



## Role on tribal development policies in India

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### Abstract

Tribal people group in India has been managing various issues in their day to day undertakings and battling for the fundamental necessities of day today life which is effectively gotten to by others. Tribal's improvement has continuously involved extraordinary worry for the public authority of both association and states. The government professes to have put forth constant attempt to overcome any barrier towards the method of improvement and supportable development of tribal's local area in general. Various arrangements furthermore, programs have been formed since freedom to address the tribal's issues. However it appears to be not to be sufficient to elevate tribal's, who are living under the shadow of underdevelopment since many years. The policy seeks to bring Scheduled Tribes into the mainstream of society through a multi- pronged approach for their all-round development without disturbing their distinct culture.

**Keywords:** development, scheduled tribes, schemes, policies, tribal community

### Introduction

Indian has a large number of tribal populations as compared to any other nation states of the world. In spite of being considered as the first inhabitant of the nation tribal are deprived of their basis requirements in their day-to-day life. They are not only socially, economically and educationally backward but also face discrimination at a large scale. They have been exploited in various forms, from land alienation to the force displacement from their dwelling place in the name of development. Tribal life has always been tied with the nature or forest and their culture, custom and tradition, and their livelihood has a close connection with the forest. But very often the act government seems to be eliminating them from the access to the forest which is like a fish without water as the tribal identity lies with water forest and land (Jal, Jangal and Jamin). Although the Forest Rights Act 2006 gave the provision for certain rights to the tribal with regard to access the forest and its product. But the provision seems to be more in pen and paper only and a big gap has been observed in the part of implementation. Even after 72 years of independence the condition of tribal community is not up to the mark as the country is growing in a rapid growth. Constitutional safeguards were written into law to protect scheduled tribes' rights to education, culture (including the right to speak a native language), government services, participation in the political process, employment, and protection from human trafficking.

### Scheduled tribes in India

Tribal population in India is around 8.2 per cent of the total population living in the country. Majority of the tribal population live in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. These states account for about 80 per cent of the total tribal population in the country. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tribal population with 14.7 per cent of the total tribal population in India. Similarly Maharashtra and Odisha stand in second and third position in contributing to the total tribal population. Lakshadweep has a highest number of tribal population with 94.8 per cent to the total population of

the union territory followed by the state of Mizoram and Nagaland with 94.4 and 86.5 percent respectively. Similarly Uttar Pradesh has a least number of scheduled tribes with 0.56 percent of its total population followed by Tamilnadu and Bihar with 1.1 and 1.28 per cent respectively. The ministry of tribal affairs states that there are 705 tribal groups notified by the government of India. Odisha is a state where there is maximum number of tribal communities with 62 than any other state of the country. Within 705 tribal groups 75 groups has been kept under the category of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) living in various parts of the country.

The constitution creators knew about the way that the ancestral local area in India need unique arrangement in the constitution to lay out civil rights and strengthening. Keeping this in view a few unique arrangements were made in the constitution for in general turn of events furthermore, to interface the ancestral local area to the standard society. The term Planned Clans first showed up in the constitution of India and characterize Planned Clans under Workmanship. 366 (25) as "such clans or ancestral networks or portions of or bunches inside such clans or ancestral networks as are considered under Article 342 to be Booked Clans for the reasons for this constitution". The Leader of India has the protected ability to determine or announce ancestral networks or gatherings to be planned for connection to any state or association region later counseling the legislative leader of the worry locale under Article 342. Further Article 244 and 244 (a) accommodate Fifth and 6th Timetable individually for the unique organization of the tribals. The Panchayats (Augmentation to the Planned Regions) Act, 1996 (PESA) in the Fifth Plan Regions was acquainted with secure neighborhood self administration by the ancestral individuals. The constitution additionally accommodates no disallowance of separation on grounds of religion, race, position, sex or spot of birth, Equity of chance in issues of public business, Assurance of specific privileges with respect to the right to speak freely of discourse, and so on, Advancement of Instructive and Monetary interests of Planned Positions, Booked Clans and other more fragile segments, Cases of Planned Positions and

Booked Clans to administrations and posts. Additionally Article 330 and 332 accommodates Reservation of seats for Planned Positions and Booked Clans in the Place of Individuals and in the Authoritative Gatherings of the States separately. Reservation in the seats of Panchayat is additionally given under Article 243 D. The Public Commission for Planned Clans (NCST) was set up under article 338 A to take care of the issues connected with Planned Clans.

