

Research Article

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Empowering women through welfare schemes of government of Andhra Pradesh: A study of Kurnool district

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Abstract

Keywords

Welfare Schemes,
Educational
Empowerment,
Economic
Empowerment,
Social
Empowerment, YSR
Cheyutha, YSR
Aasara, Amma Vodi
etc.

This study explores the impact of various welfare schemes initiated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the empowerment of women in Kurnool District. Focusing on programs such as YSR Cheyutha, YSR Aasara, and Amma Vodi, the research evaluates how these initiatives have influenced the socio-economic status of women. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from surveys with qualitative insights from interviews, to assess changes in income levels, employment opportunities, social participation, and educational outcomes for beneficiaries. Findings indicate significant improvements in financial independence, community engagement, and decision-making power within households. However, challenges such as bureaucratic hurdles and lack of awareness persist. Recommendations include enhancing awareness campaigns, simplifying application processes, and strengthening support systems to maximize the schemes' effectiveness. This research underscores the critical role of targeted welfare programs in fostering women's empowerment and offers valuable insights for policy makers to refine and optimize these initiatives.

Introduction

Women's empowerment is a pivotal aspect of societal progress, encompassing economic independence, social participation, educational attainment, and enhanced decision-making power. In India, various state governments have initiated welfare schemes aimed at uplifting women, especially in rural areas. The Government of

Andhra Pradesh has been proactive in this regard, introducing multiple programs to support women's socio-economic development.

Currently women form half of the population in the world. Yet most of them are not able to express their views freely in social, economic or political sphere of their lives. Women are considered most of the time as second-class

citizen and deprived of their basic rights. Gender inequality is persistent among the society and women are victims of subordination and discrimination even today. Women mostly lack the freedom of choice and action to shape their own life. Women, particularly in rural regions, have a lower share of assets, skills, education, social standing, leadership characteristics, and mobilization capacities, which impacts the degree of decision making and authority, and as a result, their reliance on males grows (Basu, 2006). Thus, in this situation, empowerment of women has become a necessary phenomenon.

Women empowerment is now a matter of global discussion. Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the United Nations speaks of gender equality and empowering all women and girls. According to Kabeer (1999) women empowerment is the capacity to make wise decisions in life in situations when they were previously deprived of this capacity.

The process of empowerment is dynamic and multifaceted, allowing women to fully embrace their identities and abilities across all domains of life (Sahay, 1998). Article 38 of the Indian Constitution recommends that the State must try to enhance the welfare of the people by providing social, economic, and political justice and by reducing inequalities in income, position, facilities, and opportunities.

The Government of India has recognized the plight of women and developed many schemes to combat crimes against women and provide them more opportunities for contribution in country's economy and growth. Some important schemes introduced by Government of India are Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme, Women Helpline Scheme, Nand Ghar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana etc.

Andhra Pradesh has been regarded as one of the developing states in India. But there have been many challenges in the form of socio-economic inequality in the state. To address these challenges, the Department of Women Development and Social Welfare of the state of

Andhra Pradesh works towards the protection, equity and inclusion of populations that have been historically oppressed, neglected or excluded from development because of their gender, age, disability or situation. This includes women, senior citizens and other marginalized populations such as persons with disabilities, transgender persons, and homeless persons. The various government schemes which work for the development of the backward and marginalized population, Andhra Pradesh includes Aarogyasri, YSR Pension Kanuka, Kapu Nestham, Sunna Vaddi, YSR Bharosa, YSR pellikanuka, YSR Nethanna Nestham, Ap Career portal etc.

Kurnool District, a prominent region in Andhra Pradesh, serves as a critical case study to evaluate the impact of these welfare schemes. The district, characterized by its diverse socio-economic landscape, provides a comprehensive backdrop to understand the effectiveness of these initiatives. Key welfare schemes such as

S.No	Schemes	Details
1	YSR Cheyutha	YSR Cheyutha focuses on providing financial assistance to women from marginalized communities
2	YSR Aasara	YSR Aasara aims at debt relief for women involved in self-help groups
3	Amma Vodi	Amma Vodi supports the education of children by offering financial aid to mothers or guardians.

This study aims to explore the extent to which these schemes have empowered women in Kurnool District. It seeks to understand the changes in economic status, social dynamics, and educational opportunities for women beneficiaries. By analyzing both the successes and challenges faced in the implementation of these schemes, the research offers insights into the effectiveness of government initiatives in fostering women's empowerment.

The findings from this study will contribute to the broader discourse on women's empowerment in India and provide actionable recommendations for

policy makers to enhance the impact of welfare schemes. Through a detailed examination of Kurnool District, this research underscores the critical role of targeted government interventions in transforming the lives of women and promoting inclusive growth.

Existing works: At a glance

The relationship between different government schemes and women empowerment have been dealt in various ways in literature. A lot of studies speak about how government schemes, policies and programmes have led to women empowerment. Pandey & Parthasarathy (2019) gave an account of impact of welfare schemes on empowerment of women with special reference to RMK, STEP and E-Haat. The study by Atitkar (2019) gave an account of how schemes and policies of Indian government favored both women empowerment and entrepreneurship.

Welfare Schemes and its impact on women empowerment have also been conducted in relation to various states. The study Malik (2020) spoke about the role of government schemes on empowerment of women in rural areas of Kashmir. Ara & Shukla (2021) conducted a study in Jharkhand to analyze the impact of government schemes on empowerment of women. A similar kind of study was conducted in Haryana by Sharma (2023) and in Uttarakhand by Verma (2016) where both of them analyzed the impact of government welfare schemes on empowerment of women. A study was conducted to analyze the impact of women empowerment schemes in Telangana by Punya (2021). The study by Datta & Desai (2017) gave an account of schemes implemented for women empowerment by Government of Gujarat. The study by Gupta (2022) reported about women empowerment through different government schemes with reference to the state of Chhattisgarh.

