

Effectiveness of Government Schemes in Transforming Religious Minorities: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: *The Government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every section of the society including minorities especially the economically weaker and deprived sections of the society. Ministry of Minority Affairs also implements programmes/ schemes for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six centrally notified minority communities namely Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims, Parsis and Jains. Hence, the extensive review of existing literatures on role of Government Schemes in empowerment of religious minorities has been conducted to identifying the factors influencing empowerment of Minorities and also to identify the gap in this body research.*

Design/Methodology/Approach: *Secondary sources are used to gather the information needed for the current investigation. This is based on an analysis of the literature that has already been published, including information from a variety of exploratory articles, papers, books, journals, and magazines. The information needed for the study was gathered via Google Scholars, Research Gate, and Science Direct.*

Findings: *The minority communities are socially deprived, economically backward and educationally under-privileged in India. Despite having many efforts on educational development, the access and participation of minority communities are less and insufficient. Though both central and state government has implemented various schemes for the well-being of religious minority group, due to lack of awareness about the schemes minorities are using only selected schemes. All the states are not benefitted uniformly from the schemes and there should be a positive change in social structure.*

Originality/Value: *This study will provide guidelines to Government and policy makers for uplifting the religious minority group.*

Paper type: *Literature Review paper.*

Keywords: Government schemes for Minorities, Empowerment of minorities, Awareness and Perception towards Government scheme, Socio-Economic development of Minorities, Education and Government schemes.

1. INTRODUCTION :

India is an ethnically, culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse country. These groups' educational development differs. The Indian Constitution seeks to close this gap by uplifting society and guaranteeing equal standing for all citizens. Many of these concepts are expressed in different provisions of the constitution, and the Indian government has launched a number of initiatives, programmes, and schemes to put them into action [1]. The Indian Union is a democratic state. Unlike many other democratic countries, India's Constitution provides faith-based minorities (religious groups apart from the Hindu majority) and guarantees them special rights to preserve and safeguard their religious and cultural identities [2]. Minority education is one of the most difficult, subtle, and critical issues that our educational leaders face. Also, after more than a half-century of free and secular existence in this country, the schooling situation of minorities in our societal structure casts a gloomy

shadow over the future of India's education system [3]. Education is among the major issues that India's minority community's face. They have low entry, engagement, and retention in the school-level education system. In India, there are numerous minority groups, including Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jain, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, and others. [4]. The Ministry of Education has concentrated on elementary consideration regions that will improve the academic achievement of Minorities, especially women and girls from these communities, through a variety of programmes [5] In 2006, the prime minister's 15-point strategy was renovated and amended, with the goal of using 15% of the amount in minority-concentrated areas or beneficiaries from minority communities (Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, and Buddhists) [6]. According to the Sachar Committee Report (Indian Government, 2006), Muslims had lower predictors of economic and social growth, education, and work opportunities than Dalits and Adivasis. As existing tokenistic practises of symbolic representation were abandoned, Muslim political involvement had indeed turned down to terrible levels [7]. Minorities have legitimate rights under the Indian constitution. Minority rights cover a wide range of issues. It pertains to the preservation of minorities' desires. Minorities are receiving special treatment as a result of the constitutional obligation. The lawful positions of minorities' rights are subject to the State's regulatory power [8]. Minority as a group distinguished by a sense of distinct identity and understanding of status distinct from the broader group of which it is either a member or is assumed to be a member [9]. Minorities have felt insecure, which has resulted in certain rights being granted to them. Minorities' fears were allayed when Articles 29 and 30 of the Indian Constitution were granted to them in order to safeguard one's community, maintain and safeguard their religion, culture, language, scripts, and heritage [10].

2. OBJECTIVES :

1. To understand the role of government in empowerment of minorities.
2. To identify the factors influencing the empowerment of minorities.
3. ABCD listing of government welfare schemes.

3. METHODOLOGY :

This review report uses secondary data to provide a descriptive analysis. A wide range of resources were used to collect the data , including books, large number of websites with a research focus, journals, newspapers, the publication of recent research papers on different websites, research articles, research journals, electronic journals, Sachaar reports.

4. RELATED RESEARCH WORK :

Conducting a review of earlier studies is the main goal of this study. It assists in looking over past research work where authors did research on influence of government welfare schemes on Education and socio-economic activities of religious minorities from 2003-2023 by using online database. A summary and discussion of these contributions are provided in the descriptive and tabular manner that follows.

4.1 Descriptive Focus: Government schemes for minorities

1. According to the study, the government strongly supports developing contemporary society. Both the national and state governments of India strive to establish a society that is forward-thinking, bias-free, and radical in its thinking. Every authority desires a reformist vision. With a tolerant outlook, a radical enterprise is expected. As a result, the government implements a variety of programmes and schemes in order to calm society and prevent it from spiralling into a social disaster. (Biplab &Tripathy 2019) [11].
2. The author of this article focused on the empowerment of those with social disadvantages and stated that the expansion of government jobs will occur at a much slower rate than in the previous 40 years. Too many employment will arise in factories, small businesses, and crafts, in which minorities and OBCs have an advantage over other communities; as a result, they could do well by focusing on newer opportunities rather than attempting to obtain university degrees, which currently have little market value. As a result, the Central Government should shift the emphasis for them to vocational rather than academic college education. (Richa Sharma 2018) [12].

