

F.No.34-1/2013/DAF
Dr. Ambedkar Foundation
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

**Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration
through Inter-Caste Marriages**

(I) Background

1. Sociologists have argued that caste system is a hierarchical system in which castes are placed one above the other on the basis of social status and prestige. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar defined Indian caste system as a system based on graded inequality. It divides men into separate communities and one of its main feature, the practice of endogamy i.e. the social rule that requires an individual to marry within a specific culturally defined social group of which he/she is member, reinforces and sustains this separateness and it is this segregation, which has created difficulty in achieving Constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity etc in the society.
2. Traditionally, marriage in Hindu society was a sacrament but after the passage of Hindu Marriage Act 1955 it can be treated as a contract. However, still marriages primarily take place on the traditional grounds of Jatis (caste) and *up-jati* (sub-caste). That means marriage is inextricably linked to *Jati Vyavastha* (caste system) with its roots in the religion.
3. Inter-caste marriages can be one of the significant steps to reduce the caste-prejudices, abolish 'untouchability' and spread the values of liberty, equality, fraternity etc in the society.
4. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act (PCR) and Prevention of Atrocities (POA) Act, Central assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations is provided towards incentive for inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses belongs to Scheduled Caste.
5. The object no. XXXI in the Memorandum of Association of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation also mandates "*To organize special campaigns for removal of untouchability and caste-based prejudices and for bringing in attitudinal change in the society through communal harmony and brotherhood and receive Govt. assistance for such purposes.*" Given the enormity of the social challenge that an inter-caste marriage faces, the Foundation also joins the initiative for bringing in an attitudinal change among the members of society through inter-caste marriages which has the potential to bring sustainable social integration, harmony and fraternity.
6. Since the problem is societal, the solution has to be determined at the level of society. Further, as the matter pertains to the realm of tradition and mind-set, it has to be pursued in a calibrated manner by gradually convincing the society about the desirability of creating a progressive society for which the inter-caste marriages should be accepted as a norm. Therefore, there appears to be a need for greater involvement of Representatives of People from Panchayat to Parliament, Social Activists/ Reformers, Administration, Media etc. in the implementation of this Scheme.



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(II) **The Scheme:**

1. The Scheme would be known as 'Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages'.
2. The objective of the scheme is to appreciate the socially bold step, of an Inter-caste marriage, taken by the newly married couple and to extend financial incentive to the couple to enable them to settle down in the initial phase of their married life. It is clarified that it should not be construed as a supplementary scheme to an employment generation or poverty alleviation scheme.
3. It shall be the discretion of the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment & Chairman of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation to sanction the incentive to the Couple.
4. Submission of false/ fabricated information to the competent authority would be punishable as per law in force.

(III) **Eligibility:**

The eligibility criteria are as under:

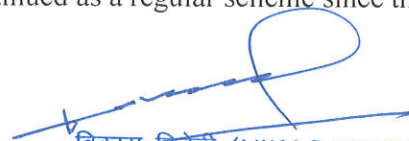
1. An Inter-caste marriage, for the purpose of this Scheme means a marriage in which one of the spouses belongs to Scheduled Caste and the other belongs to a Non-Scheduled Caste.
2. The marriage should be valid as per the law and duly registered under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. An affidavit of their being legally married and in matrimonial alliance would be submitted by the couple.
3. In cases, where marriage is registered other than Hindu Marriage Act 1955, the couple **is required to furnish a separate certificate as per Annexure-1 of the Format.**
4. No incentive is available on second or subsequent marriage.
5. Proposal would be treated as valid if submitted within one year of marriage.
6. If the couple has already received any incentive from the State Govt. / UT Administration for this purpose, the amount approved / released to the couple will be adjusted from the total incentive that could be released to them under this Scheme.

(IV) **Extent of Incentive**

1. The incentive for a legal inter-caste marriage shall be Rs.2.50 lakh per marriage. On receipt of a Pre-Stamped Receipt on a Ten Rupee Non-Judicial Stamp Paper an amount of Rs.1.50 lakh will be released to the eligible couple through RTGS / NEFT to the joint account of the couple and the remaining amount will be kept in a Fixed Deposit in the Foundation for a period of 3 years. This amount will be released to the couple alongwith the interest accrued thereon on 3 years of sanction of the incentive by the Foundation.
2. The Scheme was initially introduced on a pilot basis for a period of 2 years i.e. 2013-14 and 2014-15 and is being continued as a regular scheme since then.