Regarding Andhra Pradesh, the relation between State Government welfare schemes and women empowerment is underexplored and needs further investigation. Most studies have used secondary data to explore this topic. Few studies have

considered primary data to understand the ground reality of these schemes in empowering women especially in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, some direct cash benefit schemes provided by Government of Andhra Pradesh has been chosen for the selected study. This is due to the fact that monetary benefit of the schemes directly reaches their bank account and there are no middlemen or institution involved. Moreover, because each individual has a unique identity, there would be no chance of duplicating accounts

Literature Review:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched several schemes aimed at empowering women, such as YSR Cheyutha, YSR Aasara, and Amma Vodi. These programs are designed to provide financial assistance, promote entrepreneurship, and improve access to education and healthcare. Review of previous studies on women's empowerment and welfare schemes in India. The authors have framed the following objectives from the existing research gap

❏ Overview of key welfare schemes introduced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh (YSR Cheyutha, YSR Aasara, Amma Vodi).

❏ Analysis of theoretical frameworks on women's empowerment and socio-economic development.

❏ Review of previous studies on women's empowerment and welfare schemes in India.

Data Tables and Charts: Here are the below data tables and charts are explained on the basis of survey questions.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

Demographic Factor	Categories	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Age	Under 25	10	5
	25-35	40	20
	36-45	50	25
	46-55	30	15
	56 and above	20	10
Marital Status	Single	40	20
	Married	90	45
	Widowed	10	5
	Divorced	10	5
Education Level	No formal education	20	10
	Primary	50	25
	Secondary	35	17.5
	Higher Secondary	30	15
	Graduate	10	5
	Postgraduate	5	2.5
	Occupation	Unemployed	60
	Self-employed	20	10
	Salaried Employee	40	20
	Daily Wage Worker	20	10
	Other	10	5

Source: Primary survey

Interpretation: from the table 1, The majority of respondents are between 36-45 years (25%), followed by those aged 25-35 years (20%). Respondents aged 46-55 and 56 and above constitute 15% and 10%, respectively. The smallest group is those under 25 years, making up 5% of the sample. A significant proportion of respondents are married (45%). Single respondents make up 20%, while widowed and divorced individuals each account for 5%. Most respondents have primary education (25%),

followed by those with secondary education (17.5%). Higher secondary education is reported by 15%, while those with no formal education account for 10%. Graduates and postgraduates constitute 5% and 2.5%, respectively. A large portion of respondents are unemployed (30%). Salaried employees make up 32%, while self-employed individuals account for 10%. Daily wage workers represent 10%, and those in other occupations comprise 5%.

Table 2: Beneficiary Status of Government Welfare Schemes Respondents

Beneficiary Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	110	73.33
No	40	26.67

Source: Primary survey

Interpretation: from the above table2 explained about Beneficiary Status of Government Welfare Schemes Respondents. The majority of yes beneficiaries (73.33%) are beneficiaries of government welfare schemes. This high percentage indicates a substantial reach and potential impact of the welfare programs in Kurnool District. A quarter of the respondents (26.67%) are not benefiting from any government welfare scheme.

Visual Representation

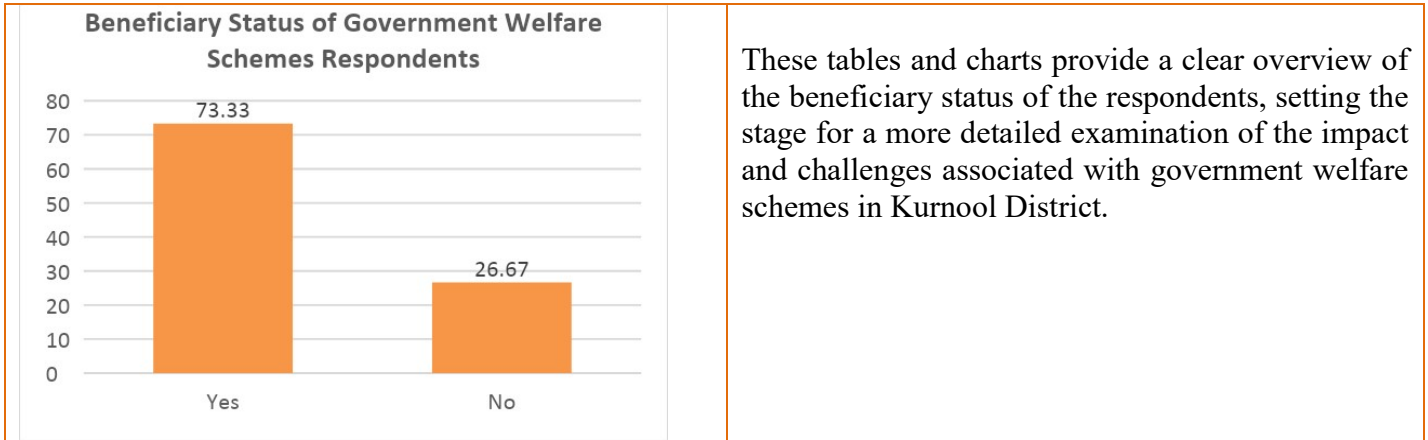


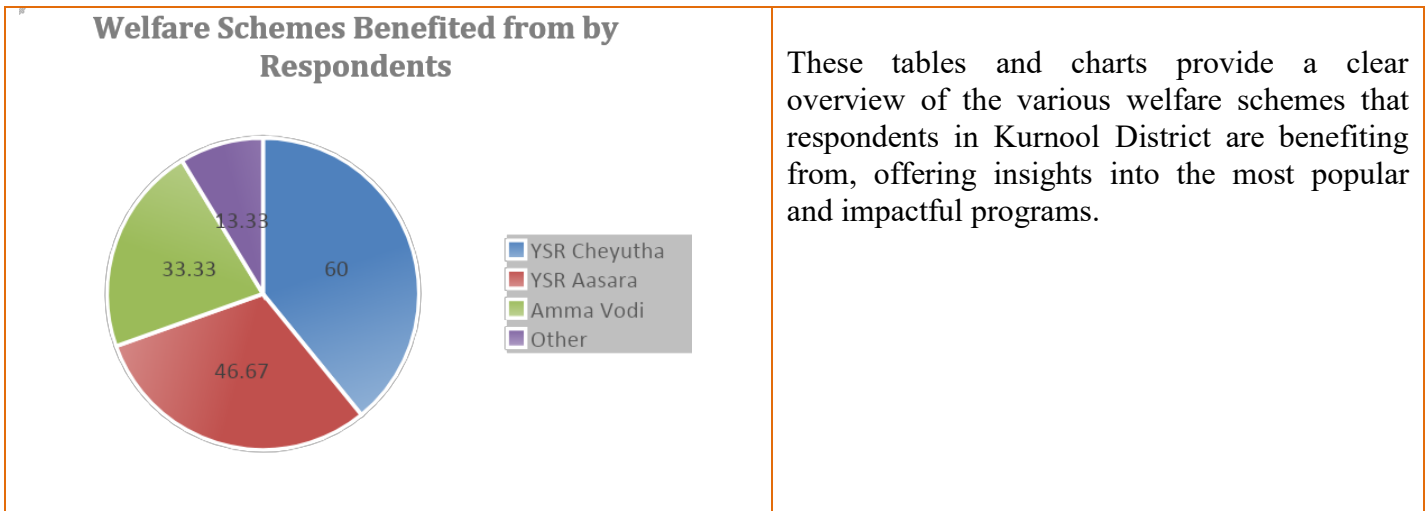
Table 3: Welfare Schemes Benefited from by Respondents

