

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN INDIA -ITS PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

Mr. M. VALYA

Ph.D - Research Scholar
Department of Public Administration, Osmania University
Hyderabad

Abstract: India has the world's second largest tribal population next only to the African continent. Formulation of equitable policy and its implementation is primary responsibility of a state to give justice to the weaker section of people living in the society. Tribal community in India has been dealing with a number of issues in their daily affairs and struggling for the basic necessities of day today life which is easily accessed by others. Tribal development has always been a matter of great concern for the government of both union and states. The government claims to have made non-stop effort to bridge the gap towards the way of development and sustainable growth of tribal community as a whole. A number of policies and programmes have been formulated since independence in order to address the tribal issues. Yet it seems not to be enough to uplift tribals, who are living under the shadow of underdevelopment since decades. The research paper makes an extensive effort to study the schemes, policies and programmes undertaken by the government of India for overall growth and development of tribal community.

Keywords: Development, Scheduled Tribes, Schemes, Policies, Tribal Community

Introduction:

Tribal communities in India are geographically isolated, economically weak, socially ignorant, politically indifferent, culturally rich, behaviourally simple, trust worthy and leading their life in the lap of nature. They encounter difficulties/problems in the context of socio-economic, cultural and political development. They are considered as weaker sections of the society and lead a life at bare subsistence level. They exist in a situation featured with poverty, deprivation, disadvantages etc., which cannot be tackled effectively on their own ; hence there is a need for the Government and the society to intervene for mitigating their miseries and facilitating development process.

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 basic 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. The development process of tribal community is growing at a snail's pace. A number of policies and programmes have been made by both union and state government from time to time, yet it looks as if it has a long way to go where tribal community would be strengthen enough to walk hand in hand with the rest of the world.

Tribes are considered as the first origin of the earth. They are considered as the indigenous people living in the society in different groups or communities who have more or less same pattern of living with different culture, customs, traditions, language and faith from one group to another. Tribals are also often called as "Adivasi" which means the first inhabitant of the mother land. The term "tribe" originated around the time of the greek city states and early formation of the Roman Empire. The Latin term "tribus" has been transformed to mean "A group of persons forming a community and claiming descent from a common ancestor" (Lal 2019: 2). The google search engine describe tribe as "A social division in a traditional society consisting of families or communities linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect, typically having a recognized leader" (Google 2020). Similarly Cambridge dictionary define tribe as "A group of people, often of related families, who live together, sharing the same language, culture and history, especially those who do not live in towns or cities" (Cambridge 2019).

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, Telangana 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 (GoI 2011). 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 (GoI 2020a).

Constitutional Provisions:

The constitution makers were aware of the fact that the tribal community in India needs special provision in the constitution to establish social justice and empowerment. Keeping this in view several special provision were made in the constitution for overall development and to connect the tribal community to the mainstream society. The term Scheduled Tribes first appeared in the constitution of India and define Scheduled Tribes under Art. 366 (25) as “such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution”. The President of India has the constitutional power to specify or declare tribal communities or groups to be scheduled in relation to any state or union territory after consulting the governor of the concern region under Article 342. Further Article 244 and 244 (a) provide for Fifth and Sixth Schedule respectively for the special administration of the tribals. The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) in the Fifth Schedule Areas was introduced to secure local self governance by the tribal people. The constitution also provides for no prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Art. 15), Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Art. 16), Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc. (Art. 19), Promotion of Educational and Economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections (Art. 46), Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts (Art. 335). Moreover Article 330 and 332 provides for Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States respectively. Reservation in the seats of Panchayat is also provided under Article 243 D. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up under article 338 A to look after the affairs related to Scheduled Tribes (GoI 2015a: 3-9).

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 tribals and also non tribals 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 (Pati and Dash 2002: 353-354). 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 tribals 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. The tribal areas were again divided into 'wholly excluded areas and area of modified exclusion' under government of India act 1919 (Shukla 2017).

