



Research Paper

An Analytical Study on the Tribal Developmental Scheme in Tripura (2016-2019)

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ABSTRACT

In Tripura, the tribals with their own distinctive socio-economic life are basically isolated and backward. The tribal groups have remained outside the developmental process due to their habitation in remote and inaccessible places.

In spite of many affirmative actions, the tribals usually face insurmountable problems due to their lack of awareness of different government schemes and programmes. The disturbances of their traditional socio-economy and its implications have become an important problem for the government and policy makers to undertake different welfare and development activities.

The present paper thus seeks to explore various alternative views with reference to the developmental issues and policies implemented by the Tripura State Government on the tribals of Tripura.

KEYWORDS: Tribal, Scheme, Primitive, Skill, Administration

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I. INTRODUCTION:

The tribal of Tripura constitutes an important part of the population. They represent the vulnerable sections of the society. They are living with their traditional livelihood far away from modern civilization. Although, tribals are traditionally well knit communities but they are also systematically marginalized and highly exploited. Their very existence is threatened through various factors associated with developmental projects and environmental degradation.

Tribal development in Tripura has thus become the main focus of development activities. The state Government has been working for the overall upliftment of the tribals. The Government may have placed for the tribals a substantial fund for their development. But the level of socio-economic has not yet improved in comparison to all the efforts undertaken for the developmental purposes. Therefore, it is important for a well-planned scheme preparation before it is implemented.

II. APPROACHES, PLANNING AND PROGRAMMES TO TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT:

India is home to one of the largest numbers of tribal population in the world. In India, approximately the tribals constitute around 8.2% (2011 census). The tribals have certain specialized characteristics that make them different from others. They are very simple people having different traditions and social practices.

The constitution of India also initiated the tribal welfare programmes by incorporating certain important provisions for their development. Consequently, adequate provisions were made in the constitution for the Scheduled Tribes (STs) for their socio-economic and political guarantees.

III. TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN TRIPURA:

The tribals of Tripura belonged to a number of linguistic and social groups, and are scattered all over the state. Tripura is a hilly state and often there are certain areas which are inaccessible that makes it difficult for a developmental works. The recognized tribals of Tripura are the Tipra/ Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Noatia, Lushai, Uchoi, Mog, Kuki, Chakma, Khasi, Garo, Halam, Bhutia, Bhil, Munda, Orang, Lepcha, Santhal and Chaimal. They are found to be both economically and educationally backward. Their main occupation is agriculture. The government therefore has been focussing for their upliftment by implementing various developmental schemes and projects. The tribal development schemes and developmental policies are aimed to protect and initiate their all-round development.

3.1. TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (TWD): On 24th October, 1970 the Department of Welfare for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes was established with an aim to provide more integrated development. Later on, in 1982 it was bifurcated and named as Directorate of Welfare for Scheduled Tribes (now Tribal Welfare Department) and Directorate of Welfare for Scheduled Castes. The Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) deals with the policy-making, planning and coordinating different schemes for development of tribals in Tripura.

As such, the Tribal Welfare department (TWD) is the main department for implementating various scheme for the tribal developments in Tripura. Apart from the Tribal Welfare Department the other relevant institutions are the Tribal Research and Cultural Institute (TR&CI) and Tripura Rehabilitation in Plantation & Primitive Tribal Group (TRP & PTG).

3.2. TRIBAL REHABILITATION IN PLANTATION AND PRIMITIVE TRIBAL GROUP (TRP & PTG) DEPARTMENT: There are certain tribals with low literacy rate, declining/ stagnant population, dependence on pre-agricultural level of technology and economically backward. In India; 75 such tribals are identified and categorized as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) (now Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group or PVTG). Their basic requirements are different from other tribal groups. Since they constitute the most vulnerable section among the tribal groups, various States and Union Territories have been requested to allocate certain requisite funds from Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored and State Plan schemes for their socio-economic development. The funds under the Central Sector/Centrally Scheme are made available only for those items/activities that are very important for their survival.

The Reang are the only tribes in Tripura who were identified as the 'Primitive Group' (now Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group or PVTG) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in 1975-76 on the basis of certain criteria like their dependence on pre-agricultural level of technology, extremely low literacy rate and with declining or stagnant population. To look into the affairs of the Reang, the only PVTG in Tripura, the TRP & PTG Department was established which started working from the year 1986.

The TRP & PTG Directorate is mainly dealing with the socio-economic upliftment of the Reang in Tripura. There is a Ministry allocated specially for the PVTG. The Secretary in the Government level heads the Department, whereas the Director who is responsible for execution of various schemes and programmes heads the Directorate. There are three Tribal Rehabilitation (TR) Divisions under the Directorate with HQs and jurisdiction as detailed below:

- i. Kumarghat TR Division with HQs at Kumarghat has jurisdiction over the entire North and Unakoti Tripura District.
- ii. Ambassa TR Division with HQs at Ambassa has jurisdiction over Dhalai and Khowai District.
- iii. Udaipur TR Division with HQs at Udaipur is responsible for areas of South and Gomati Tripura District.

