



An Analytical Study of Tribe Society and Development

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Abstract

A tribe is a group of people, usually staying in jungle areas, in a small locality, absolutely illiterate poor, hardly clad in clothes, usually dark and frail, fully living within their own community whose marriage always takes place among themselves, engaged in hunting and searching for roots, shoots and fruits as their veg food and roasted animals as non- veg food, completely oblivious of the country's political and economic condition, resisting all efforts of development and have a strong dislike for strangers and educated modern community. The number of such tribal community is very large e.g. Santhals, Kora people, Kol, etc. Most of whom fall under scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other backward classes. Most of the projects and efforts for uplifting their health, education and economic condition have failed both for their own unwillingness for change and absolute non cooperation as well as lethargy, dishonesty and corruption of the intermediaries. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for looking after the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes who are among the most backward sections of the Indian Society. The schemes and programmes of the Ministry are implemented with the help of the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Non-governmental Organisations and institutions of the Local-self Government. All the schemes/programmes are focused on three crucial aspects of integrated development of Tribal population namely: infrastructure, community and personality development. There are ten central sector schemes, five centrally sponsored schemes and two special area programmes. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) is a special area programme The objective of extending scope of SCA to TSP is to boost the demand-based income-generation programmes and raise the economic and social status of tribals.

Keywords - NSTFDC, NCST. Direct Benefit Transfer.

Introduction -

According to Oxford Dictionary "A tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarious stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor.

D.N Majumdar defines "Tribe as a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous with no specialization of functions ruled by tribal officers hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes." According to Ralph Linton "Tribe is a group of bands occupying a contiguous territory or territories and having a feeling of unity deriving from numerous similarities in a culture, frequent contacts and a certain community of interests."

The chief characteristics of a tribe are the following -

Common definite territory, common dialect, common name, common religion and common culture. They have strong sense of unity and any stranger is attacked with bows and arrows. All tribe members are related by blood, have their own political organization which has a chief who exercises authority overall the members, even recommending marriage of young boys with girls whom they have found suitable for marriage. Each tribe is guided by their own religion which is based on totemism, magic and fetishism i.e. believing in god being embedded in a special piece of stone, a special tree or a peculiar strange animal. A tribe is an endogamous group, as distinct from a clan who is exogamous, have common name and is engaged in worshipping strange objects, hunting of small animals, and resists entry of any the State and Central Government to bring tribes into confidence, educate them, clad them, take health care and arrange for their living by developing skill.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for looking after the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes by giving focused attention to the special needs and problems of Scheduled Tribes in the country who are among the most backward sections of the Indian Society. The basic objective of policies, programmes is to bring the target groups into the mainstream of development by making them self-reliant. In achieving this objective, the Ministry performs



the task of implementation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, which not only deal with the development and welfare of the Scheduled Tribes, but also give a concept of justice to include social and distributive aspects. The key mandate of this Ministry thus includes the social security, legislative measures, promotion of voluntary efforts on tribal welfare, monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of various initiatives and formulations of effective policy measures. According to the 2011 Census of India. Bhil is the most populous tribe with a total population of 4.618.068 constituting 37.7 percent of the total ST population. Gonds are the second largest tribe, with a population of 4.357.918 constituting 35.6 per cent. The next four population tribes are: Kol. Korku. Sahariya and Baiga. These six tribes constitute 92.2 percent of the total ST population of the S'ie Pardhan. Saurand Bharia Bhumia have a population range from 105.692 to 152.472; together, they form 3.2 percent of state population. Four tribes, namely, Majhi. Khairwar, Mawasi and Panika have populations in the range of 47,806 to 81,335. and account for another 2.2 percent of the ST population. The remaining thirty three tribes (out of the total of 46 tribes) along with the generic tribes constitute the residual 2.5 per cent of total ST population. Tribes having below 1000 population are twelve in number.

Data-Mai n focus of data collection (Secondary data) Classification of Tribes-

A. On the Basis of Geographical Location: Territorially, tribes in India are divided into three main zones, namely

- (1) North-North-Eastern Zone.
- (2) Central Zone
- (3) Southern Zone.

1. North-North-Eastern Zone-

Eastern Kashmir. Eastern Punjab. Himachal Pradesh. Northern Uttar Pradesh. Nagaland, Assam etc. constitute this zone. The Aka. The Misluni. The Chulikata and The Naga are some of the tribes of this zone.

2. Central Zone -

Bihar, Bengal. Southern U.P. Southern Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh and Orissa come under this zone. The Kondh. the Santhal. the Bhil.

the Gond, the Muria and the Baiga are only a few of the large number of tribes of this zone. The bulk of the tribal population lives in this zone. There is a very high concentration of tribal population in central India. Over 85 per cent of the total tribal population inhabits the eight States that constitute this zone.

3. Southern Zone -

The Southern zone is consisted of four Southern States-Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The Toda, the Chenchu, the Kadar and the Koraga are some of the important tribes of this zone. Besides these main zones, there is another isolated zone constituting the Andaman and Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal.

B. On the Basis of Language -

There are three tribal linguistic groups closely corresponding to three main territorial zones. The tribes of this zone speak languages and dialects belonging to three speech families. These are: (1) The Sino-Tibetan, (2) The Austric The Dravidian.