3. The main goal of this paper is to provide an overview of the role of government in the empowerment of Muslim minorities and to highlight that, despite the positive steps taken by the government of India to equip Muslims and other minorities. All states do not stand to gain uniformly from the provisions, schemes, and facilities made available through affirmative action. (Shiek & Kaniz 2020) [13].
4. This paper attempts to assess the efficacy of a long-running merit-based central scholarship scheme in India, namely the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme. The scheme is financially supported by the Indian government and is carried out and tracked by provincial governments in order to assist impoverished pupils in finishing their higher education. It is a means-based fee reimbursement scholarship scheme that contains payments for educational expenses as well as repayment of all non-refundable payments made by the student to the institution, excluding spot admission or management quota fees. (Karna, R. K., & Swain, D. K. 2022) [14].
5. The central government provides a sufficient variety of financial aid for specialised degree courses, but the sum offered by these scholarships is insufficient to allow students to continue their education. The central government scholarship fails to recognise that now the maximum spending made by students is on course fees, and that the scholarship amount is insufficient to cover the student's maintenance costs in higher education. (Sharma, S., & Singh, A. 2020) [15].
6. A new Central Sector Scheme for Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria was introduced in the Ninth Plan (1997-02). It provided financial assistance to non-profit organisations that run coaching centres to prepare minorities for various competitive and professional examinations. Due to a lack of participation, this scheme, along with the Pre-examination Coaching Scheme for OBCs, was merged in 2001 with the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Coaching Scheme for Scheduled Castes. Coaching and Allied Scheme for Weaker Sections, which included Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, and Minorities, was renamed. (Udin, N. 2012) [16].
7. The pre-matric scholarship scheme was developed as part of the Prime Minister's new 15-point Minority Welfare Programme. The plan was revealed in June 2006 and went into effect on April 1, 2008. The central government was to fund 75% of the scholarships, with the state government funding the remaining 25%. The scheme is only available to students from minorities who received at least 50% in their past final examination and whose parents'/guardians' yearly income from across all streams does not exceed rupees 100,000. Thirty percent of the scholarships are reserved for female students, and in granting the scholarship, poverty takes precedence over grades. (Nainar, V. 2020) [17].
8. This research paper discussed the empowerment of women in India, particularly minority Muslim women. The government has developed a variety of programmes to assist girls and women from the Muslim minority community, among others. The research study assists in analysing these schemes in order to provide useful suggestions to policymakers for the advancement of minority women in the country. (Parveen B. et al. 2020) [18].
9. The Indian government has used pretty good inventiveness to aid female empowerment by presenting various minority schemes and policies that not only expand the social standing of the female population but also serve as a key to various problems such as maternal deaths, female mutilations, and female foeticide. To equip women, administration governments (NGOs) and self-help groups (SHG) provide vocational courses, basic education, self-employment coaching, legal services, and safety for women, as well as personality initiatives. (Saif & Kumar, A. 2023) [19].
10. Each year, the Indian government invests a significant amount of money through the Ministry of Minority Affairs to create a number of Minority Scholarship strategies to inspire young people from impoverished and poor minority communities to enrol in college and skill development. This is going to be an efficacious step in raising this population, resulting in the nation's overall improvement. (Radiowala & Molwane, 2022) [20].
11. The Ministry of Minority Affairs in India has also initiated different programs to assist minorities, such as support to madarasas, makhtabs, scholarships, and Padho pradesh. The Indian National Commission for Backward Classes Act (NCBC) was enacted to more effectively protect the desires and requirements of the Backward Classes. (Mishra & Pettala, R. 2023) [21].
12. Recently been witnessed that pupils of OBCs from the most deprived areas are not enrolled in NGO schools, and they are frequently supported by parents who work in traditional or unconventional

- ways to support their income of the family. The pre-matric scholarship team is considered to be helpful in bringing up education for some of these children, especially among the girls of the poorer section. A pre-matriculation scholarship for children from the OBC's backward classes was created with this objective in mind. (Nithyanandam, 2022) [22].
13. The central and state governments have implemented a number of new and more effective schemes aimed at empowering women. However, due to a lack of awareness, minority women are only taking advantage of a few government-sponsored programmes. (Bandiera, et al. 2014) [23].
 14. The article's author stated that government benefits and scholarships are also required for the poor and disadvantaged Muslims in order to improve their education. Muslims should be given priority admission to dominant establishments such as the IITs and IIMs. Thus, connectivity to higher education as a whole, as well as the need to provide it to all at a reasonable cost, are needed. (Thasneem & Sana 2015) [24].
 15. The study examined the current educational victimisation of Muslim girls in India in relation to the role of the state and religion, and it also proposed a few steps for enhancing the educational situation of Muslim girls, which are, The government's development schemes should redistribute wealth in Muslim-dominated areas on a scale proportionate to their population; they should be adequately developed and carried out; and the government should gather data on Muslim girls' education level, including school dropout. (Azra, 2019) [25].
 16. According to the author of this paper, it is necessary to conduct ongoing awareness programs among Muslims and minorities in general to help them learn about and accurately describe relevant government schemes, as well as their rights and responsibilities as Indian citizens. (Khashif, 2009) [26].
 17. In the Prime Minister's 15-point programme, the main emphasis was placed on increasing minority opportunities for education, increasing the effectiveness of different schemes and completing them within the time frame specified, creating resources for their livelihood, increasing employment and self-employment, creating loan facilities and special reservation in the government sector, and focusing more on constructing peaceful coexistence in the country. (Pthan 2017). [27]
 18. The purpose of this paper is to explain the constitutional amendments and educational remedial measures put into effect by the government of India for the academic achievement of minorities. Indian Muslims are the nation's second-biggest community, second after the population of Indonesia. The economic and educational advancement of minorities, particularly Muslims, who have a low literacy rate, is thus critical for the nation's development. No country can highlight of its development if a considerable minority of its population drops behind; if a large portion of its population remains ignorant and uneducated and impoverished. (Narendra 2018) [28].
 19. In order to realise the people's desire, a structure of majority government that cares for minority rights has indeed been designed. Minorities are inspired to take advantage of the opportunities that the government offers through its different schemes in order to improve effectiveness and accomplish economic freedom. As a result, they will be able to take their proper place in all aspects of society, while also making sure that they're not disadvantaged by circumstances. (Muhammad, et al., 2022) [29].
 20. This paper demonstrates that no amount of some well schemes/programs can accomplish anything unless they are executed on the ground in the real essence of the schemes; and measures cannot be executed unless the formations of successful execution are simplified. The schemes initiated under the area initiative programme are currently co-funded by the federal and state governments. At any given time, states have different parties in power that are differentially sensitive to the problems facing minority communities, and thus policies aimed at likely to benefit minorities can be preferentially successful across states. (Mohd, 2016) [30].
 21. Even though government has set aside a huge proportion of its budget to incorporate these programmes and cover a large number of beneficiaries, the reality on the ground is quite different. Despite government claims, the facts on the ground of service delivery show a strong difference. This situation is worsening among the poorest people, particularly the Scheduled Castes (SCs), because societal inequalities remains an important aspect of many people's lives around the world, with India standing among the most recognisable in aspects of caste status categorization presently. (Eswaran et al., 2013) [31].