3.2.1 TRIBAL REHABILITATION (TR) RANGES: TR Ranges are headed by Programme Officers (PO) who is assisted by Programme Assistants, Programme Helpers and Nursery Mali-cum-Watchers.

- i. Under Kumarghat TR Division there are four TR Ranges namely Kanchanpur (HQ at Kanchanpur), Damcherra, Pecharthal and Kumarghat
- ii. Ambassa TR Division has five TR Ranges namely Ambassa (HQ at Ambassa), Ganganagar, Gandacherra, Atharamura and Manu.
- iii. Udaipur TR Division consist of five TR Ranges namely Jatanbari, Amarpur, Hachuhpara (HQ at Hachuhpara), Taidu and Baikhora.

3.2.2 TRIBAL REHABILITATION (TR) CENTER: TR Center is the smallest administrative unit headed by Programme Assistant. There are fifty-seven TR Centers under the Directorate out of which twenty-one (Consisting of 48 villages) are under Kumarghat TR Division, nineteen (Consisting of 66 villages) under Ambassa TR Division and seventeen (Consisting of 130 villages) under Udaipur TR Division.

The works relating to tribal development were initiated through the District Administration in the early 1950s. Then it was taken over by the Tribal Welfare Department (TWD). Finally in 1986 the Directorate of TRP & PTG was created to center to the needs and requirement of the only PVTG (Reang) of Tripura. The sources of fund are from the State plan, Non-Plan, Special Central Assistance (SCA), Central Sector Scheme (CSS), Border Area Development Project (BADP) and Block Grant. As emphasized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India the major activities undertaken by the State Government for the PVTG includes providing Health facilities (like Janashree Bima Yojana), Housing, Land Distribution (Right to Forest Dwellers Act, 2005), Agriculture Development, Cattle Development, Education (Special coaching to those students belonging to Classes from III to VIII), etc. There are also different other programmes/ Schemes which are solely implemented for the PVTG. The Scheme of development of PVTG was launched in 1997-1998. It was a centrally funded Annual plan flexible Scheme to be implemented by the State and NGOs. It was later converted to a Five Year Plan to be prepared by the State for the entire period starting from the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012).

The funds and other financial matters for the developmental scheme that are implemented for the PVTGs are then released by the Central Government. The various schemes thereafter are implemented according to the guidelines of the Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plans submitted by the State Government through different agencies like the Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP)/ Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA), Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) and different Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO). In order to make available the funds meant for the PVTG in Tripura, the Reang families who usually lived scattered on hill slopes were regrouped into compact villages. These new villages were then provided with various facilities like drinking water, schools, roads, etc. The Reang families were also rehabilitated through rubber plantations, small business scheme, pig rearing, horticultural, etc. Many Reang families also benefited from the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest (Recognition of Forest Dwellers Rights) Act 2006 that provided them with the rights to livelihood and occupation.

Schemes provided under TRP & PTG in Tripura are State plan (Funded by State Government) that includes rubber plantation, bamboo plantation and maintenance of rubber plantation and bamboo plantation and Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan Funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India that includes rubber plantation, bamboo plantation, construction of dwelling houses. IAY at Rs. 75,000 per house, market stalls, community halls, agriculture & horticulture based schemes, animal husbandry, fisheries, education awareness schemes, health awareness schemes, construction of link roads and providing domestic solar light.

The following are the other list of work programmes/ schemes provided to PVTG:

1. Rehabilitation through Rubber plantation.
 - a) Raising of Rubber seedling Nursery/Germination BED.
 - b) Maintenances of Rubber Seedling Nursery.
 - c) Budding operation in Rubber seedling Nursery.
 - d) Raising of Rubber polybag Nursery.
 - e) Maintenance of Rubber Budwood Nursery (Weeding & Fencing, etc.)
 - f) Maintenance of Rubber Plantation.
 - g) Skill- up gradation training on rubber cultivation etc.
2. Bamboo Plantation.
3. Raising of Homestead Banana plantation.
4. Providing cash assistance for Goatery FIRMING.
5. Encouraging agricultural allied Sector.
6. Horticulture activities.
7. Other Economic activities
 - a) Providing small business assistance
 - b) Business stall.
8. Construction of Pucca checks Dam with channel.
9. Education
 - a) Special Coaching for PVTG.
 - b) Incentive for Higher education.

