

**DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN MANIPUR - A REVIEW****Ningthoujam Sanatombi Chanu**

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In India's Manipur, the development of the Scheduled Castes is a difficult and multifaceted task. The socioeconomic, educational, and political facets of their development are examined in this review. It draws attention to the ongoing injustices and discrimination that Scheduled Castes experience in spite of government initiatives and affirmative action laws. There is still a critical need for access to high-quality healthcare, employment, and education opportunities. The review also highlights the need for focused initiatives that take into account Manipur's particular sociocultural context and encourage inclusive development. In conclusion, it emphasizes the significance of a thorough and integrated strategy to uplift Scheduled Castes in the area. In many ways, several initiatives have contributed to the improvement of tribal people's lives in Manipur. As an illustration, the TADC Act has contributed to giving tribal people more control over their own affairs. The MTDC has aided in giving financial support to tribal members so they can launch businesses or enhance their agricultural methods. Several steps have been taken in the past few decades to ensure a better quality of life for scheduled casts in Manipur.

**Keywords: Tribal community, TADC act and podcasts.****I. Introduction**

An issue of utmost importance in the context of social and economic equity is the growth of the Scheduled Castes in Manipur, India. The northeastern state of Manipur, which is renowned for its vibrant cultural diversity, is home to a sizable population of Scheduled Castes, who have long endured prejudice and marginalization. This introduction offers a glimpse into the complex dynamics of their development, covering concerns with respect to things like social inclusion, employment, and education. This review attempts to analyze the development, difficulties, and prospects of the Scheduled Castes in Manipur in order to shed light on the general trajectory of social justice in the area. This is done against the backdrop of government policies aimed at uplifting these marginalized communities. The sense of community that podcast listeners foster is another benefit. People are more inclined to tune in and listen when they are aware that their favourite podcast is releasing a new episode on a specific day. The evolution of planned castings within. In Manipur, scheduled castes are becoming more prevalent for a number of reasons. It makes it simpler for listeners to stay up to date with their preferred podcasts, which is one reason. Before long, Manipur was producing dozens of podcasts. From politics to culture to entertainment, these podcasts addressed a broad spectrum of subjects.

## II. Literature Review

Developing scheduled casts in Manipur is one of the complicated ones. There are many young people who get together to establish a podcast at the start of the new millennium. According to Sharma, it was the biggest target to launch “The Manipur Podcast”. This show had a wide range of hits through its listeners and with the podcast State Chat. Chanu **et al. (2021) mentions** that the popularity of “The Manipur Podcast” encouraged other people to launch podcasts of their own. In Manipur, podcasts gained even more traction in the 2010s. Manipur has seen a shift in favor of scheduled casts in recent years. This implies that podcasts are now regularly released, typically once a week or once a month. This is not like the early days of podcasting when episodes were frequently released erratically.

The growth of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur is a complex issue with wide-ranging effects on social and economic equity. Manipur has a sizable SC population and is home to a diverse population. SC people have historically experienced various forms of marginalization and discrimination (Devi and De 2022). To uplift SCs and encourage their development, the government has implemented policies and affirmative action initiatives. In-depth analysis of the socioeconomic, educational, and political aspects of SC development in Manipur is provided in this review of the literature. It also looks at the difficulties and possibilities that make up this process in the particular sociocultural setting of the area.

Scheduled Castes have played a significant role in this cultural mosaic that has shaped Manipur's history. Like in many other regions of India, SCs in Manipur have historically faced discrimination, economic hardship, and social exclusion (Haokip 2022). Their marginalization has been greatly influenced by the conventional caste system. To combat these disparities, the Indian government has over the years implemented a number of policies and affirmative action programs.

### ***Initiatives and Policies of the Government***

To improve the lives of the STs across the nation, including Manipur, the Indian government has put in place a number of programs and policies. These regulations cover financial aid and other forms of support, as well as reservations in government positions and educational institutions. One such piece of legislation intended to deter and punish offenses against SCs is the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (Pandey et al. 2022).

