheme. No corruption was involved in this scheme because the amount is directly transferred to mother's bank account. This scheme is building the educational foundation among primary and secondary children. It promotes the higher gross enrolment ratio in Andhra Pradesh. Overall this scheme is more useful to poor mothers, poor children and own the heart of many families.

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