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 affaires related to tribals 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. Furthermore, the constitution of India provides for a number of provisions under different articles for social, economic, educational development and to preserve tribal culture, language, tradition and customs of tribal communities living in India.

Policies and Programmes:

In order to accomplish the objectives of the development of tribals, as provided in the constitution the government has made several tailor made schemes, policies and programmes for the overall development of scheduled tribes. These policies and programmes can be discussed as follows.

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 (GoI 2019a).

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 (GoI 2018).

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. The scheme is undertaken as per CCD Plan made by the State/UT and executed through different agencies of the State Government/UT Administration like Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs)/Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), State/UT Societies and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as well as the line departments of Government of India. The State Government concerned are accountable and responsible for proper execution, implementation, supervision and coordination of the scheme (GoI 2015).

Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for welfare of STs

The prime target of the scheme is to develop the reach of governmental schemes to the beneficiaries to fill the gap in administration lacking in tribal regions in the field of education, health, drinking water facilities, agro-horticultural productivity, social security etc. with the help of voluntary organisations working to set up an environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Tribes. The scheme gives financial assistance to every innovative activity having direct impact on the socio-economic development or livelihood generation of scheduled tribes. Any registered voluntary organization(VO)/non-governmental organization (NGO), who have been involved in the conduct and promotion of social welfare of STs and registered under a statute or as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for at least last three years are given grant through this scheme. Regular monitoring is done by appropriate authorities on regular basis over the utilisation of funds granted by the government of India (GoI 2008a).

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. These are tried to be accomplished by some specific measures like (i) market intervention; (ii) training and skill up-gradation of tribal Artisans, Craftsmen, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers etc.; (iii) R&D/IPR activity; and (iv) development of supply chain infrastructure (GoI 2014).

Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRI)

The government of India through Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides every possible support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) with revised financial norms and identified interventions from time to time. TRI provides information on tribal development, conservation of tribal heritage, evidence-based planning and appropriate legislation to the country, focusing on its core responsibilities as a knowledge and research institution. It is to empower tribes and people or institutions related to tribal issues, disseminating information and raising awareness. The primary objective of this scheme is to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) in infrastructure requirements, research and documentation activities, training and competency development programs, and more. TRI currently operates in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura (GoI 2017a).

Scheme of Centres of Excellence

The scheme aims at supporting and strengthening active and dynamic research in Universities and reputed Institutions as well as Institutions with potential, including NGOs, Registered Professional Organizations and Autonomous Bodies working in the fields of tribal development and research. Research Institutes and Organizations are given financial support from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for carrying out short-term research and extension work among tribal communities in the country. In order to continue the research studies on regular basis, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been to identifying institutes/organizations as the Centre of Excellence to involve them for carrying out a long term and policy oriented research studies for the development of tribals of the country. This initiative demands support in the respective areas or fields of their operation. The primary objective of the scheme is (i) To improve and fortify the institutional resource capabilities of various NGOs, Research Institutes and University Departments to conduct qualitative, action oriented and policy research on tribal communities (ii) To improve and upgrade the existing skills, knowledge and technical knowledge of the NGOs, Research Institutes and University Departments so that they may be able to uphold the cultural diversity of the Scheduled Tribes of the country and their empowerment. (iii) To improve the efficiency of existing institutions for concocting appropriate strategies for tribal development with the corporation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (GoI 2020b).

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)

EMRS are set up to give quality level education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students in remote territories of the country, not only to empower them to avail reservation in higher and professional studies but also enable them to compete for employments in government and private sector with the non ST population. The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for ST students is one among the most prominent institutions like the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalays, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalays and the Kendriya Vidyalays. Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) are set up in the States and Union territories with grants under Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution. The admission of students to study in EMRS is done through proper selection or with open competition where preference is given to the tribals belongs to PVTGs and first generation students etc. The implementation of the scheme and its administration are ensured by the ministry of tribal affairs and also reviewed periodically by the implementing agency or concerning state government (GoI 2010). By the year 2019, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has Sanctioned 271 EMRS, out of which 190 have been made functional while the rest are at different stages of completion (GoI 2019b).

