

A Review of Literature: Problems and Challenges in Implementing Government Welfare Schemes for Development of Tribal

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Tribal population of India constitutes a significant minority with unique cultural beliefs, traditions and identities. In order to assisting in socio-economic growth, the government of India has implemented various schemes and programs for Tribes. These initiatives aim to address basic needs such as sanitation, education, healthcare and housing facilities for the tribal population. **Methodology:** In this study secondary data source is used. This study is based on review of literature related with Tribal, problems faced by them and schemes of the government for welfare of Tribal. **Findings:** The government has implemented several programs to facilitate the socio-economic growth of tribes. These programs provide financial and other kinds of assistance aimed at helping Tribal for improving their living standard, as well as enhancing access to education and healthcare services. Despite numerous strategies implemented for tribal welfare, the goal of achieving comprehensive and equitable socio-economic development remains unmet. This failure can be attributed to several factors. **Implications:** Such programs are designed to provide Tribal with capacity building, technical assistance and financial aid to empower them to participate in activities for generating income, enhancing agricultural productivity, and improve access to education and healthcare. The government is committed to ensuring the successful implementation of these programs, thereby enabling Tribal to benefit from the outcomes of these efforts. **Originality:** This research work is an original work of author and in this research study all the references are duly cited.

Keywords: *Tribal, Welfare Schemes for Tribal, Problems of Tribal, Economic Development of Tribal, etc.*

INTRODUCTION:

Despite being a common term in academic discourse, the concept of "tribe" has yet to receive a universally agreed-upon definition, even after extensive study and research. This is not due to a lack of effort or curiosity, but rather because the world is incredibly diverse and constantly evolving, making it challenging to fit disparate human populations into a single mold. For instance, tribes often identify themselves with names that reflect their connection to their land and environment, claiming to be the original inhabitants or "initial human beings" of their territory. However, this self-assertion does not fully align with the constitutional approach to defining tribes, which emphasizes their socio-economic status relative to other demographic groups within the country. The Indian Constitution categorizes them as "Scheduled Tribes," a constitutional term used to identify specific communities that acquire membership by birth. This classification is intended to facilitate government support aimed at achieving parity with other communities in the country.

The Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana, launched in 2018, is a distinct program aimed at enhancing the Tribal livelihoods through the sustainable utilization of resources of forest. Under this initiative, SHGs

(Self Help Groups) comprising tribal gatherers are made and provided with tools and training necessary for the collection, processing, and marketing of products of forest such as medicinal plants, bamboo and honey, (*Tribal Affairs Ministry, 2021*), the program is being rolled out in numerous regions, providing tribal with a sustainable income source, (*Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation, 2021*). Another notable initiative undertaken by the Nagaland government is the Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP). This program is designed to address the developmental requirements of tribal by providing them with essential education, healthcare, infrastructure and other vital services, (*Mandal, P., 2017*). The program of (NSTC) has notably enhanced the mobility and accessibility of tribal in Nagaland, facilitating easier access to markets, healthcare facilities, and other essential services, (*Kanoongo, P. K. & Singh, S. K., 2016*).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Advanced communities benefit from easy access to sophisticated technology, healthcare, education, communication, and modern amenities, resulting in a high standard of living. In contrast, the Totos, a less known group of tribal from northern West Bengal, face significant challenges hindering their progress towards a better quality of life. The focus is on identifying the obstacles preventing the development of certain tribal communities in India, (*Kolig, E., Angeles, V. S., Wong, S., & (Eds.), 2009*).

The paper examines Dobashi courts in Mon district as areas where state structure and customary practices negotiate, exploring Angs' identity, (*Sharma, C. K. & Banerjee, R.*).

The paper addresses how the focus on GDP in mainstream development impacts tribal customs, avoiding the inclusive development of economy, specifically the Tharus' cultural shift, (*Shukla S., 2017*).

The authors explore birth and death rituals from various academic angles, revealing both traditional practices and emerging forms of ritualization, (*Hagjer, P., 2022*).

The paper addresses local publications in Arunachal Pradesh, discussing Monpa groups' affiliations, external connections, and their position in the Tibeto-Burman framework, (*Blench, R., 2014*).

The paper discusses socio-economic and cultural aspects of tribal women from Northeast states and their roles in societal well-being, (*Burman, J. J. Roy., 2012*).

The essay explores reasons for revisiting Adivasi Studies, delving into historical perspectives and dilemmas encountered in this field, (*Dasgupta, S., 2018*).

The article examines two movements by tribal in Orissa sparked by development intended displacements, focusing on resistance against mining in heavy industries metals, (*Pattnaik, B. K., 2013*).

Mining projects in Kashipur, Odisha, faced resistance from tribal villagers, especially women, emphasizing egalitarian, environmental, and social justice concerns. The article examines the Kashipur movement, focusing on women's significant role and struggle involvement, subjecting it to critical analysis, (*Sahu, S., 2019*).

The book delves into political and historical processes shaping different identities and labels among communities, addressing vital issues facing Indian society weaker sections, (*Radhakrishna, M., 2016*).

