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# Review Of Research



## PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA



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### ABSTRACT

Tribal development schemes are meant for the socio-economic development of the tribes. The need for tribal development in India, hardly needs any justification.

There is a special provision in the Indian Constitution to protect the Scheduled Tribes from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The tribal development programmes are being implemented for the safeguard of the tribes under the control of Government of India. But Indian tribes are facing some unsolved problems.

Tribal people should get the better chance to survive and thrive for, they are the part and parcel of the mainstream of society. Right from the first Five Year Plan several schemes are still active with different approaches. Attempts have been made to make the Scheduled Tribes to develop socially, educationally, economically, politically and culturally.



The present paper is an attempt to focus on the development efforts and unsolved problems even after sixty six years of independence.

**KEYWORDS:** Socio-economic, Development, Scheduled , Tribes, Welfare, Culture, Schemes, Constitutional, Programme.

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Indigenous peoples continue to be over-represented among the poor, the illiterate and unemployed. Indigenous peoples number about 370 million. While they constitute approximately 5% of the world's population, indigenous peoples make up 15% of the world's poor. (IFAD, 2007)

The need for tribal development in India hardly needs any justification. India, a democratic and secular nation, is committed to the development and welfare of the tribes, who form approximately 8.1 percent of the total population (as per census 2001). Accordingly, several tribal development programmes have been undertaken from time to time, entailing enormous human, financial and material resources. About 93 percent of the scheduled tribal population is rural based. (Mehta, P. C.)

In this sense rural development and tribal development are the two sides of a same coin. The fact is that 52 percent of tribal population is below poverty line and 54 percent tribal have no access to economic assets such as communication technology and transport.

70 percent of the scheduled tribal population is concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Nagaland, Mizoram, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat. The essential characteristics of these communities are primitive traits, geographical isolation, distinctive culture, shyness of contact with communities at large and backwardness. They are well known as ADIWASI, VANYAJATI OR AADIPRAJA i.e. the aboriginals or original natives.

The Indian Constitution has retained the terminology using Scheduled in place of Back Ward. (Biswal, G. C., 1985). For centuries tribal have been living a simple life, based on the natural environment. Indians are proud of the great tribal warriors and leaders like Birsa Munda, Dr. Kartik Oraon, Rani Durgavati, Thakkar Bappa and many more, who devoted their lives for the country as well as the tribal communities. Tribes are always filled with patriotism and lot of affection for communities at large. Famous anthropologists like Verrier Elwin, Sarat Chandra Roy, L. P. Vidyarthi, Panchanan Mitra and Iravati Karve done an important and valuable research work for the tribal communities in India.

Poverty, poor health and sanitation, malnutrition, illiteracy and other social problems among the tribal are exerting a dragging effect on the Indian economy.

Tribal people should get the better chance to survive and thrive for, they are the part and parcel of the mainstream of society. Article 275 of the Indian Constitution provides for the grant of special funds by the Union Government to the State Governments for promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes and for providing them with a better Administration. (Sahay, B. N., 1998)

Through these development programme tribal communities have got a proper initiatives to improve their social, economical, educational, health conditions. There is no doubt tribes are backward and exploited more when compared to other ethnic groups of our country. Right from the first Five Year Plan several schemes are still active with different approaches. Attempts have been made to make the scheduled tribes to develop socially, educationally, economically, politically and culturally. Rather most of the tribal development schemes were formulated and implemented with this rational. Though there is an abysmal mismatch between the objectives and achievement.

### 1.2 DEFINITION:

The term development has been used in a wider sense.

Planned development involves translating the ideas into concrete actions and it depends on the resources at the disposal of a particular region/area. (Chaudhury, S. K. 1990).

Development implies creating conditions in a given society for whole some leaving of its members. Logically it stands for the rise in the standard of living of the weaker sections, greater participation in the affairs of the largest society and the state, freedom from poverty, unconstrained development of individual's among the varies sections of the social composition. (Ghani, N., 2006).

The purpose of development is to provide increasing opportunities to all people for a better life. It is essential to bring about more equitable distribution of income and wealth for promoting social justice and efficiency of production, to provide a greater variety of facilities like education, health services, nutrition, housing etc. (Verghese, T. 2010).

