Access to quality education remains a key challenge for addressing issues of equality, equity and development both across and within countries. Ensuring that aid for education reaches those most in need is vitally important in order to realize the long-term benefits of education for developing societies. The World Bank has been active in supporting primary education in India for over two decades. While rhetorical evidence suggests that these projects have targeted sub-national districts most in need, there are few systematic studies that confirm this in practice. In particular, it is unclear to what extent World Bank education support has reached members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (SC/STs) in order to promote equality and equity in education in India. In this paper, we examine if the political agency of scheduled castes and tribes (SC/STs) can help explain allocation patterns of World Bank education aid. Using district-level panel data on over 20 years of World Bank education programs, district-level proportions of SC/STs and SC/ST status of members of parliament, we find that districts with high SC/STs proportions receive more aid, even when controlling for baseline poverty and educational performance, especially when those districts are politically empowered. This finding moves beyond previous studies of aid allocation which have largely focused on discerning the altruistic or self-interested motivation of development donors. In these frameworks, the “poor” are most often passive recipients (or not) of patronage from external benefactors. Our findings instead suggest that donor sensitivity to poverty or inequality in aid allocation at the subnational level also depends on the political agency of disadvantaged constituencies. These results imply World Bank education aid may respond recipient needs, but most effectively when those recipients also speak loudly for themselves. To achieve equitable development outcomes in education, this suggests even further care is needed to ensure that aid also reaches those who are so marginalized that they have no voice.