Welfare Scheme	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
YSR Cheyutha	90	60
YSR Aasara	70	46.67
Amma Vodi	50	33.33
Other	20	13.33

Source: Primary survey
 Note: Respondents could select more than one scheme, so the total percentage exceeds 100%.

Interpretation Analysis: from the above table 3 explained about Welfare Schemes Benefited from by Respondents. The most utilized scheme, with 60% of respondents benefiting from it. This scheme provides financial assistance to women from marginalized communities. the Aasara Benefited by 46.67% of respondents, this scheme aims at debt relief for women in self-help groups (SHGs). Amma Vodi Utilized by 33.33% of respondents, it provides financial support for children's education. Other Schemes 13.33% of respondents benefit from other unspecified schemes. This category can include local or less-known schemes not listed in the primary options.

Visual Representation:



Note: Respondents could select more than one scheme, so the total percentage exceeds 100%.

Table 4: Monthly Household Income Before Benefiting from the Scheme

Income Bracket	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than ₹5000	50	33.33
₹5000-₹10000	60	40
₹10001-₹20000	30	20
₹20001-₹30000	7	4.67
More than ₹30000	3	2

Source: Primary survey

Income Bracket	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than ₹5000	20	13.33
₹5000-₹10000	40	26.67
₹10001-₹20000	60	40
₹20001-₹30000	20	13.33
More than ₹30000	10	6.67

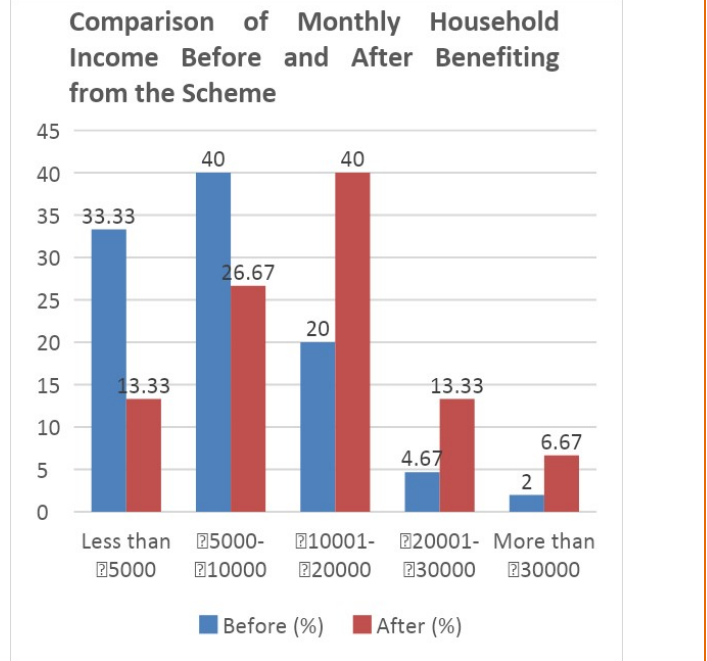
Table 5: Current Monthly Household Income After Benefiting from the Scheme

Source: Primary survey

Table 6: Comparison of Monthly Household Income Before and After Benefiting from the Scheme.

Income Bracket	Before (%)	After (%)
Less than ₹5000	33.33	13.33
₹5000-₹10000	40	26.67
₹10001-₹20000	20	40
₹20001-₹30000	4.67	13.33
More than ₹30000	2	6.67

Source: Primary survey



Interpretation Analysis: from the above table 6 discussed about Comparison of Monthly Household Income Before and After Benefiting from the Scheme. Only 13.33% of respondents now have a monthly household income of less than ₹5000, showing a significant decrease from the initial 33.33%. 26.67% of respondents fall into this income level (₹5000-₹10000), down from 40% before benefiting from the scheme, indicating economic improvement. ₹10001-

₹20000 the largest group, 40% of respondents, now have monthly incomes in this range, up from 20%, reflecting significant income growth. 13.33% of respondents now have incomes in this income level (₹20001-₹30000), compared to 4.67% before, indicating upward mobility. 6.67% of respondents now have incomes exceeding ₹30000, up from 2%, showing the most significant economic gains.

The comparison of household incomes before and after benefiting from the welfare schemes shows significant economic improvement among the respondents. There is a marked decrease in the

lower income brackets and a substantial increase in the higher income brackets, indicating the positive impact of these schemes on the financial well-being of beneficiaries in Kurnool District.

Table 7: Impact of Scheme on Starting or Expanding a Business.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	80	53.33
No	40	26.67
Not Applicable	30	20

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: The above table gives the information of Impact of Scheme on Starting or Expanding a Business. A majority of respondents (53.33%) indicated that the scheme has helped them in starting or expanding a business. This suggests that the financial assistance provided by the schemes is effectively supporting entrepreneurial activities among beneficiaries. 26.67% of respondents stated that the scheme has not helped them in starting or expanding a business. This indicates that while the schemes are beneficial for many, they may not directly contribute to business activities for a significant portion of respondents. 20% of respondents selected 'Not Applicable,' likely indicating that they are not involved in business activities or that the nature of the scheme's benefits does not apply to their situation.