4.2 Descriptive focus: empowerment of minorities

- (1) According to the author, empowering of racial/ethnic minority communities refers to the right of minority populations to recognise their own aspirations. The empowering of these communities is critical from both a demographic and historical standpoint. (Moon S. Chen 1999) [32].
- (2) Empowerment is a multi - faceted, multidimensional, and multi-layered concept. "Empowerment," according to the Government of India's country report, means "moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to one of power." (Garai, M 2023) [33].
- (3) The term "empowerment" refers to the process of increasing individuals' or groups' assets and capabilities in order for them to make purposeful decisions and modify those into favoured actions and outcomes. (Chakrabarti & Biswas, 2008) [34].
- (4) The findings of the study indicate that the Muslim Women in India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy lower status than that of men and women belonging to other communities, no matter how empowerment is measured, be it in terms of the indicators of the evidence, sources or setting for empowerment. (Sanu. M. S 2018) [35].
- (5) Participation and empowerment of the marginalised are recognised as fundamental conditions for good government and successful democratic processes. Traditional socio political culture drives the weaker sectors of society to the fringes, including refugees from the 1947 exodus, settlers, minorities, and women. They are disadvantaged socially, politically, and economically. (Muhammad & Yasin 2011) [36].
- (6) When women and men are treated equally in economic advancement, the nation's total development and growth may be attained. Rural poverty is the most major hindrance to rural women's empowerment. Women's empowerment through financial aid, self-employment information, and decision-making freedom can help relieve rural poverty. Governments and non-governmental organisations have taken the lead in establishing women's empowerment in rural regions during the previous four decades by organising self-help groups. (Arathi, S., & Shahapure, S. H. (2023) [37].
- (7) Women are critical to a country's growth and success. Women's social position in a culture might give insight into the state of that society. As a result, empowering women is critical if a society or nation is to advance in a variety of ways. There are several techniques for empowering women in society, with schooling being one of the most successful. (Masrong, B., & Borah, B 2021) [38].
- (8) Education is one of the most powerful tools for empowerment. It assists an individual in realising his or her maximum capabilities, a social group in achieving greater social mobility, and the state in maintaining social order. This term has been employed in academic and public debates mostly from the perspective of educationally disadvantaged population's vs affluent ones. (Singh, A. K. (Ed.) 2015) [39].
- (9) The problem of empowerment has been firmly placed on the agenda of development studies, particularly since the 1980s. The phrase empowerment is associated with the poor, backward classes, and women, particularly women from disadvantaged groups. (Ahmed, S. 2016) [40].
- (10) Empowerment within a social structure is defined as human activity made feasible within the constraints of the social structure in which it occurs. (Malloy, T. H. 2014) [41].
- (11) People already have enough of power in the riches of their knowledge and passion to do their work magnificently, therefore empowerment is not about giving them more power. It promotes people to acquire skills and information that will enable them to overcome barriers in their lives or work environments, eventually assisting them in developing themselves or society. Empowerment is the strengthening of an individual's or a community's political, social, economic, or spiritual strength. Empowerment encompasses the development and strengthening of people' and communities' capacities in order to integrate them into mainstream society. (Nithiya, P. 2012) [42].
- (12) According to the conclusions of the Sachar Committee Report, Muslims in India are marginalised and disempowered. It is critical for the empowerment of any group that it participates in decision-making via increased inclusiveness in public service and political decision-making. (Radhika, 2018) [43].
- (13) According to the findings of this study, the Indian government must gain the trust of the Muslim minority by offering those incentives to engage in the country's political, administrative, and social institutions on merit. They require not only recognition as equal citizens of the state, but also

- encouragement and assistance in order to be a productive member of the state and society free of discrimination, prejudice, and prejudices based on their history. (Sadia & Tasawar, 2023) [44].
- (14) The author examined the study paper regarding the key objective of focusing on minority women’s empowerment to attain financial viability for empowerment in microfinance institutions. According to the study, it helps greatly to growth and strengthens society. Microfinance initiatives should place a greater emphasis on measures for meeting the needs of minority women. The study investigates the impact of microfinance on paving the way for women’s empowerment in diverse places. (Rawani, S.) [45].
- (15) The difficulties in gauging women’s empowerment stem from the availability of some traits that imply empowerment in one setting but not in another. The varying nature and value of empowerment across settings presents a problem for accuracy and comparability in measuring systems. (Anju M. et. al 2005) [46].
- (16) The goal of this research is to better comprehend backward class women’s educational level and its link to their social, economic, and political position and reality. Other backward caste women can learn about their human rights via education, and they can then speak out against discrimination perpetrated by upper caste members, as well as abuse and exploitation perpetrated by male members of their caste. (Rizvi, A., & Pandey, A 2017) [47].
- (17) The Government of India has tackled the problem of empowerment by combining all women’s programmes under the National Mission for Women’s Empowerment (NMEW). NMEW’s aim is to increase girls’ and women’s economic empowerment via skill development, microcredit, vocational training, and entrepreneurship. Numerous studies show that reservation alone will not result in women’s empowerment unless there is a positive shift in the social structure and mindset of the people. (Bhat. M.Y 2015) [48].

5. NEW RELATED ISSUES :

An overview of current and relevant subjects in relation to the research topic is given in the following table. Significant scholarly research articles were reviewed in order to have greater understanding of the research work in key areas. A systematic literature search is conducted using Google scholar database to review papers published with key words Awareness and Perception towards government scheme, Government schemes and socio-economic development, Government schemes and education of Minorities, Government schemes and standard of living of minorities

Table 1: Related articles on Awareness and perception towards government schemes

S. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Awareness and utilization of social security scheme	The study's major purpose was to discover the background characteristics of the rural elderly, as well as the level of awareness and usage of programmes, and the study's findings are as follows. A greater proportion of the elderly are conscious of social security programmes such as old age pension schemes than of other schemes such as rail ticket reservation or income tax advantages.	Srivastava, A. K., & Kandpal, S. D. (2014). [49]
2.	Awareness of Indian government initiated social security scheme	It was also discovered that the majority of socio-demographic characteristics, including age, gender, literacy status, and socioeconomic class, influenced understanding of social security systems.	Sachdev, et al., (2022). [50]
3	Awareness on welfare benefits	Concerning educational benefits, 183 (91.5%) were aware of scholarships available for standards 1-4, 184 (92%) were aware of scholarships available for standards 5-8, 130 (65%) were aware of scholarships available for standards 9 and 10, 75 (37.5%) were aware of scholarships available for standards 11 and	Sudina. M, (2015). [51]