### **Tribal development in pre-independence era**

India had been ruled by the Britishers for almost 200 years. During the colonial period different policies had been formulated and implemented by the Britishers according to the requirement, more or less in the interest of the colonial rule to have an administrative control over India, a country of socially, economically and culturally diverse land. Tribal community had been an integral part of the Indian society mainly dwelling in forest and hilly area, were living more isolated life from the mainstream society than present time. The British government formulated different policies in the form of acts that can be understood in three different approaches to the tribal development, such as- Isolationist approach, Assimilation approach and Integration approach. The history of forest policies in India points out that for the first time interest in forestry was noticed in 1806 by the reservation of teak forest in Malabar during the pre-British days. It was done to supply timber to England for the royal navy and other needs during the war with Napoleon. The Indian Forest Act of 1865 and later on the act of 1878 were formulated to check the deforestation and other forest affairs to have monopoly rights of the state over forest. This affected the tribal's and also non tribal's as their rights over natural resources had been compromised and tribal had access to the forest only at the mercy of British rulers. It gave rise to revolts in tribal areas and the people didn't cooperate with the activities of the Forest Department. The then British government realised the difficulties in administration of wide spread tribal areas of the country. So they also adopted the isolation or segregation approach for the effective administrative control over tribal areas and also to protect and preserve tribal life and culture against the aggregation and exploitation of the advanced communities of the outside world. In order to bring tribal's under special administrative control the then British government brought some specific provisions by formulating the Scheduled district act of 1875 which excluded the tribal areas from the common laws that prevailed in the country.

### **Tribal development in post-independence era**

Soon after the independence the Indian government focused on the overall development of the country including various sectors like industries, major dams, mining and various other developmental projects to boost the economy through five year plans. Apart from this the government was also much concerned about the affairs related to tribal's and accordingly formulated different policies and programmes for the development of the tribal community as a whole. The constitution makers felt the need of special treatment for the scheduled tribes and accordingly framed the constitution, so that a developmental framework can be framed for the downtrodden people of India. A tribal ministry known as 'Ministry of Tribal Affairs' was set up in 1999 to look after all the affairs related to Scheduled Tribes in India. The government took various steps for tribal development, from

making of special provision of Scheduled Areas to formation of various constitutional bodies like National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). NCST is a constitutional body formed to look after the various problems faced by the tribal community and to hear their grievances. Earlier there was a single commission for ST and SC under Article 338, it was only in the year 2004 when NCST was separated from NCSC by 89th amendment act 2003, inserting a new article 388A in the constitution of India.

### **Role on tribal development policies and programmes special central assistance to tribal sub-scheme (SCA to TSS)**

Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) is 100% grant from Government of India since 1977-78. It is charged to Consolidated Fund of India (except grants for North Eastern States, a voted item) and is an additive to State Plan funds and efforts for Tribal Development through schemes on education infrastructure and livelihood etc. to address critical gaps. Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) [now called as Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) at central level] is a dedicated source of funding tribal development throughout the country. The development of most infrastructures in tribal-dominated regions and the provision of basic services for tribal people throughout the country are carried out through various institutional programs of central ministries and related state governments. In this backdrop, the Scheme "Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Scheme (TSS), which is part of the Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Tribes, is directed towards providing grants to States/UTs as an additive to their own efforts for accelerating tribal development and strengthening institutional arrangements. This grant is used for economic growth of Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA), Clusters, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and dispersed tribal population. SCA to TSS covers 23 States viz- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

### **Grants-in-aid under article 275(1) of the constitution**

The constitution of India provides for 100% annual grants-in-aid under article Article 275(1) from union government to the states. The grants-in-aid amount is charged from Consolidated Fund of India (except grants for NE States, a voted item) and is an added substance to State Plan funds and endeavours for Tribal Development. Funds are used for the socio economic development of tribals, Clusters and PVTGs through ITDA, MADA and various other agencies. Grants-in-aid is given to 27 States of the country, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

### **Development of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs)**

There are certain tribal communities within the tribal population who are declining and are more backward with low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically weak. 75 such declining tribal communities have been identified in 18 states and 1 Union Territory by the government of India who are known as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The vast majority of these tribal communities have not accomplished adequate level of educational, economic advancement and have a low health index. Hence, there had been an urgent need of protection and improvement of PVTGs in the aspect of livelihood, health, nutrition, economy and education in order of diminish their vulnerability. Development scheme include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, livestock, link road construction, installation of non-traditional energy sources for lighting, social security purposes including Janashree Bima Yojana or others invention activity towards the comprehensive and general socio-economic development of PVTG. This scheme is applicable as it authorise states to focus on regions inhabited by PVTGs and to improve their socio-economic status. It is a 100% sponsored by the Union government. The funds are released to States/UT in one/two instalment(s) as per the annual program proposed for a specific financial year in the CCD Plan, subject to availability of funds with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

### **Institutional support for development & marketing of tribal products/produce**

The Government of India grants aids to the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), a multi-State Cooperative under tribal ministry of India. This initiative is carried out to provide production, product development, and preservation of traditional heritage, support of tribal forest products and agricultural products, and comprehensive support to people of various tribes across the region. Funds are utilised for enabling institutions for carrying out the above activities providing them better infrastructure, design development, dissemination of pricing information and purchasing of products, support of government agencies for sustainable marketing, thus ensuring a reasonable price system. The administration likewise ensures sharing of data with Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas Skill upgradation, improvement of utilitarian items to increase market value. The goal of the scheme is to give institutional support to scheduled tribes products, to help advertising and development of activities they depend on for their livelihood.