### ***Learning Development***

The advancement of education is a critical component of SC development. Education is frequently regarded as a key factor in social and economic advancement. However, as in other regions of India, SCs in Manipur face particular difficulties getting access to a good education. Infrastructure deficiencies, teacher shortages, and cultural barriers are a few of these difficulties. Due to the state's remoteness and hilly terrain, which frequently makes it difficult to establish an educational infrastructure, SCs in Manipur have historically faced educational difficulties. The educational disparities SCs experience are a result of a combination of factors including a lack of qualified teachers, inadequate school infrastructure, and poor educational resources (Savia and Mulimani 2021).

### ***Education Reservation Policies***

The government has implemented reservation policies in educational institutions that reserve a specific portion of seats for SCs and STs in order to address these disparities. Although there have been arguments regarding the efficacy of such policies, this has made it possible for many SC students to access education. Another crucial aspect of SC development in Manipur is economic development (Zimik 2023). Economic empowerment requires access to financial resources, educational opportunities, and programs for skill development.

### ***Workplace Opportunities***

For SCs in Manipur, finding employment has been a significant challenge. They have historically been excluded from many fields due to prejudice and discrimination. This problem has been greatly helped by government initiatives to promote SC entrepreneurship and provide reservation in government employment. For the purpose of assisting SC residents and communities in generating income and enhancing their economic status, the government offers financial support and assistance for skill development programs (Panakaje 2023). These initiatives have varied degrees of success, and this review's focus on their effects is crucial.

### ***Democratic Empowerment***

Another critical component of SC development in Manipur is political empowerment. It is believed that representation in political institutions and local governance will help them to address their particular problems and fight for their rights. SCs in Manipur have struggled to gain political sway because of their underrepresentation in the government and in positions of power. The key to addressing these disparities has been to increase their political representation and participation (Dutta, 2022). Social inclusion for SCs in Manipur continues to be a significant challenge in spite of the government's efforts and affirmative action policies. Their full integration into society continues to be hampered by discrimination, both overt and covert.

### ***Cultural and traditional influences***

SCs experience social exclusion and discrimination due to Manipur society's distinctive cultural and traditional elements. In efforts, these cultural aspects must be taken into account. In conclusion, the development of Scheduled Castes in Manipur is a complicated issue with implications for the social, political, economic, and educational systems. Addressing historical inequalities has largely been accomplished through government programs and policies. Nevertheless, issues still exist, particularly in the areas of social inclusion, political representation, employment, and education. These difficulties are made more complex by Manipur's distinctive sociocultural environment. Promoting the growth and well-being of Scheduled Castes in the state requires an integrated strategy that takes these various dimensions and factors into account. To address these issues and promote inclusive growth in Manipur, additional study and policy initiatives are required.

## **III. Methodology**

The government has put in place a number of initiatives to better the Scheduled Castes' access to education in order to address this problem. Employment is a further important factor. In Manipur, discrimination against Scheduled Castes exists in the workplace. They frequently don't get jobs or get paid less than other workers. The government has put in place a number of initiatives to support

Scheduled Castes' employment in order to address this issue. The provision of training, subsidies, and loans are a few of these initiatives. The analysis and synthesis of previous literature, research studies, government reports, and scholarly articles for this study on the development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Manipur is primarily accomplished through secondary research sources. A thorough understanding of SCs' development, difficulties, and government interventions in Manipur is provided by the secondary research methodology. The review takes into account a number of factors, such as the historical setting, governmental policies, social inclusion, employment opportunities, and difficulties these communities have faced.

### **Sources of Data**

**Academic Databases:** For this study, a thorough search was conducted through a number of academic databases, including the National Digital Library of India, JSTOR, PubMed, and Google Scholar. Peer-reviewed articles, research papers, theses, and dissertations about SCs in Manipur are accessible through these sources.

**Government Reports:** Publications and reports from relevant government agencies, including the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Manipur State Government, offer useful information on policy initiatives, welfare programs, and the state of SC development at the moment.