The study work examines how economic growth and industrialization contribute to degrading ecologically in Rourkela, previously inhabited mainly by indigenous origin peoples, (*Meher, R., 2003*).

The essay discusses challenges faced by Muria indigenous tribe, displaced due to conflict, in rebuilding their livelihoods in new areas, (*Swamy, G. A. & Rao, K. V., 2018*).

The essay questions assumptions about Reang homogeneity in resisting state interventions in development, highlighting evolving asymmetries and intra-group inequalities within the community, (*Sengupta, M., 2015*).

This research work while elaborating on study on relevance among ethnic minorities and state, based on self- assumptions, contends that, state-led development projects label ethnic minorities as backward, causing internal divisions and fostering a desire for modernity, (*Sengupta, M., 2014*).

This essay challenges the liberalized - culturalist viewpoint of Kerala's indigenism, suggesting that processes of class impacted participation in the struggle of Muthanga, (*Steur, L., 2014*).

The essay assesses efforts to enhance tribal community involvement in education in India, suggesting that existing policies may not sufficiently promote equity as intended, (*Rupavath, R., 2016*).

The paper addresses the under-representation of knowledge about tribal in publishing of mainstream, highlighting its perceived inefficiency in production of knowledge, (*Hembrom, R.*).

The essay examines tribal traditional identities, focusing on their historical evolution, social structures, customs and rituals through a thematic approach, (*Chopra, S. S., 2016*).

The paper discusses the emergence of tribal/indian studies, examining the evolution of history and subjectivity of indians in academic and political contexts, (*Banerjee, P., 2016*).

The research work examines the political and critical aspects of ancient artists of Chhara performance, highlighting their resistance against caste oppression and state exploitation, (*Da Costa, D., 2019*).

INDIAN TRIBAL SCENARIO AND CHARACTERISTICS:

The tribal population in India accounts for approximately 8.6% of the total population according to the 2011 Census. Despite being distinct from the mainstream population of India, due to their cultural and physical attributes, they are integral to the nation and deserve equal care and attention. However, due to years of isolation and due to social marginalization, they have been deprived of opportunities for growth and development, skills and basic education in the modern era.

Numerous scholars have attempted to classify tribes based on various parameters to comprehend their requirements and structure. However, due to their diversity, it remains challenging to devise a single bunch of programs for development applicable to all tribes. Some of the primary distinguishing characteristics of tribes in India include:

The Indian tribes exhibit variability across multiple dimensions, including customs, beliefs, traditions, culture and language. This diversity also encompasses religious conversions or absorptions, as well as shifts in gained or lost identity through assimilation into various dimensions of social hierarchy.

The distribution of tribes across India varies significantly, with major concentrations found in the Islands of Nicobar and Andaman, Southern, Central, North-East and Northern part of India.

Various tribes are characterized by diverse economic activities. For instance, the Negrito tribes of the Andaman Islands (such as the Jarawa, Andamanese and Onge) engage in a semi-nomadic lifestyle, relying on hunting and gathering. In contrast, the Todas of Southern part of India are pastoralists, while the Nicobarese adopt horticulture. Many tribes in Assam follow shifting cultivation as their primary means of subsistence. Additionally, some tribes have adopted more modern economic activities such as agriculture, while others engage in cottage industries. For example, the Mahalis are known for basket-making, the Agarias and Asurs for crude metal smelting, the Nagas for weaving, and the Birhors for rope-making.

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF TRIBAL:

The primary challenges faced by tribal communities include issues of rehabilitation and displacement, unemployment, lower levels of education and literacy, crises of identity, indebtedness and land alienation, as well as inadequate access to hygiene, nutrition and health facilities. These challenges are compounded by deficiencies in policy-making, poor implementation, and the training and skills of government personnel deployed in tribal zones. These personnel often struggle to understand the specific needs of tribal communities and perform duties as mandated by the government.

The government needs to address various issues, including:

Problems related to Culture of Tribal: Deficiency in preservation and awareness relevant to tribal culture, limited interaction with academic institutions, inadequate mechanisms or infrastructure, lacking in market linkage for promoting crafts of tribal, and unavailability of museums of tribal on State's maps for tourists. These factors contribute to losing of the traditional medicinal practices, crafts and sports, and promoting an alienation sense among tribal communities. There is also a risk of losing ownership of tribal heritage and culture, including conventional foods and cuisine.

Problems related to Livelihood of Tribal: Challenges include lack of opportunities of training and skills, insufficient forward and backward linkages for agriculture activities, inadequate irrigation, de-gradation of forests, poor connectivity and limited linkages of market. These issues contribute to decline in diversity of forest, low incomes from conventional occupations and higher levels of unemployment.

Problems related to Health of Tribal: Problems include insufficient infrastructure, remote areas resulting in high maternal mortality rates (MMR) and infant mortality rates (IMR), insufficient cover for pregnant mothers, loss of conventional foods, malnutrition, lower rates of immunization among tribal populations, lack of access to safe drinking water, and a high incidence rates of diseases including fluorosis, upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), gastrointestinal disorders (GED), sickle cell anemia and malaria.