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3. The District Authorities and State Government should be persuaded to be more proactive in supporting Inter caste Marriage (one spouse SC category) by organizing Mass Inter-caste marriages in the Districts / States. They may publicize the same in the local media, arrange functions for the inter-caste marriage invite eminent personalities to grace the occasion etc. An amount at the rate of Rs.25,000/- per inter-caste marriage will be paid to the District Authorities / State Government for organizing the above programme.
4. An amount of Rs. 25,000/-, for each marriage, would be released to the District Authorities for organising a befitting programme in which the incentive would be handed over to the couple.

(V) **Norms for release of Incentive** : The norms for release of the Incentive amount under the Scheme are as follows:-

1. The proposal to seek incentive under the Scheme should be recommended by the Welfare Department of the State / UT Government / District Magistrate / District Collector/ Deputy Commissioner.
2. The incentive for a legal inter-caste marriage shall be Rs.2.50 lakh per marriage. On receipt of a Pre-Stamped Receipt on a Ten Rupee Non-Judicial Stamp Paper the total amount of incentive will be released to the eligible couple in a single instalment through RTGS / NEFT to the joint account of the couple.
3. Power of Relaxation: Chairperson DAF & HMSJE may relax any provisions of the scheme in deserving cases.
4. How to apply: A statement showing copies of documents which are to be submitted by the applicant as per the enclosed Format.

The proposal under the Scheme is required to be forwarded with recommendation from the concerned District Magistrate, District Collector / Deputy Commissioner / Social Welfare Department of the concerned State Government / UT to the Director, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Jeevan Prakash Building, 9th Floor, 25, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.



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APPLICATION FORM

The application duly filled up with documents is required to be forwarded with recommendation from the concerned District Magistrate, District Collector, Deputy Commissioner or Social Welfare Department of the concerned State Govt./ U.T. and to be sent to the Director, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Jeevan Prakash Building, 9th Floor, 25 K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001

S.No	List of documents	Husband	Wife
1.	Name and Address of the couple with PIN code		
2.	Date of Birth <i>(please enclose a self attested copy birth certificate issued by the competent authority or copy of the Secondary School Examination)</i>		
3.	Email ID and Mobile Number		
4.	Whether one of the spouses belongs to Scheduled Caste and the other to a Non- Scheduled Caste <i>(please enclose a self attested copy of Caste certificate issued by the competent authority)</i>		
5.	Whether it is the first marriage of the couple : <i>(please enclose an affidavit on Non-judicial stamp paper by the couple)</i>		
6.	Date of Marriage		
7.	Whether the application for incentive was submitted within one year of marriage		
8.	Whether the marriage is valid as per the law and Registered under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 <i>(please enclose a self attested copy of the Marriage registration certificate)</i>		
9.	In cases, where marriage is registered other than Hindu Marriage Act 1955, the couple is required to submit a certificate as per Annexure-1		
10.	Whether any incentive was received for the Inter-caste Marriage from the State Government. If so give details.		
11.	Copy of Aadhaar Card indicating date of birth (Date/Month/Year) and PAN Card of the couple		
12.	Details of Aadhaar Linked Joint Bank Account (State Bank of India branch only) <i>(enclose a self attested copy of the first page of the pass book)</i>		
13.	Recommendation by the sitting MP/ MLA <i>(Please enclose the Recommendation letter)</i> AND Recommendation by concerned District Collector / District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner/ Social Welfare Deptt. of concerned State Government's / UTs		

Note- The format along with all documents are required to be submitted in Hindi or English only

Signature(Husband)
Date of submission



(Handwritten signature in blue ink)

Signature(Wife)
Date of submission

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ANNEXURE – 1

'Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages'
Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Jeevan Prakash Building, 9th Floor, 25, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001

A certificate on the following lines along with photograph of the applicant shall be issued by the District Magistrate/ District Collector/ Competent Authority as authorized by the Collector.

(a) One of the spouse belongs to Scheduled Caste

"It is certified that Shri / Kumari _____ Son/ daughter of _____, is a resident of _____ and comes under the category of Scheduled Caste (name of the caste) as per Hindu Religion".

(b) One of the spouse belongs to Non Scheduled Caste

"It is certified that Shri / Kumari _____ Son/ daughter of _____, is a resident of _____ and comes under the category of Non Scheduled Caste (name of the caste) as per Hindu Religion".

(Signature of the DM/ DC/ Officer authorized by the DC)

Name
Stamp




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