



A NOTE ON THE WELFARE MEASURES AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED ON THE MALAYALIS OF JAWADHU HILLS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JAMUNAMARATHUR

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ABSTRACT

Jamunamarathur is a taluk headquarter of Jawadhu hill block since 1985. The Malayalis are the original inhabitants,¹ partly pastoral in nature and to a certain extent they are agriculturalist and permanent settlers. Most of the tribal families are much below the poverty line and they are struggling for their basic needs such as food, shelter, education and medical facilities.² Government is working for the development of the tribal population under various schemes and development measures. Large-scale Multipurpose Co-operative society (LAMP) has been established in this place Jamunamarathur. The main objectives of the Government schemes implemented under Tribal Welfare Department are to provide (i) Education, (ii) Housing and provision of Infrastructural Facilities and (iii) Economic Development. The present study examines a comprehensive description of all the programmes about the tribal sub-plans for schedule Tribes that are implemented on Malayalis in Jamunamarathur of the Jawadhu Hills. The Government schemes are implemented in to two major divisions one is individual level and other one is communities level.



KEYWORDS : Sub-Plans, Awaas, Yojana, Kutcha, Subsidy, Reinforced, Integrated, Swarnajayanthi, Gram, Swarozhghar,, Namakku, Name, Thittam, Marumalarchi Thittam, velaivaippu, Swarnajayanthi, Swarozhghar , Milch, Hive, Pradhamar, Veedugal.

INTRODUCTION

Jamunamarathur is a taluk headquarter of Jawadhu hill block since 1985. This is the second highest place in Thiruvannamalai district and one of the most salubrious scenery in this district. It is the most grandiose and beautiful scenery in the hilly regions of Thiruvannamalai district. Among the Jawadhu hilly region the place Jamunamarathur has tribal people and tribal settlements.³

STUDY AREA

The only strata of tribal communities found in the district are known as *Malayalis*. The *Malayalis* are the original inhabitants of the Jawadhu hills and they are the most common picturesque tribes in the Jawadhu hill region.⁴ At present the *Malayalis* are partly pastoral in nature and to a certain extent they are agriculturalist and permanent settlers.

METHODOLOGY

The present study examines a comprehensive description of all the programmes for schedule Tribes that are implemented on *Malayalis* in Jamunamarathur of the Jawadhu Hills based on Government orders. This case study discusses particularly about the Tribal Sub-Plans (TSP) related programmes and projects on

Malayalis which are implemented in Jawadhu Hills Block of Thiruvannamalai district. The methodology adopted in this study is descriptive and analytical.

Schemes for Sustainable Development of the Tribal Community

In general the tribes are a community, who have been neglected for quite some time and even now living only in a below poverty line. Most of the tribal families are much below the poverty line and they are struggling for their basic needs such as food, shelter, education and medical facilities. Government is working for the development of the tribal population under various schemes and development measures. The Government offices like Block Development Office (BDO), Horticulture, Agriculture, Sericulture, Apiculture, Telephone exchange, Electricity Board office,⁵ and Police station are located in this village. Primary Health Center also located here is serving about 1,681 families and out of which 1,607 families belong to the Scheduled Tribe.

Government Schemes and its Objectives

The main objectives of the Government schemes implemented under Tribal Welfare Department are to provide (i) Education, (ii) Housing and provision of Infrastructural Facilities and (iii) Economic Development.

Education

The elementary and high schools are maintained by the Forest Department. There are private English medium schools located in this village. Middle school was established in the year 1955 by the Forest Department. There are seven teachers in this school. There are 316 boys and 310 girls studying in this school. Out of 626 students, 561 students belong to Scheduled Tribe communities. Mid-day meals center is located this village. The students from other neighbouring villages come to Jamunamarathur for their High school education.⁶