		12, and 32 (16%) were aware of scholarships available for diploma and graduation studies.	
4	Awareness of 'seekho aur kamao' scheme	The Seekho Aur Kamao Plan aims to reduce the unemployment rate among minorities. Government agencies may increase awareness through camps, which is currently at 7%. The use of social media should be promoted in order to raise knowledge of the plan among prospective beneficiaries.	Floor, P. et. al., (2020) [52]
5	Impact of government welfare scheme	The author identified in the current study for analysing the impact made among minority women groups regarding the understanding of various welfare schemes for them and employing these schemes to the greatest extent possible for empowering minority women. The study was conducted in Karnataka, and 388 minority women were questioned for the sample. The study's findings suggested that awareness initiatives for minority women living in rural regions be implemented in order to attain overall empowerment in India.	Niyaz et al., (2021). [53]
6	Awareness Level towards Government Schemes	This study looked at people's knowledge of government programmes. According to the findings of this study, women entrepreneurs are more aware of the Stree Shakti Scheme and less knowledgeable of the Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarajgar Yojana, Udyogini, Rastrya Mahila Kosh, and Prime Minister Employment Generation Plan (PMEGP).	Shiralashetti, A. S. (2013). [54]
7	Awareness And Utilisation Of Government Welfare Schemes Of Women	The primary goal of this article is to analyse women's awareness and utilisation of various government assistance programmes. According to this study, awareness is positively and strongly connected to age, occupation, and family income.	Babulu, T., & Maharajan, K. (2022). [55]
8	Welfare schemes and creating awareness among women	Women's empowerment includes raising awareness and consciousness about women's situations, discrimination against women, women's rights, opportunities for women, and the importance of gender equality; collectively organising a group, group identity, and group pressure; capacity building and skill development, ability to plan, decide, organise, manage, carry out activities, and deal with people and institutions in the world around them.	Singh, R., & Singh, S. (2021). [56]
9	Women and child welfare schemes	The Government of India is leading a number of programmes and schemes to improve the status of women as equal partners and active agents of change in the country's social, economic, cultural, and political progress; however, due to a lack of public awareness and media coverage of such drives, the schemes are not reaching the target sections.	Joshi, A. (2017). [57]
10	Awareness of newly launched social security scheme	The goal of this study was to examine rural population understanding of recently introduced social security systems and provide suggestions based on the findings of the study. A variety of socio-demographic characteristics, including age, gender, literacy status, and socioeconomic class, were shown to influence knowledge of the programmes.	Vidhate, K. B., & Kundap, R. (2016). [58]

11.	Social welfare schemes for empowerment of women	There is a need to shift society's mindset to embrace women as equals to males. There are various social assistance systems promoting women's empowerment, yet they remain out of reach for the majority of women. There is a need for increased awareness of the technique. Poverty and illiteracy, which are the core causes, must be eradicated as soon as possible.	Singh, K. (2019). [59]
12	Farmers perception towards crop insurance	The government has created many programmes to protect farmers from agricultural hazards, including the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and weather index-based crop insurance schemes. Nonetheless, its coverage appears to be restricted among farmers, owing to a lack of complete information. This study published the findings of a survey of 600 farmers to analyse their perceptions of various aspects of crop insurance systems.	Kumar. D.S, et. al., (2011). [60]
13	Perception of government scheme among farmers	In addition to several Centre-State Sharing Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and Externally Assisted Programs for the upliftment of the agricultural community, the government is executing different crop-oriented subsidy schemes from its own financial resources. The primary goal of the study was to learn about farmers' awareness and perceptions of MIS and MI programmes in the study region.	Swadia, B. (2018). [61]
14	Instruments of government : Perception and contexts	Governments have a variety of weapons at their disposal for wielding power over the economy and society. Simple exhortations to sophisticated tax and benefit programmes are among the tactics available. Despite the fact that these techniques are often utilised by government, they are not widely understood. Our ignorance is most apparent when it comes to the political meaning of various instruments and the process by which government officials pick among them. Individual perceptions and the subjective values that support them are ultimately responsible for an instrument's meaning and attraction to decision makers.	Linder, S. H., & Peters, B. G. (1989). [62]
15	Consumer perception of different scheme	The current study seeks to uncover possible additional qualities that organic certification systems may offer in order to distinguish themselves from the mandated EU logo. The study investigates consumer awareness and perception of several organic certification schemes and the accompanying logos, which are currently unknown.	Janssen, M., & Hamm, U. (2011). [63]

Table 2: Government schemes and socio economic development

S. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1.	Economic development of marginalised community	According to the study's findings, financial inclusion has a direct and considerable influence on the economic growth of excluded groups via the mediation of social and	Lal, T. (2021). [64]

		economic empowerment. According to the study, despite various initiatives taken by the government to promote financial inclusion, financial institutions refuse to extend credit to marginalised communities due to a lack of education, illiteracy, lack of awareness, bankers' attitudes, and policy directives to the banking sector, which limit these communities' ability to feel proud, dignified, confident, and self-reliant in the face of any financial crisis.	
2	Socio- Economic Relationship	"Caste, religion, and regional/linguistic differentials in economic, social, and political arenas in India have a historical basis and are significantly impacted by the existing socio-economic ties, some of which have existed for centuries," writes the Sachar Committee (2006).	Das, P. K., et. al., (2011). [65]
3.	Muslim women in India, socio-economic, health inequalities	This research looks at the comparative state of demographic, social, and health disadvantages faced by Muslim minority women in India. Women have less access to money and microcredit among Muslims. Overall, the data confirm the idea that Muslim women fall behind the rest of the population in social, economic, and educational areas.	Ohlan, R. (2020). [66].
4.	Minority size and socio economic inequalities	The primary goal of this essay is to conduct an empirical investigation of the link between minority size and inequality level. The consequences of India's economic and social progress have not been dispersed evenly across various communities. Because of prejudice and a distinct structural position, Indian Muslims have profited less than most other communities.	Hassan, R. et. al., (2018). [67]
5	Socio-Political and Economic Status of Minorities In India	The government continues its struggle to disrupt this equilibrium in society; however, society moves forward with all of its prejudices and hatred in the case of heterogeneity, love and affection in the case of homogeneity, or positive attitude in the case of heterogeneity society, and can carry on struggle for development and prosperity of all segments of society. Deprived groups are classified according to their gender, caste, language, religion, handicap, descent, place of birth, residency, race, and so on.	Majid, A., & Farooq, S. (2019). [68]
6	The socio economic profile if Indian muslims	In the last 50 years, the Indian economy has achieved extraordinary improvement. Yet, for a variety of reasons, Muslims in India have been unable to reap the benefits of progress, and as a result, they continue to be marginalised members of society. As a result of growing globalisation and liberalisation	Mistry, M. B. (2005). [69]

