



Tribal welfare programmes in India

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- Tribal development efforts in India were established during the British rule. British rulers had to face tribal insurgency and unrest. Tribal insurgency was suppressed by the use of armed forces by British administrators.
 - British administration established separate administrative system in tribal areas.
 - After independence, a secular constitution was adopted to govern the country. Several constitutional provisions were made for the development of tribe.
 - Many schemes of development were formulated and implemented.
 - Several schemes of tribal development are still active through several five year plans in India. Attempts have been made to make the scheduled tribes to develop socially, educationally, economically, politically and culturally.
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- For the development of tribes, various models, approaches and theories of development have been propounded in different five-year plan periods.
 - Some of them include Community Development Programme, Multipurpose Tribal Blocks, Tribal Development Block, Development Agencies, Primitive Tribal Groups, Integrated Tribal Development Projects, Modified Area Development Approach, Tribal Sub-Plan, Dispersed Tribal Development Programme, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes etc.



Aims of the programmes for the welfare of the schedule tribes



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- In the Five Year Plans, the programmes for the welfare of the schedule tribes aim at:
 - 1. Raising the productivity levels in agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, cottage and small- scale industries etc., to improve the economic conditions.**
 - 2. Rehabilitation of the bonded labour.**
 - 3. Education and training programmes.**
 - 4. Special development programmes for women and children.**
 - Though the efforts have been in the direction for development of tribal particularly with the creation of special multi-purpose tribal blocks during the second plan period however, a major break-through took place in the Fifth Five Year Plan in which a new strategy of tribal sub-plan for preparing micro plans for relatively valuably tribal groups requiring special attention was enunciated.
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The efforts of Indian Government for tribal development



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- The Constitutional commitments prompted the Policy-Makers and the Planners to accord high priority to the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes right from the beginning of the country's developmental planning, launched in 1951.
 - **The First Five Year Plan (1951-56)** clearly laid down the principle that 'the general development programmes should be so designed to cater adequately to the Backward Classes and special provisions should be used for securing additional and more intensified development'.
 - **The Second Five Year Plan (1956-61)** envisaged that the benefits of economic development should accrue more and more to the relatively less privileged classes of society in order to reduce inequalities. As for the Scheduled Tribes, 'Welfare Programs have to be based on respect and understanding of their culture and traditions and an appreciation of the social, psychological and economic problems with which they are faced.
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- An important landmark during **the Second Plan** was the creation of 43 **Special Multi-purpose Tribal Blocks (SMPTBs)** later called **Tribal Development Blocks (TDBs)**.
 - Each was planned for about 25,000 people as against 65,000 in a normal Block. An amount of Rs.15 lakh per SMPTB was contributed by the Central Government. The Committee on SMPTBs set up under the Chairmanship of Verrier Elwin (1959) studied the working of these Blocks and found that they were providing very useful services.
 - The **Third Five Year Plan (1961-66)** advocated the principle to establish greater equality of opportunity' and to bring about reduction in disparities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.
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- The **Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)** proclaimed that the 'basic goal was to realize rapid increase in the standard of living of the people through measures which also promote equality and social justice'.
 - An important step was setting up of six pilot projects in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa in 1971-72 as Central Sector Scheme with the primary **objective of combating political unrest and Left Wing extremism.**
 - The Fourth Plan outlay for each was Rs.1.50 crore for the core programmes of economic development and Rs. 0.50 crore for arterial roads. These agencies were later merged with Integrated Tribal Development Projects during the Fifth Plan.
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- The **Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78)** marked a shift in the approach as reflected in the launching of **Tribal Sub- Plan (TSP)** for the direct benefit of the development of Tribal.
 - The TSP stipulated that funds of the State and Centre should be quantified on the population proportion basis, with budgetary mechanisms to ensure accountability, non-divertability and utilization for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.
 - With this thrust the concept of Tribal Sub-Plan came into action during the Fifth Plan.
 - There has been a **substantial increase in the flow of funds for the development of Scheduled Tribes under this arrangement**, resulting in the expansion of infrastructure facilities and enlargement of coverage of the target groups in the beneficiary oriented programmes.
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- **The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)** was sought to ensure a higher degree of devolution of funds so that at least 50 per cent of tribal families were provided assistance to cross the poverty line.
 - Emphasis was on **family-oriented economic** activities rather than infrastructure development schemes.
 - A "**Modified Area Development Approach**" (**MADA**) was devised for pockets of tribal concentration with population of 10,000, at least half of them being Scheduled Tribes, and 245 MADA pockets were delineated.
 - Also, 20 more tribal communities were identified as "primitive", raising the total to 72.
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- In **the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)**, there was substantial increase in the flow of funds for the development of Scheduled Tribes, resulting in the expansion of infrastructural facilities and enlargement of coverage.
 - Emphasis was laid on the **educational development of Scheduled Tribes**. For the economic development of SCs and Scheduled Tribes, two national level institutions were set up viz.,
 - (i) **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED)** in 1987 as an apex body for State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations; and
 - (ii) **National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)** in 1989.
 - The former was envisaged to provide remunerative price for the Forest and Agriculture Produce of tribal while the latter was intended to provide credit support for employment generation.