Visual Representation:

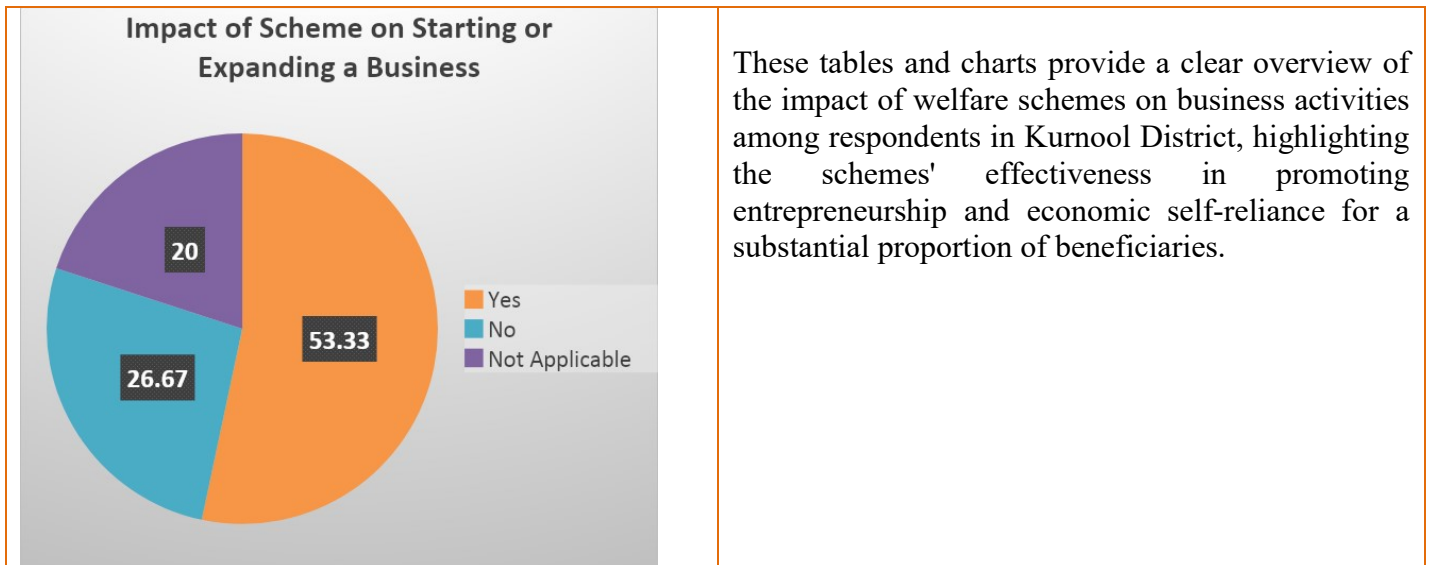


Table 8: Impact of Scheme on Participation in Community Activities

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	110	73.33
No	40	26.67

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: A significant majority of respondents (73.33%) reported an increase in their participation in community activities after benefiting from the scheme. This indicates that the schemes not only provide financial support but also enhance social engagement and community involvement among beneficiaries. 26.67% of respondents indicated no increase in their participation in community activities. This suggests that while the schemes positively impact community involvement for many, some beneficiaries may not experience or perceive a change in this aspect.

Visual Representation:

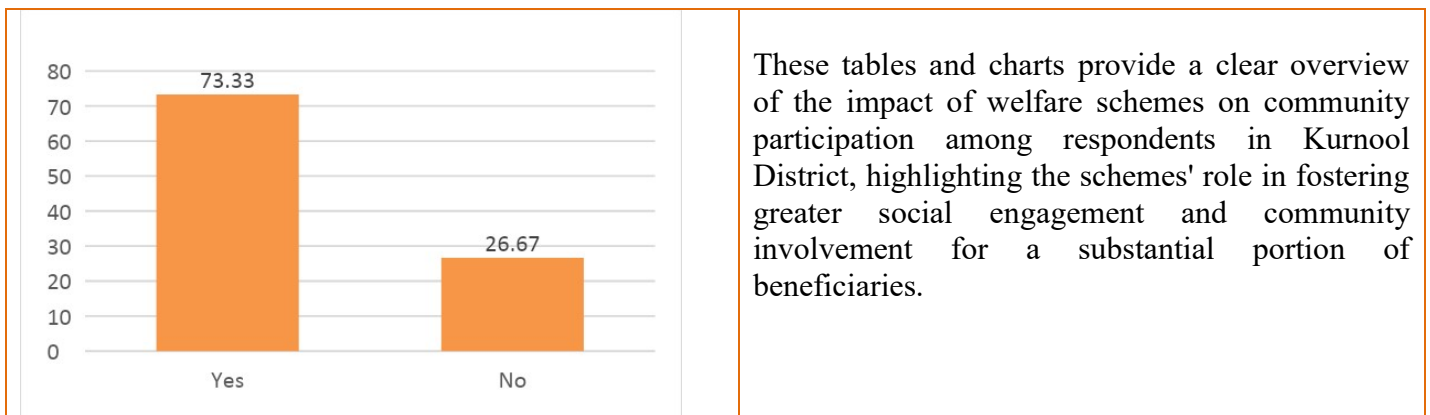


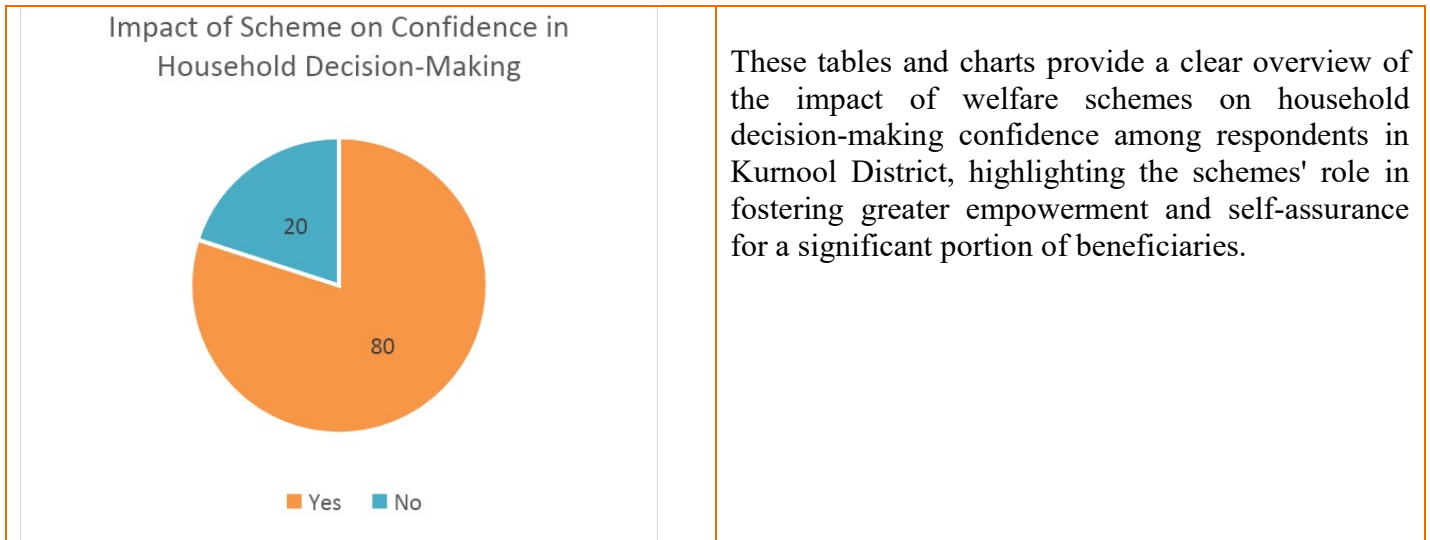
Table 9: Impact of Scheme on Confidence in Household Decision-Making.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	120	80
No	30	20

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: A substantial majority of respondents (80%) feel more confident in making decisions within their household after benefiting from the scheme. This suggests that the welfare schemes have a positive impact on the empowerment and decision-making capabilities of beneficiaries. 20% of respondents do not feel more confident in making household decisions. This indicates that while the schemes enhance decision-making confidence for many, some beneficiaries may not experience or perceive a change in this area.

Visual Representation:



These tables and charts provide a clear overview of the impact of welfare schemes on household decision-making confidence among respondents in Kurnool District, highlighting the schemes' role in fostering greater empowerment and self-assurance for a significant portion of beneficiaries.

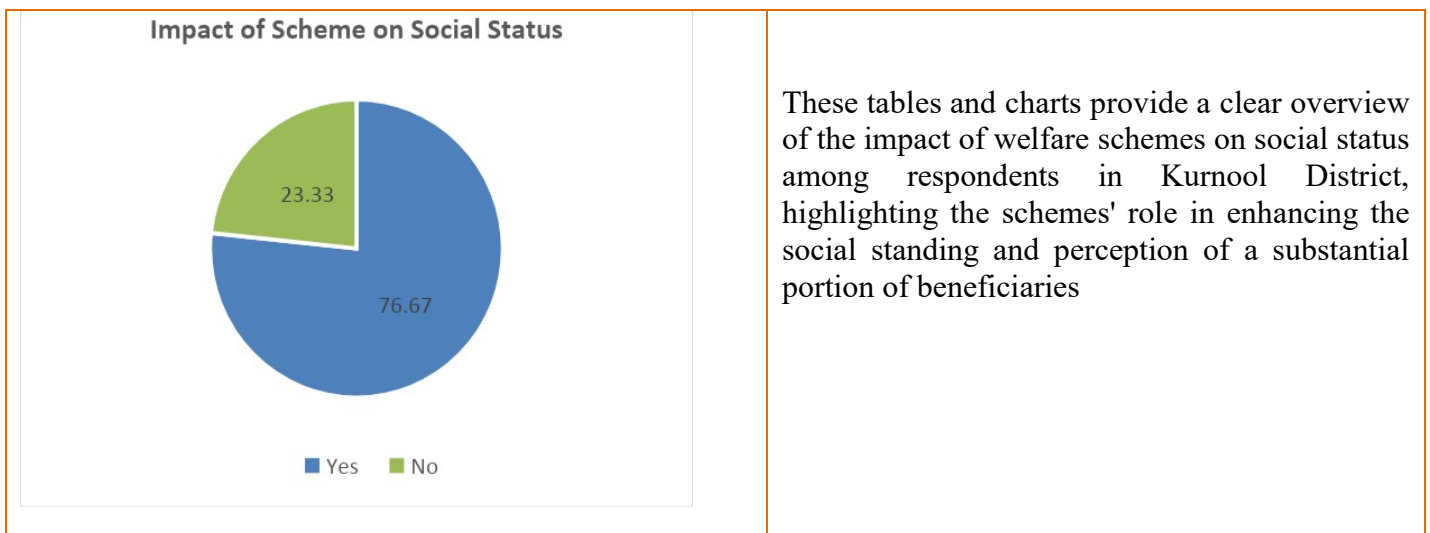
Table 10: Impact of Scheme on Social Status

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	115	76.67
No	35	23.33

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: A significant majority of respondents (76.67%) report an improvement in their social status as a result of benefiting from the scheme. This indicates that the welfare schemes have a positive impact on the social standing and perception of beneficiaries within their communities. 23.33% of respondents do not report an improvement in their social status. This suggests that while the schemes positively affect social status for many, some beneficiaries may not experience or perceive a change in this area.

Visual Representation:



These tables and charts provide a clear overview of the impact of welfare schemes on social status among respondents in Kurnool District, highlighting the schemes' role in enhancing the social standing and perception of a substantial portion of beneficiaries.

Table 11: Respondents with School-Going Children

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	90	60
No	60	40

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: 60% of respondents have school-going children, indicating a significant portion of the population directly involved in the education of their children. 40% of respondents do not have school-going children, representing a substantial minority of the population whose children may be older, younger, or who do not have children.