Infrastructural Facilities and Government Programmes

The basic amenities/infrastructural facilities, and Government programmes implemented at the community level. This description also includes the number of individual beneficiaries under various programmes from the place Jamunamarathur. In the year 1977 Large-scale Multipurpose Co-operative society (LAMP) has been established in this place Jamunamarathur. There are 1,786 members of *Malayalis* tribes enrolled in this society. The LAMP society is working and serving 1,907 family cards to purchase the essential commodities from these ration shops. Sheep units and *milch* animals are distributed to the beneficiaries.⁷ The LAMP society has given 5 years' time to repay the amount with 13% interest. The strategy of Five year Plan prescribed the Welfare Programmes. The *Malayalis* of Jamunamarathur main occupations are cattle rearing, agriculture and honey collecting. The literacy rate among the *Malayalis* is now improving. Recently the non-tribal communities dominated in this village. The population of Scheduled Tribes in this village is 1,607 as per the 1991-Census.⁸

Economic Development

The loans at the individual level are arranged through nearby Banks, by the recommendations of LAMP. The other departments that are connected implementing the schemes. The loans provided by Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP): IRDP, and bank loans on a 50 percent subsidy. The beneficiaries are identified by the programmes executors like the Village Extension Officers working under the Panchayat Union office, and the Development Officers of the concerned departments such as Horticulture, Agriculture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Khadi and Village Industry etc.⁹ The LAMP society members are identifying the beneficiaries and render their recommendation.

Being the headquarters, more schemes are implemented in this village. This enables most of them to be benefited by more than one scheme, as the access to the Government offices and the LAMP society is easier. These welfare schemes that are allotted at the community level and individual level.¹⁰ The process of identifying the beneficiaries and the practical problems involved in flow of funds. Therefore this study traces the practical problems and finds a solution to overcome. For the present study, the *Malayalis* of Jamunamarathur area was selected and this study also explains their settlements in Jamunamarathur. The Government schemes are implemented in two major divisions one is individual level and other one is communities level.

Tribal Sub-Plan and Financial Assistance

The Allocation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) funds at the Block level through proposals. The Block Development officers write the proposals with the financial estimate or budget based on the needs of the tribal people. The officer's in charge send the proposals to the District Collector. The Collector sends the proposals to the Tribal Welfare Department. The Tribal Welfare Department sends the financial estimate or budget to the concerned departments at the State level. After this process the funds are released first to the Collectorate of the district from the Tribal Welfare Department, and the Collectorate sends the money directly to the concerned departments at the block level. The allocated money is released through the Large Scale Multi-Purpose Society (LAMP) societies.

Schemes Implemented at the Individual/Household Level (SIHL):

The schemes that are implemented at the individual/household level are MASUD, DHU, SC and HC

1. **Milch Animal and Sheep Unit Distribution (MASUD):** The *milch* animals and sheep units are distributed through LAMP society to the beneficiaries on a 50% subsidy basis.
2. **Distribution of Honeybee Units (DHU):** The Jamunamarathur Bee Keepers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society was started in the year 1960. The Honeybee units are distributed through Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries under Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) scheme from the year 1960.
3. **Sericulture:** The Sericulture department is in charge for distributing the mulberry sticks/cuttings through LAMP society. The LAMP society members are in charge of selecting the beneficiaries. Every year hundreds of beneficiaries are *given* mulberry saplings. All the beneficiaries are given training to rear the silkworms and how to grow the mulberry sticks.
4. **Horticulture:** The plants and agricultural implements are distributed to the *Malayalis* through Horticulture department where the LAMP society officials are in charge of selecting the beneficiaries.

Schemes Implemented at the Community Level (SICL):

The Various Schemes implemented at the community level/area oriented schemes are Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY), Reconstruction of Collapsed Group Houses (RCGH), Repairing of Group Houses (RGH), Kutcha Houses (KH), Credit-cum-Subsidy-Scheme (CSS), Reinforced Concrete Rural Sanitary Provision (R.C.R.S.P), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA), Training for Rural Youth Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), *Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozhghar Yojana (SGSY) (Ponvella Gram Savai Sang, Namakku Name Thittam (Self Help scheme), Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AMT) (Anna rejuvenation scheme), Jawahar velaivaippu thittam (JVVT) (Jawahar Employment opportunity scheme), State Finance Scheme (SFS).* The Government schemes are implemented in community level is given below in detail.

