



APPRAISAL OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA- A CASE STUDY

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It is important to know the status of the Tribal population in India; its characteristics and distribution of the same in various part of India. But it is not easy to define a tribe, in general, the tribal are expected to possess some unique characteristics. In present era still lot to do for Tribal Population to bring them in main flow of overall development. Government of India continuously focused to upliftment of Economical, Social and Cultural values. Government has made policies to ensure the Tribal development. Before construct the solid structure of development it is important to study the characteristics of the Tribal population. Over all the characteristics of all tribal communities are different from each other. Therefore Government made policies for micro level to ensure the 100% success rate of implementation of policies. The Government of India has specified 427 communities and has included them in the Schedule Tribes and are entitled to Special protection and privileges under the constitution of India. According to census 2011 it shares 8.6% of the total population of India; which was 10.45 crore.

It is not easy to define a tribe, in general, the tribal are expected to posses some if not all the following characteristics:

1. Their roots in the soil date back to a very early period.
2. They live in relative isolation of the hills and forests
3. Their sense of history is shallow in the sense that after some generations, the remembered history tends to shade off into mythology.
4. They have a low level of techno-economic development
5. In terms of their cultural ethos (language, institution, beliefs and customs) they stand out from the other sections of the society and
6. Even if they are not egalitarian, they are at least non hierarchic and undifferentiated.

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Taking into account these characteristics, the Government of India has specified 427 communities and has included them in the Schedule Tribes and are entitled to Special protection and privileges under the constitution of India.

According to census of 1981 of the total population of India 5 crore were under this category which was about 7% population of the total, while in 1991 the number was 6 crore and in the census 2001 it reached top to seven crore about 8% and in 2011 it shares 8.6% of the total population of India; which was 10.45 crore.

Major Problems of Tribal's in India:

Maximum tribal populations of India are inhabiting in dense and inaccessible hilly, dense forested, rolling upheavals, dry and marshy lands. The reason for selecting these areas as their dwellings is that they feel themselves secured and safe here. These tribal's live in close association with nature which fulfills their limited requirements. They remain secluded from the society with a fear of losing their identity and hence they are out of mainstream development.

Though the Government by various legal and organizational arrangements has provided to improvise the economic as well as social conditions of these poor and simple men.

Majumdar and Mdan mention the important traits of economy in India-

1. There is an absence of technological aids in tribal economy which results in inefficient in adequate of even wasteful exploitation of nature and as economic surplus is a rare phenomenon.
 2. The economic relations among the tribals themselves are based mostly on barter system
 3. The profit motive in economic dealing is generally absent. The role of an incentive is fulfilled by a sense of mutual obligation sharing and solidarity
- (iv) The rate of innovations, internal or induced is very low and consequently they are static in terms any progress
- (v) Regular market as an institution is absent
- (vi) Manufacture of consumer rather than capital goods is common
- (vii) Specialization based on specially acquired specific technical abilities is absent and
- (ix) The notion of property is closely related to display and expenditure of wealth rather than to its accumulation.

All these economic factors have combined with many social and cultural factors in keeping the levels of living of the tribal poor very low. As a outcome of these incomes are low, social status is very inferior, level of education is low, housing and sanitary conditions are bad, so health and hygiene is very poor.

The basic problem of the tribal people is of poverty. The problems of low standard of living, hunger, starvation, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, poor sanitary and housing facilities etc. are all common to the tribal's and waste majority of non-tribal population too. The difference is only of degree. Then why it is necessary to formulate special plans for tribal development? Because the tribal's in addition to the above problems are facing some other problems. They have subjected to exploitation for centuries together by non-tribal because they do not generally move

out of their surroundings environment in search of employment opportunities. This is due to lack of awareness of such opportunities, isolation and the fear that outsiders will exploit them even more. Due to isolation they are ignorant of modern institutions, scientific and technological developments and changing environment has contributed to their ignorance, illiteracy primitive way of life and poor resource base economy i.e. in the form of either gather or doing most primitive cultivation in the form of zooming or shifting or sedentary cultivation.

Government Programs for the Development of Tribal:

Keeping all these considerations in view, the Govt. of India initiated special schemes for the development of tribal areas in different fields such as agriculture, co-operation, communications, health, housing etc. To carry out these programs tribal development blocks were established and each block was intended to cover about 25000 persons. The second plan advocated the establishment of 40 multi-purpose pilot projects for intensive and coordinated development in tribal areas. The task of these pilot projects was to cover all aspects of tribal life at the same time, such as encouragement of settled forms of agriculture in place of shifting cultivation, improvement of agriculture, provision of medical and public health services, improvement of communications, organization of cooperative and the establishment of community welfare centers. Madhyapradesh having the largest tribal population (154.00 lakh 23.2% of the total state population) has the maximum number of tribal development blocks. In fact 25% of blocks are located in the State alone.