		tendencies, Muslims' economic situations are predicted to deteriorate, since only highly competitive and competent individuals and industries are likely to thrive in such an environment. As a result, there is an urgent need for the socioeconomic advancement of Indian Muslims.	
7.	Socio economic conditions of Muslims in West Bengal	According to a research on the socioeconomic position of Muslims in West Bengal, Muslims are unfavourable in all socioeconomic development indices such as population, gender ratio, literacy, education, labour engagement, political representation, and so on.	Biswas, M. Z. H. (2015). [70].
8.	Socio economic changes of Dalit muslims in Karnataka	In many sections of the country, the Dalith Muslim community lags behind other socio religious groups in terms of socioeconomic and educational growth. This neighbourhood's situation is dire in terms of educational attainment, income, public-sector jobs, access to healthcare, and other infrastructure, and a disproportionately high number of community residents are incarcerated.	Mahadeviah, V. (2011). [71]
9.	Affirmative actions for muslims, social political, economical context.	According to the Sachar Committee Report, the Muslim minority lives on the outside of Indian society, with a severe developmental deficit and deprivation, as well as a nagging backwardness in all phases of life. Significantly, Muslims rank somewhat higher than SCs/STs but lower than Hindu-OBCs, Other Minorities, and Hindu-General (mainly upper castes) in practically all variables reviewed by the Committee.	Sharma, et. al., (2008). [72].
10.	Socio-economic status of muslim women.	A country's success and overall development are dependent on leveraging the skills and abilities of all elements of society, regardless of caste, creed, religion, or gender. Women have always faced discrimination and have been denied equal opportunity in many social, economic, and cultural realms. If we do not include women in development efforts, we are not only impeding their individual growth but also impeding the progress of the entire nation.	Hossain, M. I. (2013). [73]
11.	Socio-economic empowerment of minorities.	For the well-being of marginalised communities, special target oriented programmes are being implemented by earmarking funds, providing subsidies, offering reservations in employment and educational institutions. But despite all these programmes, they are still at the bottom of the society, in every sphere of social, political, educational,	Koundal, V. (2016). [74]

		employment, economic and cultural activities. Therefore, the need of the hour is the necessity of effective implementation mechanism of these programmes in order to empower the socially disadvantaged groups of India.	
12	Socio-economic and cultural development of weaker sections.	The empowerment of the weakest sectors of society via civic, socioeconomic, and cultural growth is a significant task that the government cannot fulfil alone. Hence, the necessity for civil society to play an effective and efficient role develops. Without a doubt, a huge number of plans and programmes for the development of the weaker parts have been developed and executed, but their empowerment has not occurred at the projected level. Civil society may play a vital role in their empowerment if it is passionate, sincere, dedicated, and devoted.	Singh, M. (2018). [75]
13	Womens economic empowerment	Women's economic empowerment necessitates strong and consistent effort to improve women's opportunities and rights, as well as to assure women's participation and voice. Women need more and better jobs, a business climate that helps them in starting and running businesses, a banking sector that provides them with financial services suited to their requirements, and more livelihood stability in times of high food and fuel crises.	Patel, M. T. (2013). [76]

Table 3: Government schemes and Education of minorities.

Sl. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1.	Educational status of muslims in Maharashtra	In Maharashtra, inclusive growth necessitates the empowerment of the Muslim community. The extremely bad and dismal economic situation of Muslims in Maharashtra makes one question about their survival techniques. Their educational standing is exceedingly poor, leaving them without the skills required to find work in a liberal market economy. The state of the regions in which they live is appalling. They do not have access to the bare necessities. Even community resources and government initiatives and programmes do not reach the most impoverished and vulnerable people.	Patel, V. (2013). [77]
2	Changing educational inequalities	In regard to job creation and educational quotas, the government has carried out a number of initiatives to assist with the expense of schooling. They include a variety of programmes such as scholarships and fellowships at all levels, midday meals, uniforms, stationery, and books. One central government-funded programme gives four years of remedial	Desai, S., & Kulkarni, V. (2008) [78].

		tutoring to selected secondary school pupils in order to prepare them for admission to colleges and institutions.	
3	Changing educational inequalities in India	Since India's independence, the government has formed a number of boards and commissions to look into problems relating to all children's schooling. Several initiatives are being designed to improve and boost the education of children. The Ministry of Education, MHRD, GOI established the Area Intensive Programme plan in 1993. The system's goal is to support the education of children from educationally backward minorities in areas with a high concentration of educationally backward minorities and inadequate opportunities for elementary and secondary education, as well as to encourage girls' participation in science, commerce, the liberal arts, and professional schools.	Marg, S. A. (2023). [79]
4	Status of muslim education in India	Because economic dependency is a major contributor to Muslims' low position, education is a critical tool for raising them out of poverty.	Mollah, K., & Bera, S. (2018). [80]
5	Empowerment through ICT education	Education, particularly technical training, is crucial for developing capability and improving job possibilities, resulting in economic as well as social and individual empowerment, such as greater confidence and social status.	Khan, F., & Ghadijally, R. (2010) [81].
6	Socio-economic and educational backwardness of muslims	A wide range of documents, which include the Gopal Sing Patel study, the results of the 43rd and 55th Rounds of the National Sample Survey, and the Educational Policy Action Plan, have demonstrated Muslim populations in India's socioeconomic and educational backwardness. (1986). The benefits of numerous government policies aimed at improving socioeconomic situations.	Banu, M. (2006). [82]
7	Recent status of education and employment of women in west Bengal	Women's education and job patterns are crucial factors in women's empowerment since they are essential components to economic empowerment, which defines women's total social position. In order to change society's views towards women, the government must prioritise educational funding for women and health care for women. Allow women to freely engage in personal and family choices, particularly those involving motherhood.	Sarkar, R. (2017). [83]
8	Education system of minorities	The minority group is one of our society's most backward populations. Muslims, in particular, are behind in all areas of life. They do not have the same level of education as other advanced towns. They are still falling behind at every level of our educational system. They have a significant number of educational issues, exactly like in elementary school.	Shahi, K., & Vellisubbaian, T. (2019). [84]
9	Educational provisions fact	In June 2006, the Prime Minister issued a 15-point programme for the execution of several government programmes aimed at improving the lot of India's disadvantaged minorities. The main emphasis in this 15-point programme was on enhancing the	Shabbir, M. P. M. W. M. (2017). [85]