These schemes were implemented the tribal society by a Rural Development Agency (RDA). A survey was conducted to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL)¹¹ in all habitations including Jamunamarathur in the Jawadhu Hills Block during the year 2015 by Rural Development Agency. The survey clearly reveals the fact

that 8,218 people have identified as below the poverty line. Therefore measures have been taken to improve the social and economic background.

1. Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY) Indira Housing Scheme otherwise known as *Indira nenivu kudigal*¹² and other Housing Schemes are implemented to construct their houses. Individual houses are constructed. They have given monetary assistance at free of cost to the beneficiaries. By this scheme yearly 110 houses were constructed in Jamunamarathur and all eleven panchayats in the Jawadhu Hills Block and have been covered by these schemes. So for 1916 group houses were constructed spending an amount of Rs.477.51 lakhs.

2. Reconstruction of Collapsed Group Houses (RCGH) The collapsed group houses have been identified and re-constructed under this scheme. Thirty-three collapsed group houses have been re-constructed spending an amount of Rs.9.57 lakhs. In addition to that nearly 240 old tiled group houses have been reconstructed at an estimated cost of Rs.81.60 lakhs. By this scheme twenty habitations get this benefit.

3. Repairing of Group Houses (RGH): Under this scheme forty-two old group houses have been repaired spending an amount of Rs.2.36 lakhs, covering three habitations.

4. Kutcha Houses (KH): Further, Under this scheme 540 old tiled group houses had to be repaired at a cost of Rs.10,000 each.

5. Credit-cum-Subsidy-Scheme (CSS): Under this scheme Government subsidy of Rs.10,000 is given to the beneficiary and a loan from the nearby bank up to Rs.40,000 is given to construct a house. The income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs.32,000/ annum. Four such houses were constructed in this Jawadhu hill block during 1999-2000.

6. Reinforced Concrete Rural Sanitary Provision (R.C.R.S.P): A public toilet scheme is given to the tribal beneficiary. Under this scheme two hundred and eighty seven individual latrines (rest rooms) have been provided to the hill families. The public are now aware of the scheme and also use the toilet properly.

7. Training for Rural Youth Self-Employment (TRYSEM): This scheme has been implemented from 2016-17. By this scheme several tribes have been trained. The maximum students in hill area are benefitted by this scheme. Approximately 1,500 women are trained. Particularly from Jamunamarathur 50 women beneficiaries are trained in palm leaf production. This training facilitates women to take up various trades and 54 Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) Groups.

8. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDPP): This scheme is implemented in this block for the past four years. PVC pipes, foot valves are supplied to the forest tribal cultivators with subsidized solar lights, kerosene stove also issued under subsidized rate. So far 12,000 persons have been benefitted under this scheme.¹³

In addition to that during 2016-17 with free of cost seven smokeless Kiln (*chulas*) had provided in 20 habitations. During 2016-17 it has been sanctioned to provide 1,000 mud smokeless *Chulas* for free of cost.

A sum of Rs.95.06 lakhs subsidy and Rs.95.06 lakhs as loan has been spent to raise the economic level of hill area people who were below the poverty line. From the year 1999 this scheme has been amalgamated with *Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozhghar Yojana* (SGSY).¹⁴

9. Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozhghar Yojana (SGSY) (Ponvella Gram Savai Sang): This SGSY scheme implemented from the year 1999 in Jawadhu Hills Block. The objective of this scheme is to bring all tribal families above the poverty line within three years.¹⁵ They have providing with income generating asset through a bank credit and Government subsidy. Initially the group had to register under Societies act. The Bank initially provides Rs.25,000. If the bank authorities are satisfied with the repayment of the loan, the bank releases the second installment of Rs.25,000 to the beneficiaries to develop the business. Indian Bank has financed two DWACRA groups initially. The Government of India has launched this scheme in the year 2016, by merging the following schemes like: 1. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDPP); 2) Training for Rural Youth Self-Employment (TRYSEM); 3. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA); 4) Self Employment training for Rural Area (SETRA); 5) Yojana (GKY); and MWS.