Problems related to Education of Tribal: Key issues encompass lower rates of enrollment, higher rates of dropout, educational disparities between other communities and Scheduled Tribes (STs), the remote

location of schools, limited livelihood opportunities affecting attendance shortages of teachers, cultural and lingual barriers, and a deficiency of vocational training programs.

One study, termed the land alienation problem as one of the vital problems of Tribal, study attested that current legal rules for preventing these land alienations are proper and its implementation is less or more satisfactory. Study elaborated the principles which will guide a voluntary or official program related with development of Tribal, (*Kulkarni, S. D., 1980*).

Approaches for the development of Tribal:

To tackle tribal relevant issues, various approaches for the development of Tribal have been implemented, reflecting diverse perspectives and concerns. These efforts can be categorized in two notable stages.

Approach before Independence: This strategy, employed by the English rulers or Britishers, aimed to alleviate the hardships faced by Tribal and shield them from exploitation of players from outside such as traders and moneylenders. It was primarily curative and relied on tactic of isolating, aiming to simplify management in tribal zones by emotionally and sentimentally detaching them from the broader population. In this approach, there was no concerted effort to bolster tribal economies; instead, policies primarily served economic and political colonist agendas. This is evident in policies relevant with forests, which imposed revenue collection from land and promoted policies effecting on alienation from land. Despite this, some voluntary and missionary organizations, independently pursued tribal welfare. The practice of conversion by missionaries of Christians instigated development and literacy among certain groups of tribal during this period.

Approach after Independence: Following independence, it was acknowledged that tribal communities had been left behind in development initiatives and required focused attention. Hence, a strategy directed towards growth was adopted. The government prioritized for the socio-economical uplifting and developing of these groups, designating certain zones, where the tribal population exceeded 50 percent, as "Scheduled Areas". A comprehensive plan for tribal development was devised, outlining inputs and investments over a specified timeframe, with interventions at levels of micro, meso or macro, tailored to meet specific outcomes and requirements.

Holistic Needs Assessment:

Before devising programs, policies or plans for development of tribal in India, several strategies can be explored including, (*Kapoor, Anup*).

- 1. Dividing Tribal Regions on Basis of Geographical Factors:** Dividing tribal regions considering geographical closeness, potentials of shared resources, cohesive development units, common historical backgrounds, and mutual needs.
- 2. Acknowledging and Understanding Tribal-Land Relationship:** Recognizing the significance of the bond between tribal communities and their land, which entails communal ownership rights. Different economies of tribal have varying land requirements, with communities of hunting-gathering needing more land to search for resources compared to pastoral or agricultural communities.
- 3. Sustainable Utilization of Resources of Forest:** Understanding sustainable development in terms of utilizing resources of forest for national economic growth while simultaneously fostering the economic and social development of tribal communities.
- 4. Promoting Awareness through Education and Skills Development:** Initiating literacy and skills development programs to raise awareness and enhancing capabilities among tribal.
- 5. Efficient Allocation of Funds:** Proper channeling of funds to ensure effective implementation of tribal development initiatives.
- 6. Targeted Methodology for Maximum Benefit:** Emphasizing a focused methodology over extensive coverage to ensure that the benefits of programs reach every individual within the tribal community.
- 7. Tribal Participation in Decision Making:** Promoting tribal involvement in the process of decision-making regarding policies and programs affecting their communities.
- 8. Settlement Assistance and Legal Support:** Providing resettlement assistance and legal aid to tribals, ensuring follow-ups at very appropriate times to safeguard their rights.
- 9. Addressing Exploitation and Economic Loss:** Policy makers must address the exploitation of tribals by traders and moneylenders, considering both economic losses and the moral and political dimensions of such exploitation.

Dissemination of Information to Tribal:

Government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are actively involved in addressing the needs of underdeveloped and backward tribal regions. The majority of the tribal population is illiterate, and their superstitions and lifestyle pose challenges in engaging with them. However, despite their lack of formal education, they contribute to research analysis through educated members of their family who have benefited from educational schemes of the government. Government officials such as Gram Sevaks and Tribal Project Officers are endeavoring to disseminate government schemes and policies to the end users in tribal communities. Additionally, NGOs are actively engaged in efforts to improve the welfare of tribal populations. Within localities, friends, relatives, neighbors and members of family serve as sources of information. In urban areas, workers and social organizations are the most prominent sources of information, followed by agricultural centers like Krishi Kendra, agricultural fairs (Kisan Mela), and government officials such as Gram Sevaks, then, Project Officers for Tribal Development, and lastly, Patwaris, (Vaishali P.G. & Praful S.G., 2013).

CONCLUSION:

Despite numerous strategies implemented for tribal welfare, the goal of achieving comprehensive and equitable socio-economic development remains unmet. This failure can be attributed to several factors, including the tendency to stereotype implementation and plans, strategies without considering the tribal aspects, a lack of awareness regarding the diverse tribal makeup across various geographical areas, each with distinct lifestyles, natural resources, economies and cultural traits. Additionally, varying receptivity levels among beneficiaries and the diverse abilities and capacities of tribal leadership further contribute to this challenge. Moreover, insufficient funds and a shortage of skilled and trained personnel exacerbate the situation.

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