		educational possibilities of minorities, increasing the success rate of various schemes and completion within the allotted time frame, creating resources for their livelihood, increasing employment and self-employment, creating loan facilities and special reservation in the government sector, and focusing more on establishing communal harmony in the country.	
10	Madarasa Education and empowerment of Minorities	Empowerment is considered as a matter of providing some form of subsistence as a right. In general, though, empowerment is described as the ability to exercise control over one's personal, communal, and societal contexts in order to support one's own progress. As a result, empowerment is defined as a matter of access and participation, with empowering constantly being a method rather than a condition of being empowered. Education is the key to the empowerment of Indian Muslims. Education is one of the most powerful factors impacting the political, social, economic, and spiritual evolution of individuals and society.	Asma, S., & Shazli, T. (2015). [86]
11	Education for economically and socially disadvantaged group	As a key determinant of inclusive growth in an economy, governments must prioritise inclusiveness rather than polarizing growth tactics. The State will advocate with special care the economic and educational goals of the weaker sections of the people, particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from injustice in society and all forms of exploitation in order to promote the educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.	Abdulraheem, A. (2011). [87]
12	Education for girls	One of the major causes for the ineffectiveness of many development agendas in the society is the existence of acute illiteracy and ignorance, along with superstitions among the rural population. As a result, education is a critical means of improving the economic and social situations of the Scheduled Tribes. Education, particularly in its primary form, is seen as extremely important by tribal members since it is critical for the overall development of tribal societies and is especially beneficial in building tribal trust by dealing with outsiders on an equal basis.	Bage, M. G., & Sethy, P. K. (2019). [88]
13	Equitable access to education	According to the policy, education disparities may be closed by "undertaking significant changes that integrate the highest level of excellence, equality, and authenticity into the system." Its goal is for "India to have a world-class education system by 2040, with equal accessibility to the highest-quality education for every student irrespective of social or economic background."	Jha, P., & Parvati, P. (2020). [89]
14	The importance of female education in muslim society in India	Many Muslim households still discourage their daughters from seeking higher education due to religious and societal constraints. Many people believe that Muslim women cannot obtain an education. In Islam, however, women's education is	Dey, R, (2022). [90]

		prioritized, and there is no differentiation between men and women. The Human Resource Development Ministry introduces several scholarship programs, free coaching programs, and other programmes. Some of these schemes include the Central Government Scholarship (Pre-Matric) for Minority students, the Merit - Cum-Mean Scholarship for students from Minority Communities, and the National Maulana Azad Scholarship Program for girls from Minority Communities, particularly Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, and Buddhists who have passed the 10th exam.	
15	Affirmative action, minorities, and public services in India.	A variety of inclusive initiatives were discovered, such as admissions preferences for SC, ST, and OBC students in government-funded higher education institutions. The constitution provides financial support from the government for linguistic and religious minorities to construct and manage educational institutions of their choosing. These universities may disproportionately attract students from specific minority groups.	Bhojani, U. et. al., (2019) [91]
16	Muslims of west Bengal and education	The poor literacy rate among Muslims and Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) in India has been widely documented in research studies. The current report is a small diagnostic investigation on Muslim literacy levels. An attempt was made to analyse the state of Muslim education in terms of the rate of literacy as reported in India's 2001 census.	Hussain, N. (2009). [92]
17	Education and empowerment of other backward classes	The goal of this research is to better comprehend backward class women's educational level and its link to their social, economic, and political position and reality. Despite the government's various educational initiatives for the disadvantaged, issues like as access to schooling and retention in school remain major concerns for Other Backward Class females. As a result, it is worthwhile to investigate the position of access to education among reserved girls, as well as awareness within Other Backward Class women and men with regard to education of their girl child, including awareness among them about government welfare schemes launched for them.	Rizvi, A., & Pandey, A. (2017). [93]

Table 4: Challenges faced my minorities.

Sl. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Challenges faced by muslims in employment level.	The goal of this research is to better comprehend backward class women's educational level and its link to their social, economic, and political position and reality. Despite the government's various educational initiatives for the disadvantaged, issues like as access to schooling and retention in school remain major concerns for Other Backward Class females. As a result, it is worthwhile to investigate the position of access to education among reserved	Akhtar, V. (2018). [94]

		girls, as well as awareness within Other Backward Class women and men with regard to education of their girl child, including awareness among them about government welfare schemes launched for them, and, last but not least, problems faced by Other Backward Class women in access to education.	
2	Educational challenges of minority institution	There is a dearth of competent equipment to investigate systemic neglect and indifference to the education of minorities, particularly Muslims. Religious minorities' major issues may be related to the functioning of state agencies such as law and order, welfare, education and health, public services, state contracts, credits, licenses, and the courts.	Gangmei E., & IP, G. (2018). [95]
3.	Challenges faced by Muslim minorities	The working population ratio for Muslims is considerably lower than for all other Socio Religious Categories (SRCs) in rural and urban areas. As a result, the earnings among them are very small. According to the Committee Report, "the most striking feature is the relatively high share of Muslim workers engaged in selfemployment activity," primarily in urban areas and for women workers. It was also observed that there is a complete absence of schools in many Muslim areas.	Turrey, A. A. (2019) [96]

Table 5: Minorities and Political Participation

Sl. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1.	Muslim women and political Participation	Although circumstances have changed in some regions and more Muslim women are participating in politics, some Muslims still believe that a Muslim woman's main role is to be a mother and wife. Nonetheless, researchers from a variety of faiths and viewpoints have presented the same case. However, throughout the course of the nineteenth century, there were more Muslim women discussing politics, producing books, and conducting research at universities. Similarly, Muslim women in India desire equality and an end to discrimination. However, there should be more Muslim women in Parliament to fight effectively.	Shairgojri, A. A., & Bhat, R. M. (2023). [97]
2	Political participation of muslims	Religion, instead of ethnicity, appears to be a more crucial motivator for engagement. Keeping all other socio-demographic parameters constant, Muslims are continuously less likely, and considerably so in two of the three comparisons, to be in any of the activist groups, although their ethnic origins make no discernible difference. Indeed, further examination reveals that Muslims from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh did not vary substantially in any of the three comparisons.	Li, Y., & Marsh, D. (2008). [98]
3	Participation of women in Politics	Surprisingly, while Muslims and tribal women have lower participation percentages than others, scheduled castes have greater rates. Contrary to what we see in industrialised nations, working women are	Gleason, S. (2001).[99]