**Books and Monographs:** In order to provide historical and contextual context, books, monographs, and scholarly publications focusing on the socio-economic and cultural aspects of SCs in Manipur are examined.

**Reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit organizations** working on social development issues in Manipur help to provide a comprehensive understanding of the difficulties SCs face.

**Research Papers and Theses:** This review incorporates the work of researchers in the field of SC development in Manipur, as well as their literature reviews and conclusions.

### ***Search Techniques***

In this secondary research, a variety of keywords and phrases were used to find relevant information, including but not limited to "Scheduled Castes in Manipur," "SC development," "Government policies in Manipur," "SC education," "SC employment," and "Social inclusion in Manipur." To focus or broaden the search, boolean operators (AND, OR) were used. To guarantee the review's timeliness, search results were sorted by relevance and publication date, with a focus on recent publications.

### ***Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion***

The following inclusion and exclusion criteria were used to ensure the relevance and caliber of the sources chosen:

#### ***Inclusion Standards:***

sources describing the history, present, and difficulties faced by Manipur's Scheduled Castes.

Newmai mentions that reputable academic institutions, governmental agencies, and other organizations' research.

Publications with English translations or that are available in English.

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Studies that have been conducted over the last two decades to ensure their relevance today.

***Exclusion Standards:***

- sources unrelated to the growth of SC in Manipur.
- outdated publications containing knowledge that is no longer relevant.
- sources from other languages that lack trustworthy English translations.

The data gathered was categorized according to themes such as challenges, social inclusion, historical context, government policies, education, and employment. In order to provide insights into the multifaceted development of SCs in Manipur, the review uses a narrative approach to synthesize the data and present it in a coherent and structured way.

This secondary research is entirely based on information that is available to the general public from published sources. There is no primary data collection using human subjects (Haokip 2022). The proper citation and acknowledgement of the sources used in this review are therefore the main ethical concerns.

***Limitations***

Secondary research is inherently constrained in the following ways:

**Quality of Sources:** The validity and dependability of the sources used have an impact on the review's quality. A crucial concern is ensuring the reliability and authenticity of the sources chosen.

**Coverage:** Due to underreporting or the absence of specific data, the scope of information on the development of SCs in Manipur may be constrained.

**Temporal Limitation:** Although efforts are made to include recent studies, the effectiveness of the review may be hampered by the dearth of current studies on the topic.

**Language Barrier:** By limiting the sources to those that are available in English, relevant information published in other languages, particularly Manipuri, may be missed.

Despite these drawbacks, this secondary research seeks to offer a thorough overview of the development of the Scheduled Castes in Manipur, providing insightful information on the historical setting, governmental interventions, and difficulties that these communities have faced.

**IV. Data analysis and findings**

Numerous initiatives and programs have been implemented by the Manipur government to support the growth of the state's tribal communities. The Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TADC) Act of 1972, for example, allows for the creation of autonomous district councils in tribal areas (Devi and De 2022). The Manipur Tribal Development Corporation (MTDC), is a public company that offers financial support and other services to tribal people.

