

Social Inclusion of Muslims: A Performance of Government Welfare Schemes in Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Minorities comprise significant share in India's population. They are backward in terms of socio-economic development indicators. Most of the people from religious minorities are Muslim. In view of the empowerment and mainstreaming in development process, Government of India has launched various programmes and schemes for minority population. One of the important programme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India is multi-sectoral development programme which is based on social conversion from various other ministries and departments of government. Indian polity has been striving for establishing democratic goals through modernizing its political and administrative institutions. With a change in development paradigms, the focus of development planning has shifted to participatory development with social justice and equity. The concept of inclusive growth and development has gained momentum in the changing economic environment and policy regime. The term is widely used for inclusion of weaker, vulnerable and marginalized population and balanced spatial development. The policy-makers have started thinking of inclusion of the downtrodden people into the growth process. During the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12), the Approach Paper highlighted the inclusive economic growth and development. Against this backdrop, present paper aims at examining performance of welfare schemes of government of Uttar Pradesh for the empowerment of Muslims in the state. The paper is based on secondary data and pertinent literature.

Introduction

Indian society is an agglomeration of diverse cultures. There are numerous castes, tribes and ethnic and religious groups. It is, therefore, Indian society is called a multicultural society. Each group has its own cultural specialty. Every religious group has its own historical tradition and custom. Interestingly, among the Muslim, religion regulates the sacred and the secular practices. Uttar Pradesh is the most populated state of the Indian Union and has sizeable Muslim population. They constitute about 14 per cent of the state population. the plight of minority communities in the state of Uttar Pradesh is no better than other states. They are socially and economically backward and even their empowerment though initiating' welfare and developmental programmes

could not yield satisfactory results. Their representation in government jobs, business operations and politico-administrative elite is far behind their share in population. The fact remains that minority communities in the state feel politically dumped and isolated and are seeking religious leadership for their empowerment, and enhancing their share in government jobs and business operations through easy access to opportunities and necessary inputs. Due to the impact of modernization, westernization, globalization, democracy, socio-economic changes, legal enactment pertaining to Muslim society is advancing towards gender just and equates systems, giving the way to empowerment and advancement in India. However in India, the social structure of Muslim society seems to be considered of the core of the traditional cultural setup. With interplay of a number of exogenous forces which have affected its traditional cultural setup and internal indigenous developments some changes can be seen in the Muslim society. More precisely, modern education, secularization and increased communication have let to the genesis of a relatively open and progressive Muslim social structure. Muslim population in Uttar Pradesh during 2011 was estimated to be 3.69 crores. Out of total Muslim population in the state, about 46 per cent Muslim population was found concentrated in Western region while Eastern region constituted 36 per cent Muslim population of the state. About 20 per cent population of the state comprises of Muslim population.

Hasan (2009) is of the view that Indian state is politically and socially perceived as multi-cultural multi-lingual and multi-religious state. Caste and creed are so deeply rooted in our social notions that even our normal work and actions are defined and determined by caste and creed. The origination of Buddha religion on this soil is the dire consequence of caste system in India. Despite the special provision provided by our constitution in schemes, opportunities and policies operated by the state to schedule caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST), Other Backward Class and Minorities for improvement in their social ranking among other com Ansari (1988) made a critical analysis of educational backwardness of the Indian Muslims. He mentioned that the Muslim socio-economic backwardness which was generally traced to the 1857 debacle and its aftermath was really traceable to the so called Muslim period of Indian History. He is of opinion that after conversion to Islam the bulk of the indigenous Muslims did not enjoy any special patronage and did not undergo any upward socio-economic mobility by virtue of their being Muslims. Ahmad (1981) deals with the educational backwardness of major component of minority community commonly known as Muslim. Tasneem and Sana Asma (2005) highlighted that there is no doubt that education is the only mechanism that enhances the process of social, economic and cultural development of communities. It is a harsh reality that among all the religious communities, Muslims are the least educated sections of Indian societies. Ahmad (1980) has examined the problems

of Muslims educational backwardness in contemporary India. In his study he highlighted the educational status of the Muslims as well as the socio-cultural constraints which they are facing in the context of educational upliftment among them. He remarked that the appeal of education is not universal to all social strata in Muslim Community. Engineer (1985) has studied the role of Muslim leaders in social development of the Muslims.

