



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Adivasi in India (8.6%) of the total population needs a special and rejuvenated treatise with the academic and practical resources available in the endeavour for their development looking at the scenario and situational analysis of our country, whilst exploring our country's response and achievements to the much global priority of human rights such as the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous communities and meticulously articulating the scope for an innovative approach in reviving public administration for this sector, which is judiciously done on this paper. Hence, this paper came into being, fully cognizant of the current situation of the country and the target community, administration scenario, programmes and policies of the government on tribal community development, and the road ahead from a public administrative point of view.

Keywords: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Rejuvenation, Tribal Areas, NE Region, Impact and Benefit, Outcome, Ket Result, Strategic Component.

Introduction

India is a nation with amazing biodiversity and civilizations. Wing Commander J. Lalhmimglana the Principal Consultant, Civil Aviation, Government of Mizoram mentioned that if we travel every 100 km, the language dialect will change, if we travel every 500km there is a change in the way people live, and if we travel every 200 km there is a change in food habits. In India, there are more than a thousand

languages and numerous faiths. Therefore, the people's views and methods of life and livelihood systems are considerably distinct and separated. Hence, once under the British colonial empire, India became a Democratic Republic nation with a present population of 1.3 billion, and a geographical area of 3,287,263 km square with a density of 408 km sq. having 28 states and 8 Union territories, the challenges in realizing a progressive and dynamic public administration can never be too big. Across

the country, it has become a herculean challenge of developing tribal communities which accounted for almost 10 percent (8.6 percent to be prevised) of the total population and have specific, unique, and complicated challenges on their own before and after the British regime and the post-Independence and even till today.

The tribes of India compose 194.2 million individuals of the total population. It is no question that in compared to other nations, our country has the most tribes. There are various tribes. According to the Anthropological Survey of India, there are 550 tribal groups in India. In truth, this data was re-validated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the various States Tribal Research institute which found out that along with the sub-group, there are more than 950 separate tribal groups in India. The administration would become simpler if there was some form of universally shared ethnicity and cultural feature. However, there is a variation in such characteristics as we look upon the social and economic structures of the nation. So, the difficulties in administration are present at various levels, sectors, and tactics. In other words, the socio-economic and cultural variety in the nation makes administration more complex, particularly for the lowest caste people, known as the Adivasi group.

Thus, in a nation like India, with one of the most comprehensive constitutions in the world, tribal community development remains a persistent problem which the Union Government is confronting until now so that they are at par or nearer in development with the mainland population

of the country. The tribal communities of India belong to different linguistic and socioeconomic groupings and are distributed all throughout the nation. They have varying degrees of socio-cultural and economic development, and the bulk of them inhabit in rural, hilly, and wooded settings and have low technological advancement.

Common Features of Tribal Groups in India

The similar qualities that describe the tribal people in India are that they typically reside distant from the civilised world in the inaccessible portions of the forest and hills, utilizing the same dialect and literary system. Animism was popular; yet, a belief in a higher power was noted (Lalthangliana B, "A Brief History and Culture of Mizo' published in 1993). Primitive vocations such as gleaning, hunting, and collection of agricultural products are widespread. In farming, Jhum cultivation is prevalent, particularly among the hilly people. They are mainly non-vegetarian, and hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities such as celebrations for post-harvesting and pre-harvesting, offerings to the deities for favors, and the same to the so-called bad spirits are widespread among the tribal people. They generally have a defined and unique public administration structure that is also tied to their culture and religion (Girase 2016).

However, during the last six decades, under the impact of various developmental and promotional measures initiated to secure their integration into the mainstream of national social and economic life, the tribal scene has undergone a visible change with a

gigantic leap since the 12th Plan, increasing the Union Government's investment in tribal socio-economic alleviation through Article 275 and various schemes. Without any distinct and objectivistic research, the speed of development in the tribal states of the NER Region in the nation might be used as an example. Moreover, the existence of NEC, and the Ministry of DoNER, while still miles away from attaining its aim, has made tremendous progress.

Classification of Tribal Communities in India

In India, the tribal people is widely scattered. As a consequence, scholars are cautious about placing tribes along particular locations. There is no one, obvious, and adequate technique of identifying the tribes' inhabited territories. Based on the existing investigations, the tribal communities may be categorised as follows (Singh, 2018):

- a) Tribal communities that are still limited to the native forest ecosystems and maintain the ancient way of life.
- b) Semi-tribal communities that have largely dwelt in rural locations and have turned to agriculture and other related vocations.
- c) Tribal groups that have migrated to urban locations, are active in current companies and vocations, and have accepted modern cultural features.
- d) Tribal communities that are entirely absorbed into the Indian population.
- e) Tribal tribes that are highly educated and even struggle for independence.