ILO (International Labor Organization) defines development as process which involve improvement in the quality of life of weaker sections. The concept of development consists of an aspect of change, a plan or prediction and involvement of the government for the achievement of that planned goal.

### **1.2.1 Objectives Of Tribal Development :**

The goals of tribal development can be summarized into two types of objectives those are,

- 1] Long time objectives – To narrow the gap of development between non tribes and tribes and to improve the quality of their life.
- 2] Short time objectives – Elimination of exploitation, improving organizational capabilities.

### **1.2.2 Constitutional Provisions :**

After the Independence, the founding fathers of the Indian constitution paid the special attention towards tribal problems and tried to eradicate it forever. Therefore they made special provisions for their social and economical development. The provisions are contained in the article, 46, 244, 330, 334, 335, 338, 339, 342 and schedules V and VI to the constitution of India. The constitution also permits for changes in laws according to the tribal situation in concerned area.

The main safeguard include promotion of educational and economic interests and their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. High priority for the welfare and development of scheduled tribes right from the beginning of the First Five Year Plan (1952-57) is being accorded. "What should be the nature of planning in a multi-cultural country where people live in a multiple layers of poverty? In the specific context of tribal planning, it requires that, their real needs are taken into account and their participation in both formulation and implementation is ensured. It is also important to understand their perception of development and what they think would be appropriate to achieve it. (Oraon, K. and Rushel, T., 2006).

Local governance often fails to implement the special laws set up to protect the members of tribal groups. The government policies meant for their welfare have not only bypassed them but also proved to be disastrous in nature. The lack of attention, roll playing by the policy makers and responsible officers, the is own mindsets and self indulgences of other agencies have led to the sad state of tribal communities. They have been badly served both by their exploiters and well wishers. (Planning Commission Of India).

Here researchers explained the direction of the tribal development schemes very neatly.

According to the Planning Commission, welfare programme for tribal people have to be based on respect and understanding of their culture and traditions. There should be an appreciation for the social, psychological and economic problems they are facing. It is necessary that welfare extension workers of all kinds should be found, as far as possible from amongst the educated youth in tribal communities. (Govt. Of India, 1961).

“The problem is not to disturb the harmony of tribal life but simultaneously work for their advance, not to impose any thing upon the tribes but work for their integration as members and part of the Indian family”.

The Nehru Era laid the foundation of tribal policy in independent India based on humanism and protection of the culture and traditions. India is prominent among the developing countries where six decades of planned development have made a significant efforts of removing poverty and unemployment as well as tribal development. The Five Year Plans formulated the implementation of a series of investment-backed schemes and projects for the upliftment of the tribal living in rural and urban.

### 1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- 1] To study the concept of tribal development.
- 2] To identify the problems and prospects of Scheduled tribes in India.

### 1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Present study is descriptive and based on secondary data which is sourced from various books related to tribal development, journals, scholarly articles, government publications, reference papers in print and on from websites related to the topic.

### 1.5 REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- 1) (R. Geetha, Dr. K Revathi, 2012), In their article “A study on tribal education and development” examines the tribal education and tribal development policy in India. The promotion of tribal education needs a fresh thinking and renewed efforts in new directions. The new policy and administrative initiative should focus on the improvement of quantity as well as quality aspects of tribal education.
- 2) (Singh, Suresh, 1966), is a study based on field observation and participation in developmental process and programs which deals with the development majors executed through the agency of CD Blocks, which have opened up tribal areas to the dynamics of change.
- 3) (Sachidanand, 1972), According to Sachidanand, The key to success in developing these tribal areas is, to present the new leaders not as replacement for the old but as supplementary leaders in new activities such as planned agriculture and education.
- 4) (Jahanke, and Huia, Tomlinsi, 2012), describes an intervention strategy initiated under the New Zealand Government’s tribal partnership scheme which promotes a culture based/place based approach to education in main stream school and early childhood centers in tribal region.
- 5) (Kulkarni, S. D. 1980), Suggests that, an effective implementation of the employment guarantee scheme can do a lot to improve the conditions of tribal agricultural laborers and small farmers.

### 1.6 PROBLEMS:

The tribal development measures adopted after the independence are found to be insufficient in improving the economic conditions of the tribes even after the various tribal

development schemes. The tribal people are facing several economic and social problems

1) Existing agricultural practices and techniques in the tribal areas is inadequate. Almost complete dependence on rains and poor quality of land results in the lowest returns from agriculture. (Thakur, D. and Thakur, D., 1995, a).