Social Inclusion

The concept of 'social exclusion' is of relatively recent origin. The notion of social exclusion was developed in industrialized countries. Social exclusion has been defined by the DFID (2005) as "a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability etc. . The term 'social exclusion' was first time used by a Frenchman Rene Lenoir in 1974. Todd Landman (2006) explains the concept social exclusion, "as a form of rights violation if systematic disproportionality of treatment of people across social, economic and political sphere can be demonstrated". He further argues that human rights deficits can increase people's vulnerability to exclusion. Although 'inclusive growth' is widely believed to be an idea associated with the Eleventh Five Year Plan and attributed to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, its actual progenitor is K.T. Shah, Secretary of the National Planning Committee (NPC) . The concept of Inclusive growth encompasses economic, social and cultural aspects of development (Dev, 2008). It is often used interchangeably with a variety of other terms, including 'broad-based growth', 'shared growth' and 'pro-poor growth', a growth, which is broad-based across sectors and inclusive of the large part of the country's poor, disadvantaged, deprived and excluded communities. However, it got momentum in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, when Government of India highlighted the imperative need of inclusive growth in order to achieve sustainable development. The achievement of inclusive growth has been challenging tasks. It requires change of mind set of community as well as policy makers and administrators. Governments at different levels have to ensure the provision of these services and this must be an essential part of our strategy for inclusive growth (Singh, et. al , 2011).

Welfare Programmes

Article 38 of the Constitution of India declared India as a welfare state when it said that it is the duty of the State "to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice social, economic and political shall inform all the institutions of the national life and the States, in particular, strive to minimize the inequalities in income,

and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different. After about 70 years of Independence Minorities (specially Muslims) are still gripped in poverty and unemployment, ill health etc. Muslims are more economically backward and also educationally lagging behind. It is fact that the greater percentages of Muslims are poor and engaged in marginal nature of economic activities. The educational status of Indian Muslims is highly depressing and disheartening. In pursuance of the constitutional provisions the government is committed to the welfare/well-being of the minorities such measures are not limited to protecting promoting their language, religion and culture, but in making special efforts for their socio-economic development and mainstreaming governments of India and government of Uttar Pradesh ran various welfare programmes for development of minorities.

Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP)

The Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) was conceived as an area development programme as a follow up action on the Sachar Committee recommendations. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) launched in the year 2008-09 in the Minority Concentrations Districts (MCDs). It is an area development initiative to address the development deficits in minority concentration area by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities. During 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017), Government of India has implemented multi-sectoral development plan in 48 districts of Uttar Pradesh, covering 144 development blocks and 18 urban centres for bringing minorities into development mainstream through bridging critical gaps of infrastructure and services. Multi-sectoral development plan mainly include establishment of government inter colleges, government ITIs, government polytechnics, community health centres, primary health centres, sub-health centres, government hostels, Anganwadi centres, homoeopathic, Unani and Ayurvedic hospitals, construction of toilets and Indira Awas etc. . During the period of 2011-12 to 2015-16, there has been increasing trend in budgetary allocation and number of beneficiaries under the plan in the state of Uttar Pradesh. During 11th Five Year Plan, 96432 projects were completed while during 12th Five Year Plan, 7532 projects were completed against the 16334 approved projects under MSDP in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Out of total completed projects, number of Indira Awas and construction of hand pumps was recorded significantly high (Table 1).