Challenges of Tribal Communities Development

The Indian Tribal Communities has encountered many issues and hurdles for upgrading their social, economic, and political position. Others difficulties developed from cultural-related challenges, some from their age-old social and economic activities. The obstacles facing indigenous peoples change in intensity as they occur at multiple social, cultural, economic, and environmental dimensions. These differences may be evident between hill tribes and plainsmen, between those active in forest-based economic activities and those who work as established farmers, or between those who are Hindus or who have converted to Christianity and those who practice a totally tribal way of life. Christianity as well as those who are keeping to genuine tribal way of life (Sharma, 2008). Despite these disparities, several common challenges of the tribal people are:

1. Sufficiency and exploitation.
2. Economic and technological hardship.
3. Social and cultural disadvantages.
4. Assimilation concerns with the non-tribal community.

Among these issues, the socio-economic concerns were one of the key tasks of tribal development. The tribal regions are largely agricultural but with rudimentary technology and are not eco-friendly, despite their great profusion of natural resources and forests. This is proved by the fact that the present agricultural and associated plans and projects rely largely on automation and development. Inadequate

irrigation, the most crucial input for enhancing agricultural output, is a severe problem in tribal agriculture. Irrigation is incredibly low in tribal locations, with less than 1 percent in a tribal state like Mizoram (0.8 percent). When major and medium irrigation projects are proposed, most tribal settlements in the upper reaches of rivers and streams are excluded from the areas that would benefit. This approach is backed by the Union Government's scaled-up distribution of resources such as the Rural Infrastructure Fund allocation is being boosted from 30,000 crore to 40,000 crores. The Micro Irrigation Fund's corpus is being increased to ₹10,000 crores. Many tribal societies have been tied with woods. During the off-seasons, these tribes subsist upon minimal forest production. Credit and marketing facilities in the tribal regions are being poorly reinforced and despite they are relatively well protected by law, quotas, and relaxation programmes by the government, the practices of bondage work and indebtedness are still extremely common.

The Fundamental Principles of Jawaharlal Nehru on Tribal Development

The first Prime Minister of Independent India Jawaharlal Nehru put out the core principles of tribal development and it became the driving force of the administration of Tribal Development until now. These Principles were (Padhi, 2005)

1. Tribal peoples must develop in line with their gender and we must not force anything on them. We should endeavour to encourage their traditional arts and culture in every feasible manner. The rights of

indigenous peoples to forest land must be honoured.

2. We should attempt to train and form a team of their own personnel to handle administrative and development operations. Outside technical personnel will likely be necessary, especially in the early phases. We should, however, oppose bringing in too many outsiders into tribal territory.
3. We should not overwhelm or overburden these regions with a variety of programs. We should rather work with, rather than compete with, our original social and cultural groups.

Administrative Measures for Tribal Development in India

The Government has employed numerous initiatives addressing tribal development. The following were the administrative steps for Tribal development:

Five Year Plan and Tribal Development

The Government of India has paid a major focus on the development of Tribal Communities in India since Independence. During the Second Five Year Plan, it started the development of forty-three Special Multi-purpose Tribal Blocks, subsequently renamed Tribal Development Blocks (TDBs), each with roughly 25000 residents as compared to 65000 in a regular block. The Fourth Five Year Plan created 489 Tribal Development Blocks, with the Union Government paying roughly Rs.75 crores for the execution of Tribal Development activities throughout the plan period. Several Tribal communities were formed via land colonization efforts. Cooperative Farming

Societies had been created and various exemptions were provided to the tribal people by Forest excises. The introduction of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for the direct benefit of tribal communities in the Fifth Five Year Plan signified a paradigm change in the approach. It was created to channel the flow of expenditures and benefits from the general sectors into the plans of states and union territories (UTs) and central ministries in proportion to their population, both physically and fiscally. During the sixth plan, the Modified Area Development Approach was adopted to encompass small areas of tribal concentration, with the purpose of developing tribals who reside outside the integrated tribal development zones. The flow of money for the development of Scheduled Tribes rose dramatically in the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), resulting in the rise of infrastructure and coverage. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) was founded in 1986 as the apex organisation for State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations, and the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission (NSTC) Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was established in 1989. The latter was supposed to offer a remunerative price for tribal forest and agricultural goods, while the latter was intended to provide financial assistance (Suresh, 2014).