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 (GoI 2008b).

Vocational Training in Tribal Areas

The scheme is launched to empower tribal, the most marginalized part of society. It was the need of the hour to provide more employment opportunities and income generation opportunities to help socio-economic development of tribals. Their goal is to improve the skills of tribal youth in a variety of traditional/modern vocations, depending on their educational qualifications, current economic trends and market potential, so that they can get adequate employment or become self-employed. Financial grants are provided to organise vocational trainings in recognized institutes or in Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in accordance with regularly revised norms from time to time. The scheme is implemented not only for PVTGs, but also for the benefit of scheduled tribes anywhere in the country according to the requirement. But remote tribal areas, especially those with vulnerable tribes, areas affected by extremist activities are prioritized. Moreover, regular inspections conducted by district collectors/Commissioner/Institutional Authority in prescribed format. In addition, concern ministry from central government also keep a watch on the progress of the scheme (GoI 2009).

Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas

The aim of the scheme is to increase education among scheduled tribes, including PVTGs. Ashram Schools offers education with residential facilities in an environment that is conducive to learning. The scheme has been in operation since 1990-91. The scheme is operated in the Tribal Sub-Plan and UT Administration. The scheme provide funds for the construction of the Ashram School for Primary, Secondary and Seniors Secondary education stage and upgrade of existing Ashram school for both Tribal boys and girls, including PVTGs. For the establishment infrastructure of an Ashram school, such as school buildings, shelters, kitchens and staff areas for girls in the TSP area, 100% funding is provided by the government through the scheme. However, for other non-recurring items Ashram schools in TSP area receives funding on basis of 50:50. Meanwhile, 100% of the funds including all recurring and non-recurring items of expenditure are provided for the establishment of Ashram Schools for students in the TSP

area which is identified as naxal affected area. The implementing agencies closely supervise the progress and give quarterly report to the ministry of tribal affairs (GoI 2008c).

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 (GoI 2020c).

Pre-Matric (Class IX and X) and Post Matric Scholarship (PMS)

Directive Principles of State Policy (Part-IV) in Article 46 of the Constitution speaks about the promotion of education and economic interest of the weaker section of the society, especially Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Article 38 (2) of the constitution dictates that the state minimize inequality in income and eliminate inequality in state, facilities and opportunities between people as well as between groups of people living in other regions or participating in different occupations. The scheme is meant to fulfill the objective behind the above articles of the constitution. The Pre-matric scholarship scheme benefits the students studying in class IX to X. The income of parents from all sources should be more than Rs.2.00 lakhs per year. Scholarships are paid monthly @ Rs.150/- for Day Scholars and monthly @ Rs.350/- for hosteller for a period of 10 months per year. Postmatric scholarship facilitates students taking courses in any recognized and accredited institution with a qualification of registration into class X or above. Parent income from all sources should be more than 2.50 lacks. The required fees charged by the educational institution are reimbursed in the form of scholarship differing from Rs 230/- to Rs. 1,200/- per month for a period of ten months a year. Central assistance in the ratio of 75:25 for the state/UT (90:10 for NER and Hilly States) is provided by the Indian government for both scholarships. This is distributed through the State Government/UT Administration (GoI 2020).

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 (GoI 2017b).

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 (ibid).

Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe

The scheme provides financial grant to scheduled tribes students to pursue Masters, Doctorate & Post-Doctorate in abroad. A total of 20 awards are given every year. Of these, 17 awards are for STs and 3 awards for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Parental/family income of the candidate should not exceed Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum from all sources. Annual maintenance allowance of £9900/-, annual contingency & Eqpt. allowance of £1116/- tuition fees as per actual and other admissible fees is provided for candidates in United Kingdom. For candidates in USA, annual maintenance allowance of \$15400/-, annual contingency & equipment. allowance of \$1532/-, tuition fees as per actual and other admissible fees are provided. For candidates in other countries, US dollar or equivalent rate is applicable. The grant is distributed through the Ministry of External Affairs/ Indian Missions abroad (GoI 2018).

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 strengthen 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. 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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