Table: 1 Performance of MSDP in Uttar Pradesh (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries
2011-12	50843.12	95478
2012-13	48044.30	98419
2013-14	49173.92	101897
2014-15	90456.52	102247
2015-16	89939.86	102647

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

The Pre-matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to the Minority Communities was approved on 30th January, 2008. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% central funding. The students who secure 50 percent marks in the previous examination and whose parents'/guardians' annual income does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh, are eligible for award of the Pre-matric scholarship under the scheme. Under the scheme, 30 lakh Fresh scholarships are proposed to be awarded every year in addition to the renewals. About 30 percent of scholarships have been earmarked For Girl Students. Pre-metric scholarship has been totally centrally sponsored scheme since 2014-15. During 2011-12 to 2015-16, there has been fluctuating trend in budgetary provision and number of beneficiaries. There has been higher allocation of Rs. 47837 lakh while numbers of beneficiaries were recorded less than previous years (Table 2).

Table: 2 Performance of Centrally Sponsored Pre-Metric Scholarship (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	11446.62	713998	---
2012-13	3357.60	1089108	26887.93
2013-14	36789.13	1262382	36368.58
2014-15	47837.00	846757	16713.00
2015-16	5643.96	378462	5643.96

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

State government has implemented pre-metric scholarship for students of minority communities in order to mobilize them for education. The scheme is for those students who have less than Rs. 2 lakh per annum household income. There has been declining trend in budgetary allocation and number of beneficiaries under the scheme in the state of Uttar Pradesh. During 2013-14, Rs. 14851.68 lakh were allocated under the scheme while more than 4 lakh students were benefitted. However, in the subsequent years, budgetary provision and number of beneficiaries has declined drastically (Table 3).

Table: 3 Performance of Pre-matric Scholarship in U.P. (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	9518.00	3568272	---
2012-13	14512.23	4044486	14512.23
2013-14	14851.68	4105909	15121.33
2014-15	4065.00	93623	670.55
2015-16	4065.00	39268	275.64
2016-17	4065.00	147100	3080.03

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

The scheme of Post-matric scholarship for students belonging to the minority communities was launched in November, 2007. It is a Central Sector Scheme. Post-matric Scholarship is awarded for studies in India in a government higher secondary school/college including residential government higher secondary school/college and eligible private institutes selected and notified in a transparent manner by the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned. Students who secure 50 percent marks in the previous year's final examination and whose parents' / guardians' annual income does not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh are eligible for award of scholarship. Under the scheme, 5 lakh fresh scholarships are proposed to be awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30 percent of scholarships have been earmarked for girl students. In case sufficient numbers of girl students are not available, then eligible boy students are given these scholarships. An outlay of Rs. 2850.00 crore has been provided in the 12th Five Year Plan to award 37.02 lakh Fresh scholarships and Renewals during the Plan period (2012-17). Rs. 1727.37 crore have been released for awarding 32,13,211 scholarships during XII Five Year Plan up to financial have been awarded to girl students. There has been fluctuating trend in budgetary allocation and number of beneficiaries under the scheme. However, budgetary provision has shown increasing trend over the period of 2011-12 to 2014-15 however, number of beneficiaries have drastically declined over the corresponding period (Table 4).

Table: 4 Performance of Centrally Sponsored Post-Metric Scholarship (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	3991.62	104854	---
2012-13	6103.05	104715	6000.67
2013-14	13706.39	165783	11022.77
2014-15	17353.00	90223	5773.00
2015-16	4406.82	65210	4406.82

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

There has been increasing trend in budgetary provision and number of beneficiaries under the scheme during the period of 2011-12 to 2015-16. However, expenditure against the budgetary provision has been reported low since 2014-15 (Table 5).

Table: 5 Performance of Post-matric Scholarship in U.P. (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	1950.00	113926	---
2012-13	4373.15	130983	4373.15
2013-14	5959.79	172911	5959.79
2014-15	6752.36	178320	6311.99
2015-16	16389.00	313774	10675.62
2016-17	14867.00	455848	14064.71

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has also implemented fee reimbursement scheme of students pursuing post metric classes. The scheme is for those students whose parents have annual income of less than Rs. 2 lakh. Under the scheme, there has been increasing trend of budgetary allocation and number of beneficiaries. The expenditure against the budgetary provision has also been found significant (Table 6).