The particular Eight Plan not just stressed the derogation of exploitation, it also addressed the particular issues of legal rights repression, land indifference, non-payment of minimal salary, and limitations

within the right in order to gather minor natural environment output, amongst other things. The socioeconomic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes was given priority. The Ninth Five Year Plan's principal purpose was to scale up efforts to lessen the gap between Scheduled Tribes and also the bulk of the population. The Tenth Plan prioritises addressing tribal deprivation/exploitation while simultaneously pursuing the Ninth Plan purpose of strengthening tribes. The Eleventh Plan witnessed a paradigm change in terms of comprehensive tribal empowerment, while placing governance concerns at the forefront. In this plan period, the particular operational imperatives from the Fifth Schedule, Tribe Sub Plan 1976, Panchayat ESA 1996, and RFRA 2006; the particular desirability of the tribal-centric, tribal-participative, plus tribal-managed development procedure; as well as the need regarding a conscious reduction from reliance on a largely inadequate official delivery program were kept within mind.

Constitutional Provisions and Act of the Parliament on the Protection of Tribal Development

In terms of tribal development, the Indian Constitution provides for statutory recognition, proportional representation in the legislature, the right to use their own language for education and other purposes, the right to practice their own faith, and the right to pursue development in accordance with their own genius (Xaxa, 2008). The essential provisions for the social and economic development of Tribal people were largely found in articles 46, 244, 330, 332, 334, 335, 338, 339, 342, scheduled V,

and scheduled VI of the Constitution of India. The Constitution also enables for modification in-laws, according to the tribal status of the relevant territory.

Constitutional Provisions Relating to STs

Sl. No.	Article	Title/Theme
Definition and Specification of STs		
1.	342	Scheduled Tribe
2.	366	Definition
Education, Economic, and Public Employment- Related safeguards		
3.	15	Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
4.	16	Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
5.	19	Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.
6.	46	Promotion of Educational and Economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other weaker sections.
7.	335	Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts.
Political Safeguards		
8.	330	Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People.
9.	332	Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.
10.	334	Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after sixty years.
11.	243D	Reservation of seats (in Panchayats).
12.	243T	Reservation of seats.
Agency for monitoring safeguards		
13.	338A	National Commission for Scheduled Tribe

Source:

https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/CLM/CLM_Const/2.pdf.

The Government of India also gives funds under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for upgrading the level of infrastructure in Scheduled Areas and economic development of Scheduled Tribes to that of the general population. It is also executing numerous Centrally-sponsored initiatives in which financial help is provided to States and UTs for the building of hostels and coaching of ST students for competitive exams, merit increase, and research. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) was established by the government in 1987 with the primary goal of providing marketing assistance and remunerative prices to tribal for their minor forest produce and surplus agricultural produce, as well as saving them from exploitative middlemen. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2006 recognises and vests forest rights and occupancy of forest land in forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been living in such forest.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Following the division, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was founded in 1999 to provide a more organised and planned approach to the integrated socioeconomic development of the Scheduled Tribes, while the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment remained in place (the most underprivileged section of Indian Society) (the most underprivileged section of Indian Society).

Tribal concerns were addressed by numerous Ministries at various periods

previous to the founding of the Ministry. This is the Nodal Ministry for policies and programmes aimed at improving indigenous people's well-being. As a result, the Ministry has undertaken operations controlled by the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, and subsequent revisions. The following topics have been allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (GOI Allocation of Business Rules: 1961, 2007, p.146):

It encompasses all indigenous peoples and all areas of the country with tribal inhabitants. Scheduled Tribes get social security and health insurance.

- Tribal Welfare: Planning, project design, research, evaluation, statistics, and training.
- Promotion and development of volunteer tribal welfare programs.
- Development of Scheduled Tribes.
- Scheduled Areas.
- Monitoring of ST Welfare Grants, based on NITI Aayog's structure and procedure.

The National Commission for Tribal Scheduled Tribes

The Commission shall submit a report on the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes; and Directions for the formulation and execution of key initiatives for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in any state.

Enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act of 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989, which precludes the

administration of criminal justice in situations involving Scheduled Tribes.