Visual Representation:

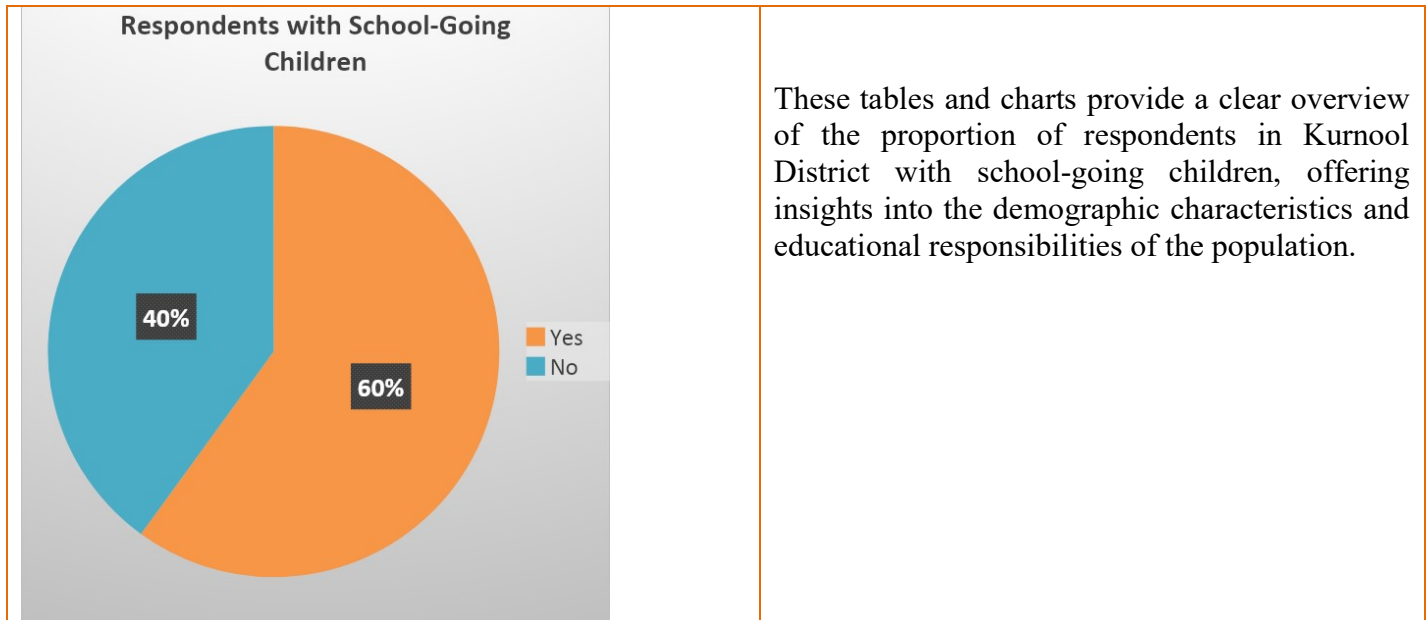


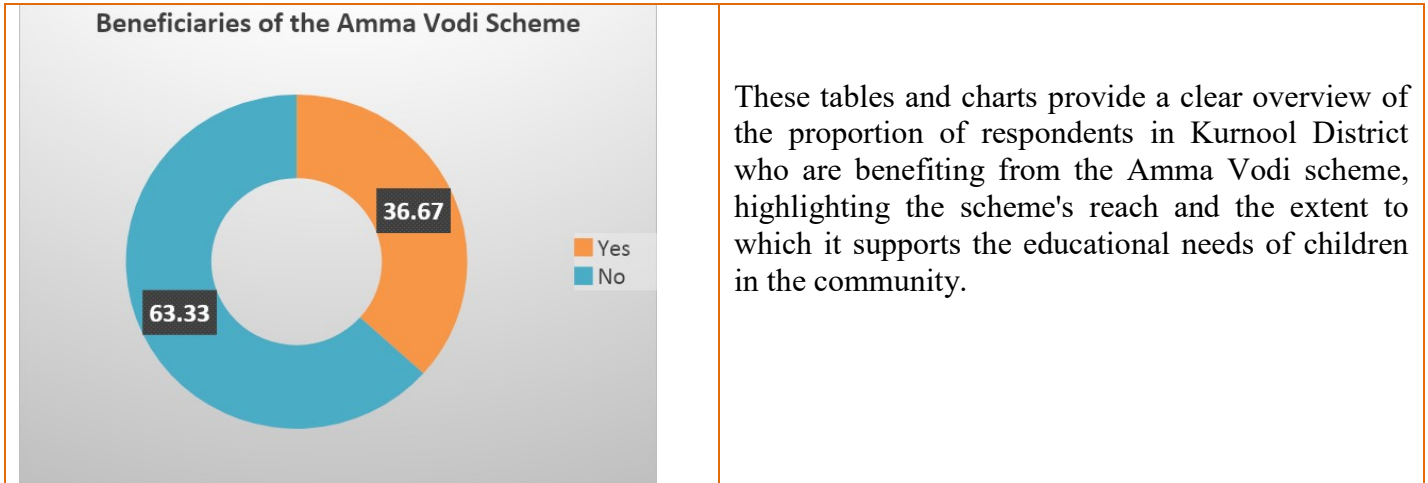
Table 12: Beneficiaries of the Amma Vodi Scheme:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	55	36.67
No	95	63.33

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: 36.67% of respondents are beneficiaries of the Amma Vodi scheme, which provides financial assistance to mothers or guardians for the education of their children. 63.33% of respondents are not beneficiaries of the Amma Vodi scheme, indicating a larger portion of the population either does not qualify for or has not accessed this particular scheme.

Visual Representation:



These tables and charts provide a clear overview of the proportion of respondents in Kurnool District who are benefiting from the Amma Vodi scheme, highlighting the scheme's reach and the extent to which it supports the educational needs of children in the community.