1. The Sino-Tibetan -

Almost all of the North-North- Eastern Zone speak languages and dialects which belong to Sino- Tibetan speech family. The Khasis of the Assam are, however, an exception. They speak a language which belong to the Austric speech family

2. Austric Linguistic Group -

Most of the languages and dialects spoken by the tribals of Central zone belong to the Austric speech family. Some important tribes of this region like the Kondh and Gond speak languages belonging to the Dravidian speech family.

3. The Dravidian Linguistic Group -

The tribal population of the Southern zone speak Dravidian languages like Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam in one form or other.



(C) On the Basis of Race -

Tribes of India are broadly classified into three racial groups. Namely (1) The Mongoloid. (2) The Proto-Australoid. 3) The Negrito.

1. The Mongoloid - The North-North-Eastern tribes living in the Himalayan regions belong to the Mongoloid race.

2. The Australoid -The tribes of central India are mainly Proto-Australoid in their racial ancestry.

3. The Negrito - A few tribes like the Kadar of the south and the Andamanese of the Andaman Island belong to this race.

Problems of tribal communities -

Land Alienation - The history of land alienation among the tribes began during British colonialism in India when the British interfered in the tribal region for the purpose of exploiting the tribal natural resources. Coupled with this tribal lands were occupied by money lenders, zamindars and traders by advancing them loans etc. The Government started reserving teak, Sal and deodar forests for the manufacture of railway sleepers. Forest land and its resources provide the best means of livelihood for the tribal people and many tribes including the women engage in agriculture, food gathering and hunting they are heavily dependent on the products of the forest.

Poverty and Indebtedness - Majority tribes live under poverty line. The tribes follow many simple occupations based on simple technology. Most of the occupation falls into the primary occupations such as hunting, gathering, and agriculture. The technology they use for these purposes belong to the most primitive kind. There is no profit and surplus making in such economy. Hence their per capita income is very meagre much lesser than the Indian average. Most of them live under abject poverty and are in debt in the hands of local moneylenders and Zamindars. In order to repay the debt they often mortgage or sell their land to the money lenders. Indebtedness is almost inevitable since heavy interest is to be paid to these money lenders.

Health and Nutrition -

In many parts of India tribal population suffers from chronic infections and diseases out of which water borne diseases are life threatening. They also suffer from deficiency diseases.

Education -

Educationally the tribal population is at different levels of development but overall the formal education has made very little impact on tribal groups. Most of the tribes are located in interior and remote areas where teachers would not like to go from outside.

Cultural Problems -

Due to contact with other cultures, the tribal culture is undergoing a revolutionary change. Due to influence of Christian missionaries the problem of bilingualism has developed which led to indifference towards tribal language. The tribal people are imitating western culture in different aspects of their social life and leaving their own culture. It has led to degeneration of tribal life and tribal arts such as dance, music and different types of craft.

Programmes & Schemes by the Government Development of Tribal Society-

(A) Centre Sector Scheme -

- i) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary organisations for the Welfare of STs (including Coaching and Allied Scheme and Award for Exemplary Service).
- ii) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.
- iii) Strengthening of education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts
- iv) Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs).
- v) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for ST students
- vi) Support to TRIFED: "Market Development of Tribal Products/ Produce"
- vii) Grants-in-aid to STDCCs for Minor Forest Produce operations
- viii) Support to National/State ST Finance & Development Corporations
- ix) Top class Education for ST students
- x) Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for S.T. students.



(B) Centrally Sponsored Schemes -

- xi) Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship. Book Bank and Up gradation of Merit of ST students
- xii) Pre-matric scholarship for ST students
- xiii) Girls & Boys Hostels for STs
- xiv) Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan areas
- xv) Research. Information & Mass Education. Tribal Festivals and others.

(C) Special Area Programmes -

- xvi) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan including Development of Forest Villages.
- xvii) Grants under first provision to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India.

Financial Analysis Table : (see below)

Analysis -

Ministry of Tribal Affairs was provided an allocation of Rs. 4090.00 crore (Plan) and Rs. 18.00 crores (Non Plan) during the year 2012-13. And Plan & Non-plan allocation for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and expenditure incurred during the last five years is given in the above table.

Direct Benefit Transfer -

As per the decision taken in the Government of India and further directions of this Ministry, the State Governments have started disbursing the scholarship relating to Post Matric Scheme directly into the bank accounts of the students in 34 identified districts w.e.f 1 st January. Direct Benefit Transfers have also been undertaken in the schemes of Top Class Education for ST students and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme by the implementing agencies in identified districts.

Result and Conclusion -

The Corporation has also been generating awareness through All India Radio and Doordarshan. The following three bodies are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs:-

- i) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)
- ii) National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)
- iii) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) The study shows that the several programmes have been introduced to improve the economic conditions of the tribal population in India.

The study found that tribal development schemes have not brought any perceptible changes in the life of majority of the tribal people. As per the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Report (2008).It is also essential to spend more proportion of funds on the individual beneficiary schemes. At the same time necessary action should be taken to curb themass level corruption in the implementation of the tribal.

The fundamental tribal governmental rights that has always been recognized in federal law has been the right to exclude outsiders from the tribe's territory. Implicit in the power of removal is the power to determine the conditions in which outsiders will be allowed to enter the reservation and remain. The removal power must beexercised according to an ordinance that accords due process of law to those affected and that spells out the conditions in which non-members are allowed on the reservation.

Most tribes haw power to regulate research on the reservation, especially research involving the Indian people themselves. Tribes must address various underlying policy considerations in deciding how to exercise this power.

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