Tribal Development Blocks : State Wise Distribution

State / Union Territory	No. of Tribal development blocks
1] Andhra Pradesh	28
2] Assam	26
3] Bihar	63
4] Gujarat	53
5] Himachal Pradesh.	07
6] Kerala	01
7] Madhya Pradesh	126
8] Maharashtra	44
9] Manipur	08
10] Meghalaya	24
11] Nagaland	15
12] Orrisa	75
13] Rajasthan	13
14] Tamilnadu	02
15] Tripura	05
16] Union Territory Dadar and Nagar Haveli	02
Total	492

Various programmes have been initiated by the Central and State Govt. they are –

Centrally Sponsored Programs:

Like Post Metric Scholarship, Girls Hostels, Pre-examination Training, Tribal development blocks, cooperation, research training, improvement of living conditions of those engaged in unclean occupations, coaching cum guidance centers and grants to all India non-official organizations doing welfare work among tribal.

Programs in the State Sector:

Like Pre-metric Scholarship and stipends, exemption from tuition and examination fees, provision for educational equipments, provision of midday meal, setting up of Ashram School, Grants for the construction and maintenance of hostel and school buildings, provision of land and irrigation, supply of bullocks, seeds, man wear, development of cottage industries, development of communications, cooperation, colonization of shifting cultivators, supply of poultry, sheep, pigs, goats etc, medical facilities, drinking water supply schemes, provision of house, legal aid and grant in aid to non-official organizations.

An Appraisal of Development Efforts of the Government:

No one can ignore the genuine desire of the government to uplift the tribal people. Thus the educational policies of the Govt., provision of reservation in jobs, policies in the fields of agriculture, cooperation, communication, industrialization, social service etc. have brought the tribal closer to the main stream of National life. Tribal markets have been linked with urban market and there is a definite shift in the consumption pattern of tribal. Yet the efforts so far have not helped in solving the problems of poverty, malnutrition and exploitation faced by the tribal.

In the field of education and employment the percentage of literacy among the S.T. population was 11.29 in 1971 census and tribal women literacy was only 4.85% literacy rate was particularly low in M.P. and A.P. and Rajasthan while nearly three fourth of the total scholarships had been awarded to S.T. students of Assam and Bihar, though the tribal population of these states constituted only one fifth of the S.T. population of the country. Even within states the distribution of scholarship was highly skewed in favour of some tribes, eg. In M.S. students belonging to the tribes of Halbas and Gonds who constituted nearly 0.22% and 11.30% of S.T. population received 32.49% of post metric scholarship. Thus it seems that some advanced S.T. population have gained educational benefits. Thus the A.M.U. does not follow the policy of central govt. regarding reservation of seats for S.T. students. In the service sector it has been found that in some public sector undertakings, labour unions are opposed to the policy of reservation.

The tribal development blocks failed in their task on account of reasons that made the community development blocks a failure. The benefits failed to reach the lower strata of the society and got concentrated in the hands of the upper class of the tribal community. The most important criticism is that the whole programs has been carried without the participation of the tribal people. This is not unexpected in a framework where formulation aspects of planning have no connection whatsoever to the implementation of planning. Local politicians, administrators acted as

gatekeepers taking the maximum benefit from the development programs and deprive the tribal people of their share.

Industrialization has created at least two complex problems. Firstly establishment of large scale industrial projects in tribal areas has caused a large scale displacement of the tribal and secondly the tribal population is assuming more and more a migratory character and the tribal life is getting disintegrated. Such deprivation from land pushed the tribal into a state of insecurity. Though compensation was paid it was not sufficient and they were forced to seek employment in the industrial projects where also they faced a lot of problems like they had to face the competition from these non – tribal counterparts and tribal population forced to migrate here and there in search of employment opportunities. As a result of these movements the tribal villages have become dry and drab which further increases the outflow. In the industrial township the tribal are forced to live in slum areas and to a life that is heterogeneous in culture.

Conclusion:

It is generally stated that tribal development plans have brought the tribal nearer to the non-tribal and helped in the integration of tribal economy with national economy. But the reality is that it can create serious problems. They are integrated with other people as peons unskilled or bonded labour obviously there cause distrust and unrest in the minds of tribals making them hostile. This can prove destructive if corrective steps are not taken in time as we find today in the form of Naxalite and Maoist, Gurjar movements.

It is difficult to find willing workers in tribal areas and the staff that is posted in these areas tries to get itself transferred from these places as early as possible.

As pointed out by various committees the funds allocated for tribal development are so insufficient to fulfill the task assigned to them. The tribal development efforts have not so far succeeded in making the tribals fully conscious of their rights on the one hand and have failed in bringing dedicated tribals in the forefront on the other.

So we can conclude this section in the words of commissioner on the condition of schedule tribes in India that ‘ with the enforcement of forest laws without much consideration to the human life in forest areas, land restrictions of their lands, the indifference shown towards the human problem of the tribal communities by the planners of industrial project in the tribal areas, their dependence on and exploitation by the money Landers have greatly disturbed their lives. No doubt since independence efforts have been made to improve their economic and social conditions and steps have been taken by the Govt. for their development it is however unfortunate that inspite of their protection and safeguard provisions most of the tribals have not only remained neglected but exploited lot also.

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