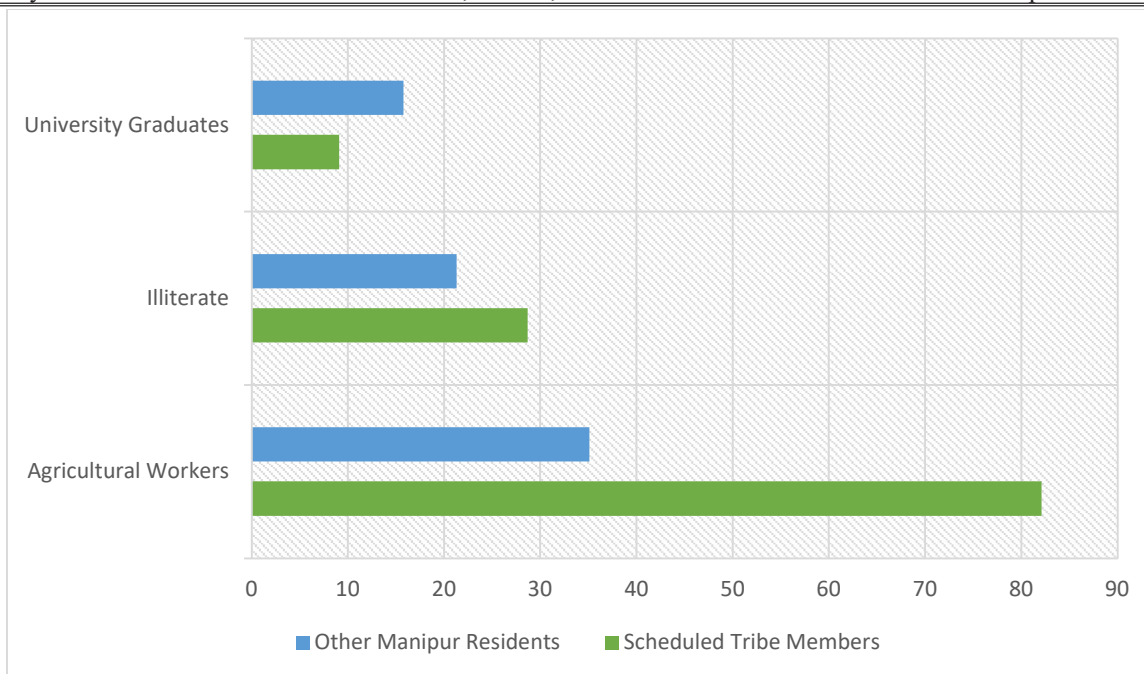


Fig: percentile of graduates, illiterates, and agriculture workers.

(Source: Chanu et al. 2021)

The Manipur Tribal Welfare Department is in charge of the state's tribal residents' welfare. The Manipur Tribal Research Institute is an organization that conducts research on tribal culture and society. According to the concept of Tajuddin and Purkayastha, the Manipur Tribal Development Cooperative Society (MTDCS), is a cooperative organization that offers financial aid and other forms of support to tribal people.

The Manipur Tribal Welfare Department has aided in delivering healthcare and education to tribal people. Tribal society and culture have been preserved thanks to the Manipur Tribal Research Institute. The MTDCS has contributed to giving tribal people financial aid so they can purchase necessities like goods and services (Chanu et al. 2021). These policies and initiatives have improved the socioeconomic circumstances of Manipur's SCs. Manipur's scheduled cast development is a complicated problem with a long history. Access to education is one of the scheduled castes' biggest problems in Manipur. Manipur's scheduled cast development is a complicated problem with a long history. There are many programs aimed at enhancing scheduled castes' access to education, but more must be done. Access to employment is a problem for Manipur's scheduled castes.

The significance of the historical context is one of the major findings in the literature review regarding SC development in Manipur. Manipur's complicated history is characterized by numerous ethnic groups and social strata. SCs' historical marginalization and oppression, which frequently resulted from the caste system and sociocultural practices, have had a significant impact on their socioeconomic situation today (Pandey et al. 2022). This historical perspective emphasizes how crucial it is to comprehend the causes of their problems and the requirement to right historical wrongs.

Government Policies and Interventions: According to the review, government initiatives and policies have been crucial to the advancement of SCs in Manipur. Several significant discoveries in this area include:

**Affirmative Action:** Government policies, such as reservations in public employment and education, have been essential in enhancing opportunities for SCs. Findings demonstrate that reservations have increased the representation of SC in government positions and educational institutions, promoting socioeconomic mobility (Sophia, 2021).

**Welfare Programs:** The analysis demonstrates how various welfare plans and initiatives, like the Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students, support education, which is a crucial element of development, financially (Savia and Mulimani 2021). These results highlight the value of focused financial assistance.