Table: 6 Fee Reimbursement of Students Pursuing Post-matric Classes in U.P. (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	649.95	23053	----
2012-13	3682.56	135540	3682.56
2013-14	6077.16	222778	6077.16
2014-15	8500.00	189782	8115.25
2015-16	14500.00	269840	14320.13
2016-17	15000.00	291991	14999.78

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

Merit-Cum-Means Based Scholarship Scheme

The Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2007. 100 percent scholarship expenditure is being borne by the Central Government. Scholarships are awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses, at under-graduate and post-graduate levels, in institutions recognized by appropriate authority. Under scheme, 60,000 Fresh scholarships are earmarked for girl students, which may be utilized by eligible boy students, if adequate numbers of eligible girl students are not available.

About 85 Institutes for professional and technical courses have been listed in the scheme. Eligible students from the minority communities admitted to these institutions are reimbursed full course fee. A course fee of Rs. 20,000/- per annum is reimbursed to students studying in other institutions. Besides, a student is also eligible for maintenance allowance of up to Rs. 10,000/- per annum. To be eligible, a student should have secured admission in any technical or professional institution, recognized by an appropriate authority. In case of students admitted without a competitive examination, students should have secured not less than 50 percent marks. The annual income of the family from all sources should not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakh. An outlay of Rs. 1580 crore has been provided in the XII Five Plan to award 4.91 lakh scholarships fresh and renewals during the plan period (2012-17). Rs. 1181.19 crore have been released for awarding 4,40,986 scholarships during XII Five Year Plan up to financial year 2015-16 (as on 31.10.2016). During the year 2013-16 (up to 31.03.2016), 28.39% scholarships have been awarded to girl students. During the period of 2011-12 to 2015-16, Rs. 21437.38 lakh were allocated while 66450 students were benefited under the scheme in the state (Table 7).

Table: 7 Performance of Merit-cum-Means in U.P. (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	1977.60	6634	---
2012-13	3604.89	13891	3604.89
2013-14	4129.89	14698	3802.37
2014-15	7407.00	14698	4007.00
2015-16	4320.00	16529	3220.00

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

Maulana Azad National Fellowship

The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) for Minority Students was launched on 11th April 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS). The Scheme is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC). 100 percent Central Assistance is provided under the Scheme. The objective of the Maulana Azad National Fellowship is the provide five fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from notified minority communities, as notified by the Central Government to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Fellowship covers all universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Fellowship under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students is on the pattern of University Grant Commission (UGC) and awarded to research students pursuing regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D. courses. In order to qualify for the award of JRF/SRF, the UGC norms would be applicable at pre-M.Phil

and pre-Ph.D stage, respectively, including the minimum score of 50 percent at post graduate level. The income ceiling of the parents/guardian of the candidate for Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students is Rs 2.5 lakh per annum. Under the scheme, 756 fresh fellowships are proposed to be awarded every year in addition to the renewals of previous year. 30% of fellowships have been earmarked for girl students. An outlay of Rs. 430 Crores has been provided in the XII Five Year Plan to award 3780 fresh fellowships and renewals during the plan period. About 30 percent of fellowships have been earmarked for girl students. An amount of Rs. 66.00 Crore was released during 2012-13 and 754 fresh fellowships were awarded. During 2013-14, Rs. 50.00 Crore was released for awarding 756 fresh fellowships to the minority candidates along with renewals.

Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship

Scholarship is given Rs. 12,000 per student (in two instalments of Rs. 6,000/- each per year) to the girl students belonging to minorities. Overall, physical and financial performance of various schemes and programmes oriented towards empowerment of minority communities shows increasing trend. Out of total budgetary allocation by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, about 60 per cent fund has been allocated under educational development schemes during 12th Plan. There has been about 8 percentage points increase in the amount allocated under the educational development schemes from 11th Plan to 12th Five Year Plan. During 12th Plan, there is more emphasis on skill development and training in traditional arts/crafts. Out of total beneficiaries of various schemes being implemented by the ministry, majority of beneficiaries belong to Muslim communities.