### **Strengthening education among scheduled tribe girls in low literacy districts**

The scheme targets to close the literacy gap between the general female population and tribal women by facilitating 100% enrolment of tribal girls in identified areas or blocks and especially in areas affected by naxal. The scheme focuses in areas inhabited by particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) to reduce school dropouts at the elementary level and to creating an environment for education. Increasing the literacy rate of tribal girls is essential to effectively participating and benefiting from socio-economic development. The scheme is implemented

by Voluntary Organizations (VOs)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and autonomous bodies of the State or Union Territory Administration. In addition to the annual mandatory inspection by District collectors / committees / authorities, simultaneous monitoring is also performed by the central government designated ministry and independent agencies. The Panchayati Raj agency is also involved in monitoring the scheme.

### **Centrally sponsored scheme of hostels for ST boys and ST girls**

The objective of the scheme is to provide hostels for the boys and girls belonging to scheduled tribes in different schools, colleges and universities under central, state or union territory administration. Article 16 of the Indian constitution provides for formulating special provisions for the socio-economic development of the deprived section of the society. Education is the primary concern of the government, needed to empower the weaker section and thus, hostel facilities needed to be strengthened to facilitate tribal student to obtain education. The scheme helps in eradication of low literacy rate and drop outs of tribal students. Grants are sanctioned by the central government to build hostels which is implemented by the states and union territories. Hostels are constructed in middle, secondary, college, university level, also vocational training centres are included in the scheme. Hostel for girls are funded 100% by the central government where as 50:50 funding formula between centre and state is used for boys. However, centre give full grant in naxal affected areas for the said purpose. The implementing agency give a quarterly report to the ministry of tribal affairs till the completion of the project.

### **National scholarship for higher education of st students**

The scheme was started from the academic year 2007-08 intending to encourage meritorious ST students to pursue courses at Graduate/Post Graduate level in identified Government and Private Institutions of excellence in professional fields such as Management, Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Law etc. Earlier the scheme was very well known as 'Top Class Scholarship'. There are 127 institutes identified under the scheme in both the Government and private sectors covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. There are 1000 number of slots for the scholarship given to scheduled tribes students every year. The applicant's parental income should not exceed 6 lakhs per annum from all sources. The scheme provides full tuition fee with maxim of 2.5 lakhs per annum with living expenses of 2200/- per month, 3000/- per annum for books and stationeries and 45,000/- one time grant for computer accessories.

### **National fellowship for higher education of st students**

The objective of the scheme is to encourage the ST students a section of society with the lowest literacy levels in the country, to acquire higher education in the form of fellowships to pursue M.Phil and Ph.D. Courses. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) scheme for Scheduled Tribes was introduced in the year 2005-06, now it has been renamed as National Fellowship for Higher Education of ST Students and is funded by the government of India through Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The scheme gives an opportunity to candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribe to obtain higher studies such as regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D

aspirants in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology. Total number 750 slots are awarded every year to Scheduled Tribe candidates for all the subjects. The maximum duration of a fellowship is 5 years. The scheme provides grants of 31,000/- per month for 3 years and 35,000/- per month for remaining 2 years.

### Conclusion

The biggest road block towards the sustainable development of tribal community is the lack of awareness of policies and programmes made for them which need to be strengthened and it can be only possible by enhancing literacy rate among tribals. The government data states that the literacy rate among tribals is 59 per cent according the census of 2011 <sup>[2]</sup>. But it is a harsh reality that a large section among these literate tribes is literate for name sake only. They left out their education in the early stage and they don't have much knowledge about the policies and programmes made for them and are unaware of their rights. The governmental policy should not only focus on tribal development but on sustainable development of tribes with their rich culture, customs, traditions and language, as tribal identity lies with their distinct culture and traditions which they have inherited from their ancestors. The tribal community is in urgent need of some specific policies in order to protect and preserve their culture and identity in this era of globalisation. There is no meaning of development at the cost of risking the real identity of scheduled tribes.

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