The Ministry's programs and initiatives are meant to support, largely via financial aid, the activities of other Central Ministries, State Governments, and select volunteer organisations, as well as to repair key gaps within institutions and programmes while keeping STs in mind. It is the duty of all Central Ministries to promote the interests of Scheduled Tribes.

Tribes Advisory Council

The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution contemplates a Tribes Advisory Council. It must be formed for every state that has Scheduled Areas on its jurisdiction. Furthermore, the President may instruct any state with Scheduled Tribes but no Scheduled Areas to form a Tribes Advisory Council not more than twenty members, three-fourths of whom must be State representatives representing the Scheduled Tribes. The Tribes Advisory Council must notify the Governor on subjects involving the welfare and prosperity of the State's Scheduled Tribes. Tribes Advisory Councils (TAC) have been created in the Scheduled Area States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana. TAC was created notwithstanding of the fact that Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal do not have any scheduled territories.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

In 2003, the Constitution (89th Revision) Act formed the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

by the amendment of Article 338 and the insertion of a new Article 338A. The old National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was transformed into two distinct Commissions, namely the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, as a result of this reform (NCSC), and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) with effect from 19 February 2004. The term of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and each of the members is three years from the day they undertake their duties. Chairperson has been granted the position of Union Cabinet Minister, Vice-Chairperson that of a Minister of State, and the other members have the level of a Secretary to the Government of India.

According to the original clauses of Art. 338 of the Constitution, a Special Officer (Commissioner) for SC&ST was assigned with the responsibility of investigating all issues pertaining to the Protective measures for SCs and STs in various Statutes and reporting to the President on how these Protections were working. To facilitate the working of the Commissioner for (SCs & STs), 17 Regional Offices were set up in different parts of the Country. Under Clause 5 of Article 388A, the functions of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes include (NCST Handbook, 2016, p. 9-10):

1. To evaluate and monitor matters relevant to ST safeguards established by the Constitution, other laws, or Government legislation. An Order to

review the efficacy of such protections.

2. To examine individual concerns touching STs' rights and protections.
3. To give advice and engage in activities linked to the socioeconomic development of STs, as well as to analyze the effectiveness of their growth within the Union and any State.
4. Prepare and submit a report to the President yearly and as may be considered appropriate by the Commission on functioning of the Safeguards, Measures needed for efficient execution of Welfare Programs and Socio-economic Development of ST communities.
5. To perform such additional tasks in connection to STs as the President may prescribe by regulation, subject to the terms of any law passed by Parliament.

Tribal Educational Development Programmes

The federal government and provinces have spent a lot of money on aboriginal youth education, but the results are slowly improving. A commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has announced that until exploitation is challenged and abolished via education, no progress would be achieved toward improving tribal welfare (Manipal, 1985). Therefore, the Government of India has given importance to the education of Scheduled Tribes. The following are some of the programs and schemes launched to promote education among this disadvantaged population.

1. The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been in operation since 1944-45. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Tribes students studying post-matriculation and post-secondary levels in order to help them complete their education.
2. During the Third Plan era, a program for establishing ST Girls' Hostel was begun. 1989-90 saw the commencement of a separate initiative for the building of ST Boys dormitories. During the 10th Five Year Plan, both plans were integrated into one. The initiative seeks to foster literacy among tribal students by giving dormitory accommodations to ST students who may be unable to continue their studies due to their low economic circumstances and distant village location.
3. The system of upgrading merits, which existed before, has been combined into the scheme of post-matric scholarships under the tenth five-year plan. Through this scheme, Scheduled Tribe and other underprivileged students in classes 11th and 12th are provided with opportunities for all-round development in residential schools, in order to compete for admission to higher education courses and senior administrative and technical positions with other students.
4. The students of ST are eligible to cash under the Book Bank plan to acquire books, which would assist lower their drop-out rate from both the professional institutions and universities. For the States/UT Administration to establish up a Books Bank, financing may only be supplied to the amount of the following ceiling or the actual cost of the set.
5. The National Overseas Scholarship Program has been active since 1954-55. It was a Non-Plan Scheme until 2007-2008, when it became a Plan Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to help ST students pursuing higher education (Masters, Doctorates, and Post Doctorates) abroad in certain specified fields of Engineering, Technology, or Science.
6. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship plan was inaugurated in 2005-2006, and today it is called as the National Fellowship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students. The goal of this fellowship plan is to support students belonging to the ST group in pursuing higher education such as M.Phil. and Ph.D. All Universities/Institutions accredited by the UGC under section 2(f) of the UGC Act are included in this program. As changed from time to time, Junior Research Fellow (JRF) and Senior Research Fellow (SRF) fellowships are at the same rate as the UGC Fellowship.
7. Vocational Training Centres for Tribal Areas were launched in 1992-93 and are continuing in operation. Through this plan, ST adolescents are meant to acquire work and self-employment skills and to enhance their socio-economic situations by boosting income. A 100 percent grant is offered

to the States, UTs, and other non-profits that implement the plan.