10. Namakku Name Thittam (Self Help scheme): This scheme is being implemented in this block with 75% Government contribution 25% as public contribution. The objective of the scheme is to involve the people

themselves by providing the employment on daily wages. Each person who works on daily wages is paid Rs.651- per day.

11. Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AMT) (Anna rejuvenation scheme): The aim and objective of the scheme is to provide and develop the tribal basic amenities like drinking water, street lights, street cement roads and black top roads to the tribes. Under this scheme nearly 2,000 families have been provided with minimum basic amenities have been provided.

12. Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam (JVVT) (Jawahar Employment Opportunity Scheme): This scheme is implemented in Jawadhu Hills Block through panchayat agency from 2016-17. This (JVVT) scheme is implemented by the Rural Development Department with the assistance of Government of India. As per the scheme, the financial assistance between Centre and the State is at the ratio of 80:20. Under this scheme the tribes are providing Housing and other schemes for assured. Group houses are being constructed and given to them at free of cost.

13. State Finance Scheme (SFS): This scheme is implemented in Jawadhu Hills Block. The aim and objective of the scheme is to provide and develop the tribal basic amenities like laying roads, drainage, pipeline extension, and streetlights. The Government releases the funds in four quarters for a year. At the community level *Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam* (JVVT) benefits the villagers by recruiting them on daily wage basis for various works like laying of cement roads, building construction etc.,. Under *Namakku Name Thittam* (NNT) for the maintenance of Panchayat union office, the Government has sanctioned Rs.30,000 and public has contributed Rs.7,500 during 1998-99. In the same year, the honey processing center at Jamunamarathur and Bee Hive Co-operative Society (BHCS) and distillation plants for extraction of essential oil were established. Two group-houses were constructed in the year 2016-2017 under the *India Pradhama Grama Veedugal Thittam* (IPGVT) (Indian Prime Minister's Housing Scheme).

CONCLUSION

Therefore from the above mentioned facts reveals that the *Malayalis* of Jamunamarathur main occupations are cattle rearing, agriculture and honey collecting. In general the tribes are living as a community. Most of the tribal families are much below the poverty line and they are struggling for their basic needs such as food, shelter, education and medical facilities. Therefore Government is working for the development of the tribal population and the main objectives of the Government schemes implemented under Tribal Welfare Department are to provide (i) Education, (ii) Economic Development and (iii) Housing and provision of infrastructural facilities. The elementary, middle and high schools are maintained by the Forest Department. Mid-day meals center is located this village. The allocated money is released through the Large Scale Multi-Purpose Society (LAMP) societies. The basic amenities/infrastructural facilities, and Government programmes implemented both at the individual level and community level. Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY), Reconstruction of Collapsed Group Houses (RCGH), Repairing of Group Houses (RGH), Kutcha Houses (KH), Credit-cum-Subsidy-Scheme (CSS), Reinforced Concrete Rural Sanitary Provision (R.C.R.S.P), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA), Training for Rural Youth Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), *Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozhghar Yojana* (SGSY) (*Ponvella Gram Savai Sang*, *Namakku Name Thittam* (Self Help scheme), *Anna Marumalarchi Thittam* (AMT) (Anna rejuvenation scheme), *Jawahar velaivaippu thittam* (JVVT) (Jawahar Employment opportunity scheme), State Finance Scheme (SFS) are some of the schemes of the Government.

Infine Indian tribes have an age old culture with hidden encrustation or crudeness. This study has attempted to focus light of the Government welfare measure of the malayali tribes with particular reference to the Jamunamarathur, Jawadhu hill block. The Governmental schemes and welfare measures working for the welfare of the *malayali* tribes are note-worthy. In spite of the measures taken by these schemes and welfare measures of Government, now these tribes are making strives to come away from their old form of life and to keep place with the modern society. However the present condition, the position, the environment, the social status, the education standard remain slowly developed.

“Education for all” and ‘equal opportunities in education’ are the policies of the Government. Now, the importance of education is not being neglected. So it is necessary to establish an awareness to get “Education Committee” which must be provided with all rights to decide about educational activities provided to the Malayali tribes of Jamunamarathur.

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