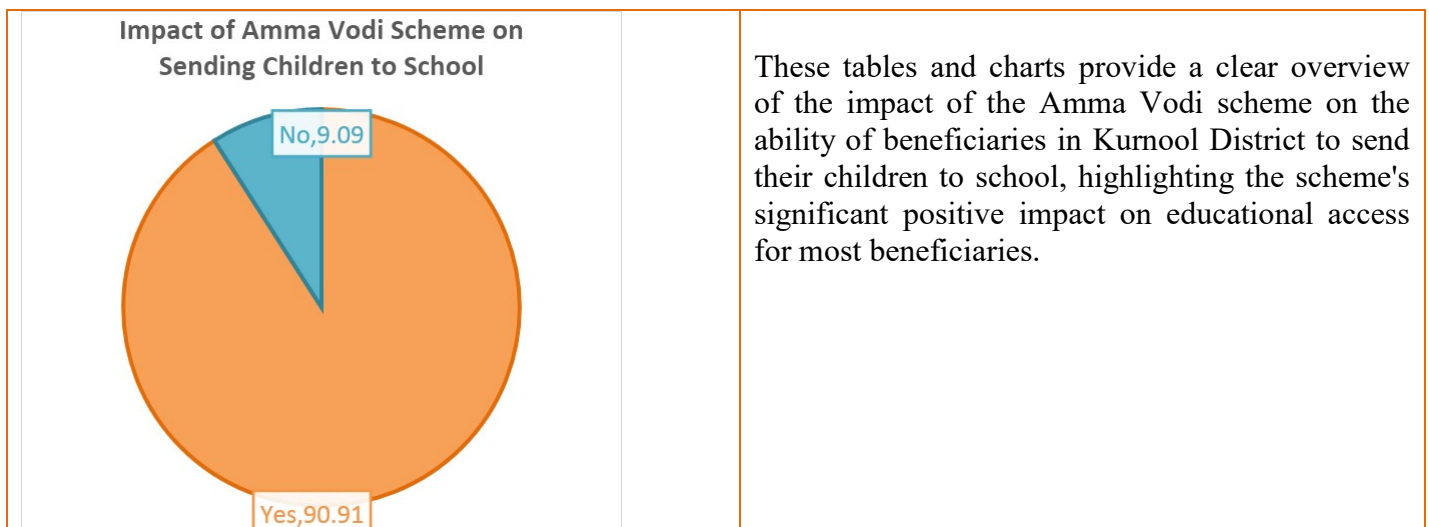
Table 13: Impact of Amma Vodi Scheme on Sending Children to School.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	50	90.91
No	5	9.09

Source: Primary survey
 Note: This table includes only those respondents who are beneficiaries of the Amma Vodi scheme (55 respondents).

Analysis: A significant majority of beneficiaries (90.91%) reported that the Amma Vodi scheme has helped them in sending their children to school, indicating the scheme's effectiveness in supporting children's education. A small percentage (9.09%) of beneficiaries indicated that the scheme has not helped them in sending their children to school. This suggests that while the scheme is beneficial for most, a few may not experience the intended impact.

Visual Representation:



These tables and charts provide a clear overview of the impact of the Amma Vodi scheme on the ability of beneficiaries in Kurnool District to send their children to school, highlighting the scheme's significant positive impact on educational access for most beneficiaries.

Table 14: Impact of Amma Vodi Scheme on Educational Facilities or Resources for Children.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	48	87.27
No	7	12.73

Source: Primary survey
 Note: This table includes only those respondents who are beneficiaries of the Amma Vodi scheme (55 respondents).

Analysis: A large majority of beneficiaries (87.27%) reported that the Amma Vodi scheme has contributed to better educational facilities or resources for their children, demonstrating the scheme's effectiveness in enhancing the quality of education. A smaller portion (12.73%) indicated that the scheme has not contributed to better educational facilities or resources, suggesting that while the scheme is beneficial for most, a few may not see improvements in educational quality.

Pie Chart: Impact of Amma Vodi Scheme on Educational Facilities or Resources for Children

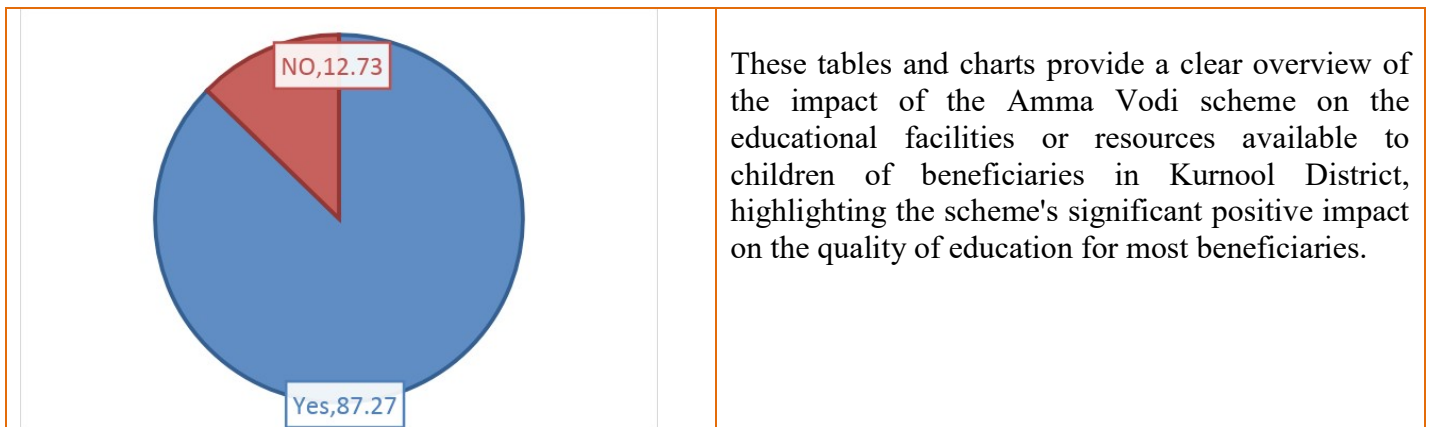


Table 15: Challenges Faced While Accessing Benefits of the Scheme

Challenge	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Lack of awareness	40	26.67
Complex application process	50	33.33
Bureaucratic hurdles	30	20
Social or cultural barriers	20	13.33
Other (please specify)	10	6.67

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: 26.67% of respondents faced challenges due to a lack of awareness about the scheme, indicating the need for better information dissemination and outreach efforts. The most common challenge, faced by 33.33% of respondents, was the complexity of the application process. Simplifying procedures could help more beneficiaries access the schemes. 20% of respondents experienced bureaucratic hurdles, highlighting the need for more efficient administrative processes. 13.33% of respondents encountered social or cultural barriers, suggesting that addressing these issues could improve access for some groups. 6.67% of respondents specified other challenges, indicating a variety of additional issues not covered by the main categories.