2) The problem of indebtedness among the tribals is not only an indication of their poverty but also reflects wider economic malaise i.e., lack of education, low purchasing/bargaining power and lack of resources for engaging in gainful activity and meeting emergent expenditure. (Devath, Suresh., 2014).

3) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has emphasised that indigenous people have higher rates of infant mortality, lower life expectancy and more cases of chronic illness than the non-indigenous populations in their home countries. They suffer from extreme discrimination and lead a life of misery and destitution. The development discourse, therefore, needs to concentrate on finding an effective strategy to mitigate these crises. (Suman, Nath, 2010). The health hazards related to pregnancy and malnutrition are faced by more than 90 percent of tribes.

4) Landlessness has been arguably the major cause of indebtedness among the agriculturist tribes in India. In India 58% of the tribal people Below Poverty Line with a high concentration in states like Andhra, Rajasthan, UP, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. The land alienation with its long history has natural consequence of indebtedness, which further lead to dispossession of tribal land. The poverty, land alienation indebtedness and landlessness is working cyclical way.

5) The problems relating to the infrastructure of the area besides water supply and communication and means, namely, of education facilities, banking or credit facilities marketing facilities, medical facilities and administrative facilities depend largely on the improvement of communication system. (Kulkarni, M. G., 1974).

6) Isolation and non-participation of tribes in development to a great extent leads to non-development. (Thakur, D. and Thakur, D. N., 1995, b)

7) Housing facilities being most fundamental requirement of human survival and a question of identity requires special attention. In India in 1996, 28% of the tribes were without house (Economic Survey 1998). The situation is even more dreadful while tribes are displaced and/or affected by development projects or natural calamities.

8) The innocence, illiteracy and helplessness of the tribes are exploited by the outsiders. The British policy, in particular, had led to ruthless exploitation of the tribes in various ways as it favoured the zamindars, landlords, money-lenders, forest contractors and excise, revenue and police officials. (Sociology Guide, 2014).

9) Malnutrition is common and has affected the general health of the tribal children as it lowers the ability to resist infection, leads to chronic illness and sometimes leads to brain impairment.

No doubt tribes are backward and exploited more when compared to other ethnic groups of our country.

### 1.7 SUGGESTIONS:

1) Any measures of indigenous peoples' social and economic development must necessarily start from indigenous peoples' own definitions and indicators of poverty and well-being. (Carino, Joji. 2009, a).

2) Promotion of micro credit facilities through formal and favourable terms. The immediate steps can be the following:

- + Spread of banking,
- + Focus on poverty alleviation,
- + Entrepreneurship,
- + Debt relief legislation,
- + Legal aid,

3) The promotion of tribal education needs a fresh thinking and revised efforts in new direction. The policy makers should focus on the improvement of quantity as well as quality aspects for tribal education. Normal development process has by passed the tribal communities . (Carino,Joji.2009,b),

4) Raising their productivity in agricultural, horticultural, animal husbandry, forestry, cottage, village and small industries and provision of employment in all seasons. Will go along way in reducing the incidence of poverty of tribes.(Panda, N.K.2006).

5) Appropriate legal and administrative support will prove an anti-exploitative measures for the tribes.

6) Spread of the appropriate level of technology into various fields of economic activities of the tribes is a prerequisite for their rapid advancement. A programme designed to obtain complete information on the existing agricultural technology of the various tribal areas may be taken up by the I.C.A.R. with the help of the Agricultural Universities of the states. Suitable persons from the tribal communities may be picked up for intensive training in advanced agricultural techniques (Verma M.M.,1996)

To sum up, the governmental schemes should be implemented considering the economic conditions of the tribes. There should be a humanitarian and co-operative outlook.

### 1.8 CONCLUSION :

The tribal development scenario is changing slowly but steadily towards positivity. But still there is a need to revise the development schemes, flowing of funds from government to the needful. Execution and implementation process will be better only if there is transparency.

These development programmes have no use unless the people are totally aware of all these, which are meant for their socio-economical welfare. Their participation in planning, formulation and implementation will get the better results and it will prove them helpful to flow in the mainstream of the development.

Tribes should try to become economically self dependant with the help of these development programmes and opportunities honored to them by the Constitution.

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