		increasingly aware of political concerns but do not appear to vote in bigger numbers.	
4	Participation of muslim women in politics	Political participation of women of the Muslim community which happens to be the next major community after the Hindu, in every field continues to be poor. Though they started getting involved during the freedom struggle yet it was very limited for the conservative mindset of the community and the separatist politics pursued by some of its leaders.	Panda, S. (2021). [100]
5	Barriers for Participation of women in politics	Social barriers include lack of education, training, and knowledge; household responsibilities; lack of family support; and lack of social security and physical mobility. Economic barriers encompass financial incapacity, corruption, and lack of coalition among women members.	Prodip, M. (2022). [101].
6	Muslim women and political participation.	Unlike in the Hindu and Christian communities, where religion does not act as a strict barrier to the advancement of women, the conservative character of the Muslim community, its patriarchal society and its strong desire to maintain its religious identity imposes restrictions on its women in the public space.	Yunus, S., & Gupta, M. 2017. [102]
7	Lack of social opportunities for Muslim women.	Muslim women are among the poorest, educationally marginalized, economically weak, politically ostracized group in India. Most Muslim women remain 'invisible' workers in the informal economy. The lack of social opportunities for Muslim women is a vital subject that needs serious and urgent act. The fact is a progress in knowledge (education) rate would directly impact Muslim women's socio-economic and political status.	Ahanger, J. A., & Shergojri, B.A (2021). [103]
8	Politics and Muslim representatives	One of the reasons behind fewer Muslim representatives in the political arena has been the reluctance of the political parties to nominate Muslim candidates for fear of alienating other voters in the constituency.	Farooqui, A. (2020). [104]
9	Political career and economic dependency of women.	Funds are required in order to embark upon a political career. The majority of Muslim women are financially dependent upon their husbands or fathers. Women without money do not have the freedom to make their own decisions and do, as they want. A woman who wants to become involved in politics but has no funds must have the support of her family. This can be difficult to obtain because of the cultural way of thinking and poor family background.	Abidi, A. (2013). [105]

Table 6: Government Schemes and standard of living of Minorities.

Sl. No.	Area & Focus of the Research	Outcome of the Research	Reference
1	Demography of muslims	90% of Indian Muslims are small and marginal farmers, artisans and workers. Being engaged in such occupations makes them poor, while their educational backwardness and lack of skills do not allow them to enter high-income	Mistry, M. B. (2005). [106]

		occupations. In modern industry and trade, Muslims rarely own big businesses or have positions in large-scale industry or business and generally lack strong entrepreneurial skills. Therefore their standard of living is not equal to other religion.	
2	Standard of Living	Findings reveal that there are significant differences in living standards among the Hindu, Muslim and Dalit households. However, the gap between Hindu and Dalit households is relatively high in comparison to Hindu and Muslim households. Income elasticity reveal that income improvement will lead to augment living standards more in the Muslim community than other communities. Therefore Social welfare policies must be streamlined to reduce housing poverty as well as to reduce disparity among the communities.	Ahmad, S. (2012). [107]
3	Muslim minorities and their standard of living	The Muslim community which accounts for 14.4 percent of India’s vast population, making it the largest of all religious minorities in India has been the subject of considerable development discourse, for it has the lowest levels of educational attainment when compared with major socio-religious groups in India and the lowest standard of living in the country.	Kabir, H. (2016). [108]
5	Socio-economic indicators and standard of living	In a dynamic society the transformation trends of quality of life, standard of living of people etc. which are dependent on social and economic indicators are to be assessed for further improvement of any section of a society.	Ali, A. W. (2016). [109]

6. CURRENT STATUS :

No Doubt Government of India taken all efforts to develop Minorities in all Manner. They also try to take them in to main stream for that all possible initiatives and facilities were made but need to aware all minorities about these facilities. People not Aware about Government made different schemes and facility for them. And sometimes its not reach to them, due to corruption or other reason. In spite of the affirmative actions taken by the Government of India, for empowerment of Muslim and other Minorities. All the states are not benefitted uniformly from these provisions, schemes and facilities provided through these affirmative actions. Over the years the number of initiatives taken by the Government; still empowerment of Muslims is not satisfactory in terms backwardness.

7. IDEAL SOLUTION, DESIRED STATUS AND IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED :

Current studies have shown Muslim minorities lag behind compared to other socio religious communities in the sphere of education and social growth. The government must take appropriate measures to raise awareness of various existing welfare systems and simplify procedures so that ordinary person can apply for and receive benefits, thereby realizing the economic empowerment of religious minorities. It is necessary to work with the government, social organizations and the media to support organizations that empower religious minorities and implement awareness-raising and education programs. Religious minorities should come ahead and participate in growth inclusive programmes and help their poor also by informing them about their problems and supporting, encouraging and helping them in such Socio Economic Conditions

8. RESEARCH GAP :

As per the review of numerous studies, research on Government scheme found to be very less, where only few studies have pondered on the beneficiaries’ awareness and perception on Government scheme. Furthermore, no study have been witnessed from the body of the literature which focused on analysing the awareness, perception and participation level of beneficiaries of various Government schemes with special reference to minorities. Hence, the researcher has an opportunity to study the awareness,

perception and utilization level of individuals with regard to Government schemes. Moreover, there is a further scope to assess the influence of awareness, perception and participation of an individual with regard to Government scheme on their socio-economic development as there is insignificant studies in this area. Lastly, considering Dakshina Kannada district as a geographical location to implement the present study seems to be the area for future research for the present domain.

9. RESEARCH AGENDAS BASED ON RESEARCH GAP :

- Does demographic profile of the beneficiaries' Impacts their awareness, perception and utilization of Government scheme?
- Does awareness and perception on Government scheme impact their utilization?
- Will the utilization of Government scheme contributes to their socio-economic development?
- What are the various socio-demographic challenges which impact their utilization of Government scheme? Are they a barriers in socio-economic development?

10. ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH AGENDA :

Present research agenda is pertinent in its own context as it will address the major issues such as:

- The Government of India and State Government has initiated lot of welfare schemes for the upliftment of Religious minorities, there is lack of awareness among the Muslim minorities about the schemes due to various reason.
- Due to lack of Education and low awareness about the welfare schemes the participation of Muslim minorities is very low compare to Socio-religious Caste.

11. FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL :

- a. **Proposed title:** Role of Central and state Government Schemes in empowerment of Muslim Minorities.
- b. **Area:** Karnataka
- c. **Target respondents:** Muslim minorities
- d. **Objectives:**
 - To compare the socio-economic status of Muslim minorities before and after availing the Government scheme.
 - To examine the influence of awareness and perception on the utilization of government schemes.
 - To analyse contribution of Government schemes in socio-economic development of minorities.
 - To assess the impact of various demographic challenges in the usage of Government scheme.