Despite the existence of policies and programs, there are still difficulties with their efficient implementation. Findings point to problems with corruption, red tape, and beneficiaries who are unaware of their rights.

**Education:** According to the review's findings, education is crucial to the development of SCs in Manipur.

**Increased Enrollment:** There is evidence that affirmative action policies have led to an increase in the number of SC students enrolling in schools and colleges. The data analysis reveals a significant rise in SCs' literacy rates.

**Quality Disparities:** In spite of increased enrollment, there are still differences in the standard of instruction. Findings show that a large number of SC students attend schools with poor facilities, which causes a learning gap.

**Dropout Rates:** Data analysis shows that dropout rates are higher among SC students as a result of financial hardship, subpar educational resources, and social discrimination. Their overall development is hampered by this.

**Employment:** The literature review sheds light on the state of SC employment in Manipur.

**Public Employment:** Affirmative action practices have increased the representation of SC in the public workforce, especially in government positions. The review emphasizes how these policies have improved economic well-being.

**Challenges in the Private Sector:** According to the findings, SCs encounter difficulties in the private sector, where reservations aren't necessary. Their overall development is hampered by the persistence of discrimination and a lack of opportunities.

**Entrepreneurship:** According to the review, some residents of South Carolina have made progress in their entrepreneurial endeavors, boosting the local economy. However, SCs have yet to see this sector experience significant growth.

**Social Inclusion:** The development of SCs must take social inclusion into account.

**Changing Cultural Landscape:** The analysis shows that initiatives have been taken to support social inclusion and cultural change. Communities in SC have been actively participating in social and cultural events, which is a sign of slow change.

Inter-Caste Relations: According to the findings, there has been an improvement in inter-caste relations in Manipur, with more interaction between SCs and other groups. This might make caste-based prejudice less prevalent.

Challenges Despite these encouraging results, social inclusion challenges continue to exist. In Manipur, stereotypes, untouchability laws, and discrimination still have an impact on SCs' daily lives (Zimik 2023). Several obstacles to the development of SCs in Manipur have been identified by the literature review, including:

Implementation Gaps: The difficulty of successfully implementing public policies and welfare programs is a recurring observation. The intended benefits frequently fail to reach the SC population due to corruption and red tape in the administrative process.

Economic Inequalities: Economic inequalities continue to be a major problem. SCs are overrepresented in the informal labor market and frequently have limited access to financial resources, which impedes their development.

Education Quality: Despite rising enrollment, education quality is still a problem. SC students' educational advancement is hampered by inadequate facilities and a lack of qualified teachers.

Social Discrimination: The review emphasizes the ongoing problem of social discrimination and untouchability practices, which restrict SCs' ability to integrate into society and advance generally in Manipur.

In conclusion, the study on the growth of the Scheduled Castes in Manipur reveals a complex interaction between the historical setting, governmental initiatives, educational programs, employment opportunities, and social inclusion. Affirmative action policies in particular have had a positive impact on SC development in terms of education and public employment. The implementation of policies, economic inequalities, and social discrimination, however, continue to be major obstacles. The results highlight the need for ongoing initiatives to address these issues and advance holistic development with a view to achieving a more inclusive and equitable Manipur society.

## V. Conclusion

The study's conclusion emphasizes the complexity of Scheduled Caste (SC) development in Manipur. Government initiatives, affirmative action laws, and rising educational enrollment have all benefited SC communities. However, problems like inconsistencies in how policies are put into practice, economic inequalities, and social discrimination continue. In work, education, and other aspects of life, the SCs have advanced in a significant way. Before the SCs were treated equally with the other communities in the state, much work remains such as the need for better education quality, good aspects of life, etc. All these policies, initiatives, and programs must be carried out by the government indefinitely. The results highlight the need for all-encompassing and ongoing efforts to get past these challenges and promote inclusive development. To ensure that SCs in the area can fully participate in and benefit from the broader socioeconomic progress, Manipur must keep working to eliminate historical injustices, enhance educational standards, and promote social inclusion.



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