10. Conservation of PTG culture.
11. Health awareness camp.
12. Domestic lighting through Renewable energy.
13. Link Road (brick soiling).
14. Implementation of infrastructure development, construction of IAY houses.
15. Community Hall.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The Government of Tripura sponsored and implemented several schemes for the development for tribals of Tripura every financial year. The present study is an empirical study on the Tribal Developmental Schemes of the Government of Tripura to understand the process of different schemes, its development and its impact on the tribal society.

The Government is spending a lot of money on tribal development, the benefits of which is not reaching the villagers. Hence the Government needs to implement more effective schemes with the involvement of the tribals. The tribals lack information on Government schemes and programmes, therefore the Government, NGOs, and Social Workers can help the tribals get such information by organizing them to get benefits. External factors like education, religion, media, NGOs, and Government agencies have largely influenced the tribals lifestyle because of which they are losing their traditional culture. In order to preserve it, interventions through awareness programmes need to be carried out by NGOs and Social Workers.

ANNEXURE-I LIST OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED BY TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (2016-2019)

Sl. No.	NAME OF SCHEMES	Implemented by/ Name of TW Department
1	Boarding House Stipend	SDWOs
2	Pre-Matric Scholarship (Class-VI to VIII)	SDWOs
3	Additive to Post Matric Scholarship	SDWOs
4	Inter Hostel Competition	SDWOs
5	Sponsoring Students for job oriented courses	TW
6	Merit Award to Meritorious students	SDWOs
7	Coaching to Madhyamik failed drop-out students	SDWOs
8	Coaching for Joint Entrance Examination	TW
9	Pre-recruitment Coaching	TW
10	Special Coaching in Core Subjects	SDWOs
11	Supply of Free Text Books to ST Students	SDWOs
12	Promotion for Folk Arts & Tribal Culture	SDWOs/NGOs
13	Supply of furniture to ST hostels	TW
14	Grants to Residential Educational Society	TW
15	Renovation of Building	TW
16	Nucleus Budget scheme	BDO/SDM/DM/ TTAADC/TW
17	Rehabilitation of Surrendered Extremist	TW/Agriculture/ PWD
18	Sponsoring ST students for B.Ed.	TW
19	Sponsoring ST students for D.El.Ed	TW
20	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Schemes (SCA to TSS):	
	i) Cultivation of fruits/plantation Pineapple, Banana, Arecanut plantation etc.)	Horti
	ii) Rubber/Bamboo Plantation	TRPC
	iii) Skill Development	DSD/CIPET
	iv) Up-gradation of JB/SB School in TTAADC areas	TTAADC
	v) Sponsoring students for job oriented courses	TW
	vi) Nutritional kitchen garden in ST hostel	TTWREIS/SDWOs/TTAADC
	vii) Pisciculture	Fisheries
	viii) Animal Resources Development	ARDD
	x) Swacch Bharat Abhiyan in ST Hostel	SDWOS/DWOs/ TTWREIS
21	Grants under Article 275(1)	
	i) Construction of EMR School/Hostel	NESTS (MoTA)
	ii) Recurring Grants to EMR School	TTWREIS
22	Post-Matric Scholarship	TW
23	Pre-Matric Scholarship (Class: IX-X)	TW
24	Minor Forest Produce Operation	MARKFED

Source: Directorate of Tribal Welfare Department, Agartala.

DWO (District Welfare Officer), SDWO (Sub-Divisional Welfare Officer), TW (Tribal Welfare), NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), BDO (Block Development Officer), SDM (Sub-Divisional Officer), DM (District Magistrate), TTAADC (Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council), PWD (Public Work Department), TRPC (Tripura Rehabilitation Plantation Corporation), DSD (Directorate of Skill Development), CIPET (Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology), TTWREIS (Tripura Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society), ARDD (Animal Resources Development Department), MoTA (Ministry of Tribal Affairs), MARKFED (Tripura State Cooperative Marketing Federation).

ANNEXURE-II
YEAR WISE STATEMENT SHOWING FUND RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, GOVT. OF INDIA UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE YEAR 2016-19

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
		Receipt	Spent	Receipt	Spent	Receipt	Spent
1	SCA to TSS	1345.76	1245.76	1649.77	1649.77	1294.38	1202.50
2	Article-275(1)	1280.99	1280.99	2040.99	2040.99	2006.73	1920.61
3	Post-Matric Scholarship	1323.90	1323.90	2756.25	2756.25	3626.55	3459.80
4	Pre-Matric Scholarship	0.00	0.00	232.89	232.89	0.00	0.00
5	MFPO	351.10	351.10	201.48	201.48	0.00	0.00

Source: Directorate of Tribal Welfare Department, Agartala. SCA (Special Central Assistance), TSS (Tribal Sub-Scheme)

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