8. There are 26 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) financed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. The Institutes are state-based research institutes serving the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. TRI's focus on their core responsibilities as a body of knowledge & research. The institution provides inputs to States for evidence-based planning, appropriate legislation, capacity building of tribal and persons/institutions associated with tribal affairs, disclosure of information, and creation of awareness related to tribal development and the preservation of tribal cultural heritage.

Concluding Observation of Tribal Development Administration in India

Under the fifth and sixth schedules of the Indian Constitution, tribal community development is a fundamental duty for the union and state governments. The government has taken a number of public policy initiatives to mainstream and develop tribal communities in the country since the first five-year plan. Many of these groups remain neglected or unresolved in terms of socio-cultural and politico-administrative concerns. In the past twenty years, globalization has radically changed the human condition, the economy, politics, and society in general to a great extent. There is a great deal of difficulty in deciding if the Indian tribal communities should be modernised or should they preserve their traditional culture?

Socioeconomic situations for indigenous populations are exceedingly varied throughout various areas of the nation, and may even vary radically within the same region. The great range of events makes it hard to define a single formula or guideline to follow in tribal development. Earlier efforts to develop tribal communities in our country greatly erred in this area. Every tribal group has its own distinctive matrix, based on its socio-economic condition, its resources, as well as the quality of its contact with other tribes. The substance and rate of growth and its direction needs to be specified explicitly in each instance by the promoters of State driven development process.

It was the Constitution's approach to tribal affairs that gave birth to the first attempt to integrate this exceptionally talented but suppressed and exploited community into the vast community of Indians. Governments backed by the popular vote were assigned the task. By providing resources and providing the necessary institutional apparatus, the Constitution ensures that the basic framework of government is adequate. Initially, some tribal safeguards were only to last for ten years. As a consequence of setting this term, the Constitution foresaw an efficient follow-up plan that obviated the necessity for their continuation. However, this desire did not materialize, and the term for extending the period has been altered. This is not due to any deficiencies contained in the Constitution itself, but to a deficiency in performance.

Through policies focused at solving education, infrastructural, and livelihood shortages for Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has continued to strengthen efforts towards socio-economic development. According to the Government's Allocation of Business Rules (ABR), this Ministry is responsible for managing tribal sub-plan funds (now known as scheduled tribe component funds) of the Central Ministries in line with the structure and method suggested by NITI Aayog. As part of continuing public service improvement, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs constantly reviews various schemes, including rationalization of scholarship schemes and their enrolment on the Direct Benefit Transfer platform and online portal for NGO grants (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Year-End Reviews, 2018). (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Year-End Reviews, 2018). However, there are still challenges with direct benefit transfer in the tribal regions owing to inadequate cellular connection; the operation must be confronted with the use of money from the "universal service obligation".

Providing connectivity to all habitations requires huge amounts of resources due to the rough terrain and difficult area of tribal locations. Since their profit margins are decreasing, contractors are not taking up work. Additionally, since most tribal habitations are situated in the forest, clearing the forest remains a barrier for creating connection. It is also tough to connect to the internet over telecom connections. As a consequence, digital literacy is impossible to infiltrate traditional tribal regions. It is vital to adequately

manage the monies intended for tribal development programs. The tribal kids have a bright future owing to extensive skill development initiatives that are targeted to the tribal marketplace and local customers. Via a focused strategy, informal education in tribal communities should be increased through village institutions and Self-Help Groups. Programs for tribal entrepreneurship should be devised so as to suit the rudimentary skills of the tribe. The tribal youth must have easy access to career and livelihood information at their district's tribal resource information centre.

The state government and the central government provide funds for tribal welfare through a number of programmes and schemes. However, the major challenges have remained access to basic services like health and education along with employment and livelihood. Therefore, the best way to promote tribal community development will be through an administrative approach of creating an environment that will allow tribal members to maximise their potential.

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