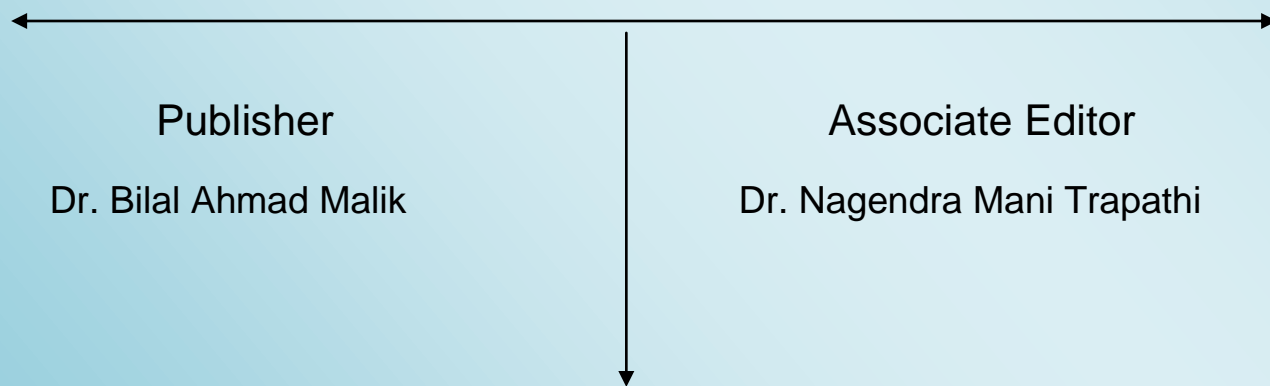


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal of
Social Science & Humanities*

Chief Editor

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NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
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ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

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A RESEARCH PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR SCHEDULE TRIBE PEOPLE

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ABSTRACT

A number of Constitutional provisions exist for protection and promotion of the interests of schedule tribe weaker sections. In conformity with the Directive Principles of State Policy, social justice has been an avowed goal of development. During the four decades of planning, a variety of programmes were launched with the objective of improving the socio-economic condition of Scheduled Tribes. These measures have, no doubt, yielded results but not commensurate with the efforts or the needs of the target groups.

Key words: Development Scheme and Special Central Assistance.

INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of India provides for the special provisions relating to Scheduled Tribes. Article 342 lays down that the President may by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities or parts which shall for the purpose of this Constitution deemed to be Scheduled Tribes". According to this provision, President of India has specified these communities through Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Article 164 provides for a Ministry of Tribal Welfare in each of the State of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa which have large concentration of Scheduled Tribes population. These Ministries are required to look after the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in their respective States. Article 244 provides for the inclusion of a Fifth Schedule in the Constitution for incorporating provisions for the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribes of the States which have sizeable tribal population. The Constitution of India prescribes protection and safeguards for Scheduled Tribes with the object of promoting their educational and economic interests. Under Article 330 and 332 of the Indian Constitution, seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha and state Vidhan Sabhas. Following the introduction of Panchayati Raj, Suitable safeguards have been provided for proper representation" of the members of the Scheduled Tribes by reserving seats for them in the Gram Panchayats, Block Panchayats, District Panchayats etc. Government is

pursuing an integrated approach to ameliorate the situation of unemployment among ST population across the country. Ministry of Tribal Affairs under its Special Area Programmes provides funds as an additive to the State Plan for carrying out skill development and employment-cum-income generation activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

1. To know the educational development of scheduled tribes
2. to study the economic development of scheduled tribes
3. To know the centrally sponsored schemes

IMPORTANCE OF THE PAPER

The Constitution of India provides for a number of safeguards for the ST» mainly to facilitate the implementation of the 'Directive principles' contained in Article 46 of the X Constitution. The important safeguards provided in the Constitution include Article 46 {promotion of Educational and Economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections, 330 (Reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of people, 332 (Reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the legislative Assemblies of the states, 335 (claims of the SCs and STs to service and posts etc. The Tribal Development Blocks were introduced for the developments of tribal areas. These Tribal Development Blocks were expected to have their role in matters of economic developments, education, health and communication.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study used and secondary data for analysis according to the objective set out in the study. Primary data were collected by interview schedule method. Secondary data were collected from websites the secondary data were collected from the Annual Reports, journals, magazines on development scheme for schedule tribe people and Ministry of schedule tribe's affairs, Government of India as well as from the classified data available with the Offices of the states and coordinating departments of Schedule tribe.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Under the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, most of the State Governments have taken measures for effective implementation of the Act including appointment of officers for initiating or exercising supervision over prosecutions, setting up of Special/Mobile Courts, appointment of Committees at the appropriate

levels, periodic surveys on the working of the provisions of the Act and identification of areas where persons are under any disabilities arising in 1989, the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was promulgated to prevent commission of offences and atrocities against the members of the the Scheduled Tribes involving their person, dignity and property. The measures taken for implementation of the Act include strengthening of existing police cells, mobile squads, increasing the number of special and mobile courts for trying atrocities cases, survey of prone areas, provision of legal aid and relief, encouraging inter-caste marriages, monitoring, publicity and propaganda. The endeavour during the Eighth Plan will be to strengthen the enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and undertake programmes for mass awakening leading to attitudinal changes.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