Coaching for Pre-Medical and Engineering Examination

State government has implemented the scheme for minority students preparing for medical and engineering examinations. Under the scheme, 100 students are supported annually in Lucknow. Over the period of 2001-12 to 2016-17, 600 students were benefited while government allocated Rs. 90 lakh under the scheme (Table 8).

Table: 8 Coaching for Pre-Medical and Engineering Examination (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	15.00	100	15.00
2012-13	15.00	100	15.00
2013-14	15.00	100	15.00
2014-15	15.00	100	15.00

2015-16	15.00	100	15.00
2016-17	15.00	100	7.50

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

State government has established Arabi Farsi Madarsa Board for providing recognition to Arabi Farsi Madarsas and conducting examinations in the state. The scheme was implemented during 2003 and 7695 Madarsas have been recognized by the state till date. Presently, 560 Arabi Farsi Madarsas are being provided government grant. There has been increasing trend in budgetary allocation under the scheme in the state (Table 9).

Table: 9 Grant to Arabi Farsi Madrasas (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2013-14	38550.00	460	34223.56
2014-15	39536.50	560	38209.97
2015-16	46330.00	560	44111.78
2016-17	56320.00	560	56320.00

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

State government is providing assistance for modernization of Madarsa education. There are 560 modern and fully aided Madarsas, 8332 modern and semi-aided Madarsas and 10196 registered Madarsas in the state. State government has also implemented vocational training scheme through recognized Madarsas and mini ITIs have been setup in 140 Madarsas. During 2016-17, Rs. 2117.31 lakh were allocated under the scheme (Table 10).

Table: 10 Modernization of Madarsa Education In Uttar Pradesh

S.No.	Type of Madarsa	No
1	Adhunik and Fully Aided Madarsa	560
2	Adhunik and (Semi Aided Madarsa)	8332
3	Registered	10196
4	Mini I.T.I.	140
	Total	19228

Source : Minority Directorate Office, Lucknow

Government of India is providing financial assistance for modernization of Arabi Farsi Madarsas. Under the scheme, modern subjects are being taught in Madarsas and Maktabs. Honorarium of Rs. 6000 per month for graduate teacher and Rs. 12,000 per month for posts graduate teacher is being provided under the scheme . Besides, funds for establishing book bank and educational kit is also being provided. State government is providing honorarium of Rs. 2000 per month for graduate teachers and Rs. 3000 for postgraduate /B.Ed.

teachers in addition to the honorarium of government of India. During 2012-13 to 2016-17, there has been 118.90 per cent growth in budgetary allocation while number of beneficiaries grew by 44.95 per cent. During 2016-17, Rs. 39405.78 lakh were allocated while 22573 teachers were benefited (Table 11).

Table: 11 Modernization of Arabi Farsi Madarsa (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2012-13	18001.61	15573	16858.40
2013-14	20000.00	15344	7801.73
2014-15	24027.00	16575	10643.86
2015-16	28500.00	14262	22682.00
2016-17	39405.78	22573	22744.94

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

State government has implemented marriage grant for daughters for poor and destitute parents. Under the scheme, Rs. 10,000 is being provided for the marriage of daughter. However, during the financial year of 2016-17, the amount of marriage grant has been increased to Rs. 20,000 for upto two daughters. There has been increasing trend in budgetary allocation and number of beneficiaries under the scheme during the period of 2012-13 to 2016-17 (Table 12).