Pia Chart: Challenges Faced While Accessing Benefits of the Scheme.

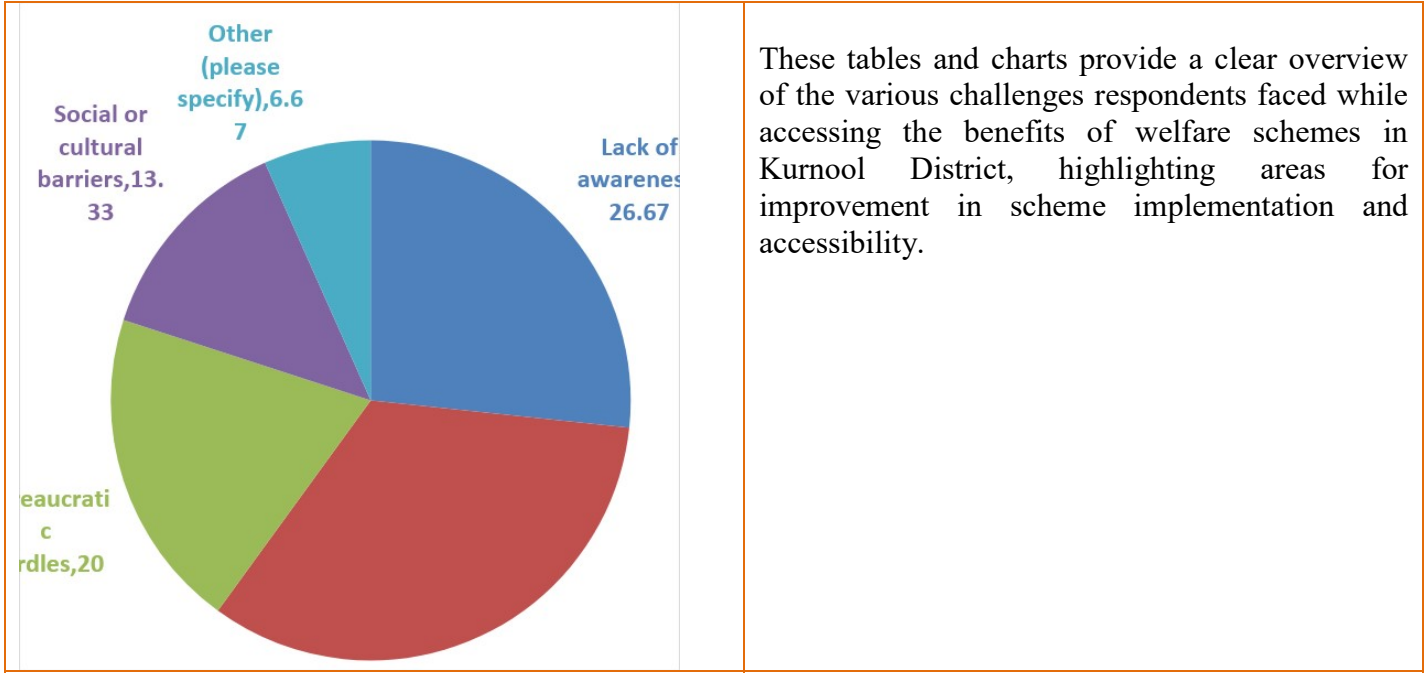


Table 16: Suggestions to Improve Implementation of Schemes

Suggestion	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Better awareness programs	60	40
Simplified application process	70	46.67
Reduced bureaucratic hurdles	40	26.67
Increased support from local NGOs	15	10
Other (please specify)	5	3.33

Source: Primary survey

Analysis: 40% of respondents suggested improving awareness programs to better inform the public about the schemes and their benefits. The most common suggestion, made by 46.67% of respondents, was to simplify the application process to make it easier for beneficiaries to access the schemes. 26.67% of respondents emphasized the need to reduce bureaucratic hurdles to streamline the implementation of schemes. 10% of respondents suggested increasing support from local NGOs to enhance outreach and implementation efforts. 3.33% of respondents provided other suggestions not covered by the main categories.

These tables provide a clear overview of the suggestions provided by respondents to improve the implementation of welfare schemes in

Kurnool District, highlighting key areas for governmental focus and improvement efforts.

Finding and Discussion

☞ YSR Cheyutha: This scheme provides financial assistance to women belonging to SC/ST/BC and minority communities aged between 45-60 years. The study found that this scheme significantly improved the economic status of beneficiaries by enabling them to start small businesses.

☞ YSR Aasara: This scheme aims to clear outstanding loans of women self-help groups (SHGs). It has reduced the financial burden on women and increased their participation in economic activities.

☞ Amma Vodi: This scheme provides financial assistance to mothers for sending their children to school. It has increased school enrollment rates and reduced dropout rates among girls in Kurnool District.

The analysis will focus on how these schemes have improved the income levels, education, health, and overall empowerment of women in Kurnool District.

Challenges in Implementation: Some of the challenged are mentioned below.

☞ The most common challenge, faced by 33.33% of respondents, was the complexity of the application process.

☞ Lack of awareness about the schemes among potential beneficiaries.

☞ Bureaucratic hurdles and delays in the disbursement of funds.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings, the study provides recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of welfare schemes, such as improving awareness campaigns, simplifying procedures, and fostering community participation.

1. Enhanced Awareness Campaigns: Increase awareness about the schemes through targeted campaigns using local media and community outreach programs.

2. Streamlined Processes: Simplify the application and disbursement processes to reduce bureaucratic delays.

3. Capacity Building: Provide training and resources to local officials for better implementation and monitoring of the schemes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the literature highlights the significant potential of targeted welfare schemes in empowering women, while also pointing out the challenges that need to be addressed for these schemes to be fully effective. This review sets the stage for a detailed empirical investigation into the specific impacts of YSR Cheyutha, YSR Aasara, and Amma Vodi schemes in Kurnool District, offering insights for policymakers and stakeholders aiming to enhance women's empowerment through welfare initiatives.

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