For the educational development of scheduled tribes, existing programmes for pre-matric and post-matric education of Scheduled Tribes will be continued. Residential schools, including ashram schools, will be expanded. As envisaged in the National Policy on Education, 1986, priority will be accorded to the opening of primary schools in tribal areas. The socio-cultural milieu of the Scheduled Tribes will be taken into consideration in developing the curricula and devising the instructional materials in tribal languages at the initial stages with arrangements for switching over to the regional language. Anganwadis, non-formal and adult education centres will be established in tribal areas on a priority basis. Further, the curriculum at all stages of education will be so designed as to create an awareness of the rich cultural identity of the tribal people as also of their enormous creative talent.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation through the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations would organise collection and marketing of minor forest produce in such a way as to ensure reasonable returns to tribals. A new policy on Minor Forest Produce in relation to the Scheduled Tribes will be formulated. The cooperative structure in the field for this purpose will be suitably reoriented and restructured. The functioning of cooperative institutions including Large Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) in tribal areas will be reviewed with a view to meeting the genuine needs of tribal people in forests, credit, marketing of minor forest produce and supply of essential commodities. In addition, cooperatives for different occupational groups amongst the Scheduled Tribes will be formed. Essential productive and managerial

skills would be developed in them through training and entrepreneurial development programmes so that they may seek self-employment. Measures aimed at greater participation of tribal people in conservation and development of forests and preservation of ecology, in a manner that their traditional rights relating to forest produce are not adversely affected, would be undertaken. Also, rights and concessions of the tribals in forests would need to be codified to ensure unhindered access to minor forest produce and use of forest resources by the tribals. Limited access to credit for consumption and production purposes has resulted in increased dependence of Scheduled Tribes on money lenders/traders leading to: (a) siphoning of developmental benefits in order to discharge loan liabilities to money lenders and traders; and (b) loss of resource base in the form of land or other assets. An important objective during the Eighth Plan will, therefore, be to provide increased access to credit from banks and cooperative institutions. For the primitive tribal groups, detailed plans will be prepared for their economic development, as far as possible, with the family as the unit. Infra-structure and other developmental needs will be specifically identified so that an integrated plan is developed. Schemes will be developed which take into account the social and economic organisation of life of these communities, their interests, aptitudes and abilities.

A viable and lasting solution to the problem of shifting cultivation, involving an area of about 10 million hectares affecting 6 lakh tribal families, is yet to be found. Even though special programmes under the Central Plan, including a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an outlay of Rs 75 crores, have been operating and these have been supplemented by the States own schemes, many of them have been unable to make any real impact. During the Eighth Plan, schemes on water-shed basis, in which sectoral programmes like agriculture, forestry, horticulture, infrastructural and social services facilities will be interwoven in an integrated and viable manner to enable the shifting cultivators to take to settled cultivation. Originally created for meeting the manpower requirements for exploitation and regeneration of forest resources, the forest villages numbering about 5000, wherein more than 2 lakh tribal people live, have remained largely deprived of normal developmental benefits. In March 1984, the Ministry of Agriculture had advised the State Governments to confer long-term heritable but inalienable rights, say for 15-20 years, in respect of lands in occupation of tribals for more than 20 years. But this suggestion does not seem to have been fully implemented. In September 1990, the Ministry of Environment and Forests advised the State Governments to convert the forest villages into Revenue villages after denitrifying requisite land as forest. It was further suggested that administration of these and other Revenue villages in forest areas should be entrusted to the State Forest Departments. While details of conversion are not readily forthcoming, the progress does not seem to be encouraging. During the Eighth Plan an attempt will be made to reach developmental benefits

to forest villages in a manner suited to the situation. Arrangements for review, on a regular basis, of the functioning of developmental schemes in forest villages for their all-round development, keeping in tune with environmental requirements, will be made.

SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (SCA) TO THE TRIBAL SUB- PLAN:

This is a major programme administered by the Ministry under which, grant is provided to the State Governments based on annual allocation made by the Planning Commission. This is treated as an additive to the State Plan, for areas where State Plan provisions are not normally forthcoming to bring about economic development to tribals. The programme was launched during 1974-75 and till the end of the IX Five Year Plan, the SCA to TSP was meant for filling up critical gaps in the family-based income- generating activities of TSP. From the Tenth Five Year Plan period, the objective and scope of SCA to TSP, was expanded to cover employment-cum-income generation activities and infrastructure incidental thereto. Beside family-based activities, other activities run by the Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/ Community are also to be taken up. The ultimate objective of extending SCA to TSP is to boost the demand based income-generation programmes and thus raise the economic and social status of tribals. The guidelines for implementation by the States were revised in May, 2003, and were further modified in January 2008. Recently in March 2014, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued operational guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan and grants under Article 275(1) which has brought out certain substantive changes in the thrust of these Special Area Programmes, as also some procedural changes.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES:

The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are presently being run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for development of Scheduled Tribes:

- (i) Post Matric Scholarship for STs /Book Bank
- (ii) Upgradation of Merit of ST Students
- (iii) Pre matric scholarship for ST students
- (iv) Girls Hostels
- (v) Boys Hostels
- (vi) Establishment of Ashram Schools
- (vii) Research and Training

- (viii) Information and Mass Media
- (ix) National Tribal Affairs Awards
- (x) Centre of Excellence
- (xi) Supporting Projects of All-India nature or Inter-State nature for Scheduled Tribes
- (xii) Organisation of Tribal Festival
- (xiii) Exchange of visits by Tribals
- (xiv) Monitoring and Evaluation
- (xv) Information Technology
- (xvi) Lump-sum Provision for N.E.

CONCLUSION

Research have carried out to help identify the schemes of Scheduled Tribes. Tribal Research Institutes in the States will be activated to undertake concurrent evaluation of programmes under implementation. Most of the State Governments have drawn up their own lists of socially and educationally backward classes and are implementing developmental schemes for them, mainly in the field of education. For the denotified communities, nomadic and semi-nomadic groups, rehabilitation measures have been taken up. The ministry of schedule caste tribal affairs the economic and other developmental activities for the benefit of the backward classes. Assistance will be given to promote self- employment and other ventures subject to such income and/or economic criteria as may be prescribed from time to time.

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