Table: 12 Marriage Grant for Daughters of Poor and Destitute (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2011-12	1200.00	12000	---
2012-13	400.00	4000	400.00
2013-14	1200.00	11931	1193.10
2014-15	1200.00	11442	1144.20
2015-16	1500.00	14527	1452.70
2016-17	8245.00	19065	3813.00

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

State government has implemented Hamari Beti Uska Kal for encouraging daughters of minority communities for achieving education Since 2012-13. Under the scheme, Rs. 30,000 is being provided for education of daughter for post-metric classes or for marriage. During 2012-13 to 2013-14, Rs. 60,000 lakh were allocated while 2.42 lakh girls were benefited during the years (Table 13).

Table: 13 Hamari Beti Uska Kal (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Budget Provision	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure
2012-13	25000.00	82916	24874.80
2013-14	35000.00	158853	31770.60

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

State government has implemented the scheme for construction of boundary wall in Kabristan/Cremation Grounds for minority communities in 2012-13. During 2012-13 to 2016-17, 12226 Kabristan/Cremation Grounds were identified under the scheme for construction of boundary wall. For the purpose, Rs. 127813.40 lakh were allocated during the years. Against the target, boundary wall was constructed in 8883 Kabriastans/Cremation Grounds while construction of boundary wall in 2320 Kabristans/Cremation Grounds was under progress (Table 14).

Table: 14 Construction of Boundary Wall in Kabristan/Cremation Ground (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	No. of Places	Allocated Amount	Released Amount	Expenditure
2012-13	2580	20017.63	20017.63	19998.77
2013-14	2954	30000.03	29830.11	28988.24
2014-15	1749	20000.00	18633.25	17622.22
2015-16	1666	19999.80	15405.97	12604.72
2016-17	3277	37795.94	20420.99	9536.41

Source: Department of Minority Welfare, Govt. of U.P.

In order to ensure socio-economic welfare of minorities, Government of India and state government has implemented several schemes. These schemes include educational and social empowerment, economic empowerment and development of infrastructure in backward and minority concentrated areas. There has been remarkable performance of centrally and state sponsored schemes in the state of Uttar Pradesh. However, the budgetary allocation and coverage of schemes has been found to be grossly inadequate in view of backwardness of minority communities in the state.

Conclusion

The well-being of people is unquestionably the ultimate objective of all development efforts of a country and the basic quest of human endeavour is always to seek a better quality of life. The quality of life of citizens of a nation can be effectively improved only by raising the standards of living of the people on the margin and in countryside. Social empowerment is very fundamental in achieving this goal. The institution of democracy provides a strong foundation for harmonizing social and economic objectives. Thus, within the broad democratic framework there are great opportunities for synergizing the economic development programmes to help achieve the better quality of life in the shortest possible span of time. Government has started different programmes and schemes for the welfare of minorities. Government focuses on the improvement of the school education of the minorities through different schemes under Sarv Siksha Abiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalay and

other similar different schemes. Government also focuses on the Madarasas education through modernization of Madarsa education keeping in view the importance of modern subjects. Government also started scholarship schemes like for providing financial assistance to the meritorious student of Pre-matric, Merit cum Means and Post matric . Government also provided some technical programme through ITI's for the improvement of their skills. Government also started Indira Awas Yojana particularly for the poor beneficiaries of the minority community living in rural areas by earmarking certain percentage for physical and financial targets. Varadarajan Commission and the Rangnath Mishra Commission also suggested reservation for Muslims in the tune of 10 percent jobs for them in government services at state or centre in all cadre and grades. Another strategy for the inclusion of Muslims is that of their empowerment which is necessary for their development to bring them at par with other socio-religious community. The due representation of Muslim in political institutions particularly at the grass roots level is crucial because this is the only way in which this excluded socio-religious community can keep pace with other in the development process. Sacchar commission report noted that low participation of the Muslims in the local bodies resulted in development benefits failing to reach them. Thus the participation of a large number of Muslims in local bodies is necessary to increase the influence of the community and so their participation in the development process. Increased representation of Muslims in local bodies is a necessary condition for their inclusion in the development process because they can then influence the social and economic policies at the grass root level. However, having a large number of Muslims in local bodies is not an end in itself; but it is a means to an end- the end being the participation of Muslims in decision making to initiate development.

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