12. ABCD LISTING OF GOVERNMENT WELFARE SCHEMES :

SWOC or the newly established ABCD analysis approach may be used to assess any company model. ABCD listing and ABCD framework are two qualitative and quantitative ABCD examination methods. [110].The ABCD plan can be used to analyse personal personalities, system characteristics, the efficiency of a notion or concept, and the efficiency of a plan while researching the societal value of business. [111]. It is a technique for comprehending different models and investigating their efficacy in providing value to stakeholders. ABCD is an abbreviation for Advantages, Benefits, Constraints, and Disadvantages. [112].The advantages, benefits, constraints, and disadvantages (ABCD) of a business model may be utilised to successfully analyse and comprehend the model [113]. According to current scholarly research methodologies, ABCD analysis is suggestible for industry analysis, company analysis, product analysis, service analysis, patent etc. [114]. By definition, the 'ABCD' analytical approach is subjective and exploratory [115].

13. SUGGESTIONS :

- The Indian government must gain the trust of minorities by offering them incentive schemes to take part in the country's political, administrative, and social institutions based on merit.
- To ensure minorities' incorporation in the educational mainstream, a structured and concentrated approach must be taken.
- Muslim OBCs are also economically and educationally backward, so they deserve to have benefits of reservation.

- The establishment of separate girl schools, the appointment of female teachers, and the establishment of a girl's hostel are some essential steps that, if executed truly, may help minorities' female education.
- Society must take action to establish a setting in which minorities can fully benefit from these programmes.
- Multi-media campaigns should be used to spread awareness of welfare schemes meant for minorities.

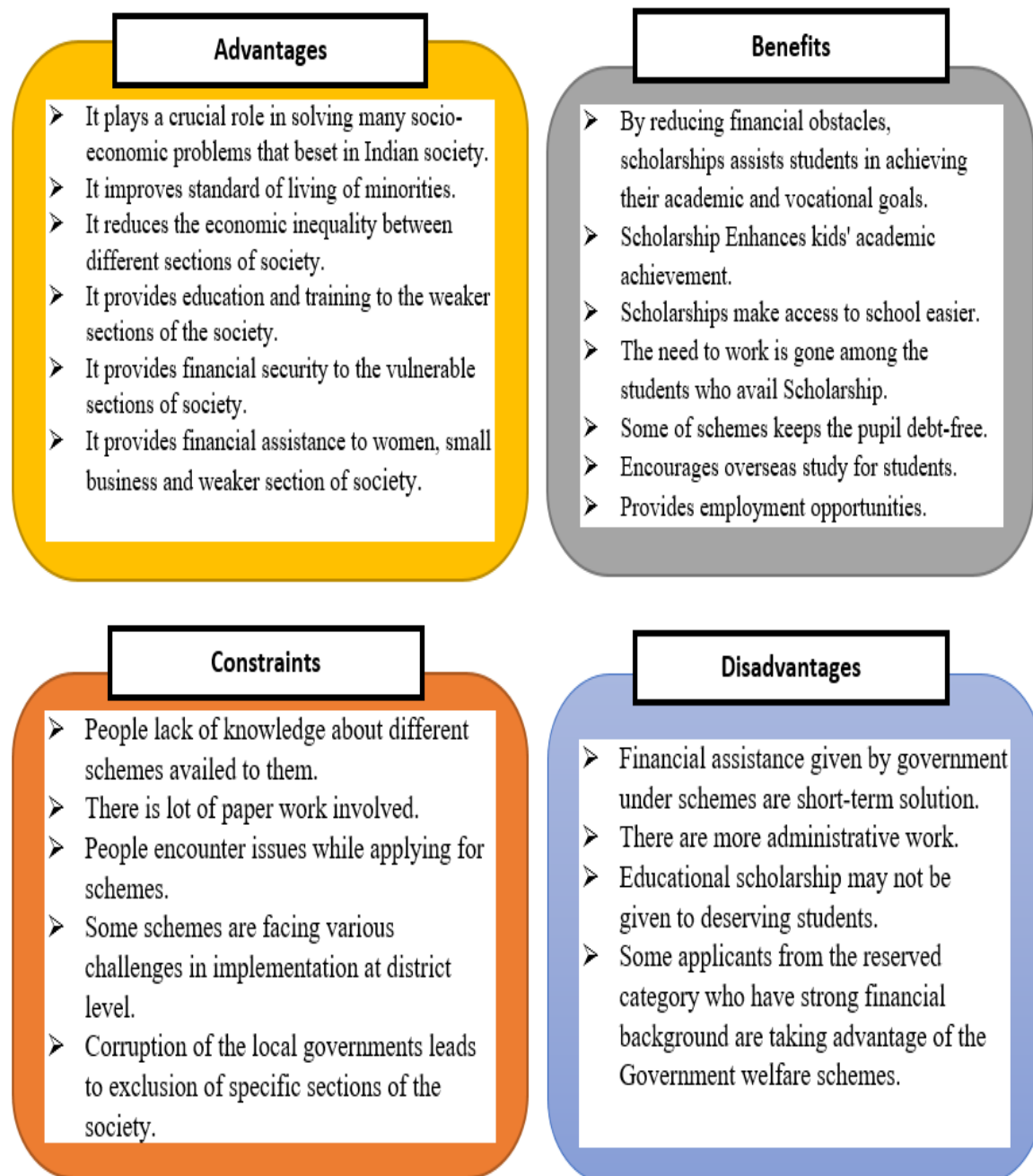


Fig 1: ABCD analysis of Government welfare schemes.

Compiled by the researcher.

14. CONCLUSION :

Over the years the number of initiatives taken by the Government; still empowerment of Muslims is not satisfactory in terms backwardness. Therefore attention is needed for increasing their enrolment, include Skill Development, Education, Multi Sectoral Development Programmed, Secularism &

Empowerment, addressing adverse socio-cultural and economic realities as these are the keys in removing backwardness of Muslims and other minorities. Need to evaluate this schemes and initiatives taken by Government for betterment of Minorities. Numerous schemes and programmes have been launched for their educational upliftment but it is not enough to formulate policies and programmes only, but also to evolve strategies to neutralise the ideological, structural and familial impediments so that the educational facilities are fully utilized. The Constitution of India grants Muslims and other minorities equality of status and opportunities with the other citizens to accelerate the process of educational and socio-economic justice.

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