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- In **the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)**, efforts were intensified to **bridge the gap between the levels of development of the Scheduled Tribes and those of other sections of the society** so that by the turn of the century, these disadvantaged sections of the population could be brought on par with the rest of the society.
 - The Plan **not only emphasized elimination of exploitation but also paid attention to the special problems of suppression of rights, land alienation, non-payment of minimum wages and restrictions on right to collect minor forest produce etc.**
 - Attention, on priority basis, continued to be paid for the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes.
 - The allocation for development of Scheduled Tribes was increased during this plan period.
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- **The main objective of the Ninth Five Year Plan was to intensify the efforts to bridge the between Scheduled Tribes and the rest of the population.**
 - Literacy states is one of the key indicators of socioeconomic development and the relative employment opportunities largely depend on the level of education, for this purpose strengthened of infrastructure facilities like construction of school building, additional classrooms, laboratory buildings, provision of lab equipment, computers, furniture and play material, up gradation of school's at all levels, opening of residential schools, construction of vocational training centers, provisions of basic amenities like toilets, drinking water etc.
 - In the field of economic Development at, **financial assistance was offered to these communities from TAHDCO for undertaking economic activities viz., distribution of plough bulls, Mitch animals and starting of petty traders.**

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- Regarding housing, distribution of free house site pattas, construction of houses for poor tribes and provision of infrastructure facilities to ST habitations were the prime priority areas.
 - Provisions of burial ground and pathways to burial ground, drinking water facilities electricity facilities, etc., were also implemented. Mobile dispensaries and medical camps were organized to attend to the general and specific health problems of the tribal comities, since tribal habitations are located in isolated will and forest areas.
 - **Direct programmes for the welfare and development of primitive tribes and dispersed tribes were launched through an iterated action plan** incorporating supply of safe drinking water food and nutrition security health coverage, educational facilities, housing etc.
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- In **the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)** Guided by the conclusions that were recorded in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) stating that ‘A small bunch of bureaucratic programmes had done little to avert the precipitous pauperization, exploitation and disintegration of tribal communities and therefore, most of the persistent problems like poverty, indebtedness, land alienation, displacement, deterioration of forest villages and the tribes living therein, shifting cultivation etc., continue to persist even till today as the ‘Unresolved Issues of Tribal Development’, the Tenth Five Year Plan lays down its first priority in finding solutions to these very Unresolved Issues.
 - Solutions to this effect can best be found only when the deprivation and exploitation of tribes is eradicated.
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- The **Tenth Plan** adopted **eradication of deprivation/exploitation of tribes as the centre-point in its approach**, while pursuing simultaneously the Ninth Plan commitment of empowering the tribes.
 - The **Eleventh Plan** has experienced a paradigm shift with respect to the overall empowerment of the tribal people, keeping the issues related to governance at the centre.
 - The operational imperatives of the Fifth Schedule, Tribal Sub Plan 1976, Panchayat ESA 1996, RFRA 2006; the desirability of a tribal centric, tribal-participative and tribal-managed development process; and the need for a conscious departure from dependence on a largely under-effective official delivery system will be kept in view during this shift.
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- The perpetuation of socio-economic backwardness among the Scheduled Tribes, in spite of the efforts made so far, presents a formidable challenge demanding effective and result-oriented steps in every developmental sector in the Twelfth Plan.
 - The approach of the **Twelfth Five Year** Plan must be to achieve overall improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes with the following **objectives**:
 1. **Relaxing the normative prescriptions** about taking up a programme or a scheme in the Tribal majority areas.
 2. **Administrative strengthening** of the implementing agency so as to enable taking up implementation of these programmes in the scheduled/tribal areas. This may also require a clear cut personnel policy with regard to posting of officials in those positions, fixity of their tenure and incentivizing these officials for having rendered their services in those areas for a prescribed period.
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3. **Preferring engaging people from the tribal community** itself in the areas predominantly inhabited by tribal for government efforts at spreading education, health and extension services, nutrition, public distribution, and so on. If necessary, the basic minimum qualification for such engagements could be relaxed for a specified period (say during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period). For example, engaging a +2 student from the nearby locality for teaching tribal students in primary classes.
 4. **Sensitizing officials with detailed information for serving in the tribal areas** so that they become empathetic to the sensitivities of tribal lives and their traditions.
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5. **Reorganizing basic services** such as nutritional interventions, education, health services, public distribution system, employment generating activities under MGNREGA with posting adequate staff with surety of tenure and assurance of funds to implement these programmes.
 6. **No post in the implementing agencies in scheduled areas/areas with tribal majority should be left vacant;** every post must be filled up and wherever necessary, additional post Scheduled Tribes should be created for effective implementation.
 7. **Implementation of the schemes must be monitored closely at prescribed periodicity.** Implementation should not be made to suffer on account of problems associated with transfer of funds.
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- 8. Better coverage of roadways for tribal areas** (population of 500–1,000), with population up to 100 being covered in LWE to be connected.
 - 9. Better connectivity** through railways in LWE and tribal areas.
 - 10. Land acquisition of tribal land to be addressed as required under PESA** and displaced tribal population to be resettled and rehabilitated.
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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.



This grant is utilized for economic development 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: 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.

Objectives of SCA to TSS

- (i) Human resource development by enhancing their access to education and health services.
 - (ii) Enhanced quality of life by providing basic amenities in tribal areas / localities including housing (mostly to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana / State Schemes).
 - (iii) Substantial reduction in poverty and unemployment, creation of productive assets and income generation opportunities.
 - (iv) Enhanced capacity to avail opportunities, gain rights and entitlements and improved facilities at par with other areas, and
 - (v) Protection against exploitation and oppression.
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- Primarily, activities of non-recurring nature (including infrastructure and equipment with at least three years life time) are supported under these schemes.
 - Recurring component of such programmes / schemes are to be borne by State funds / TSP allocation. ST Communities with similar livelihood pattern / traditional occupation (i.e. income source same for tribal household economy) should be clubbed together for the purpose of planning under SCA to TSS.
 - Major infrastructure sector, like road connectivity, electricity, drinking water, major irrigation projects, housing would not be a priority for funding under SCA to TSS, as substantive part of State Plan funds go into these programmes.
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Grants-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution

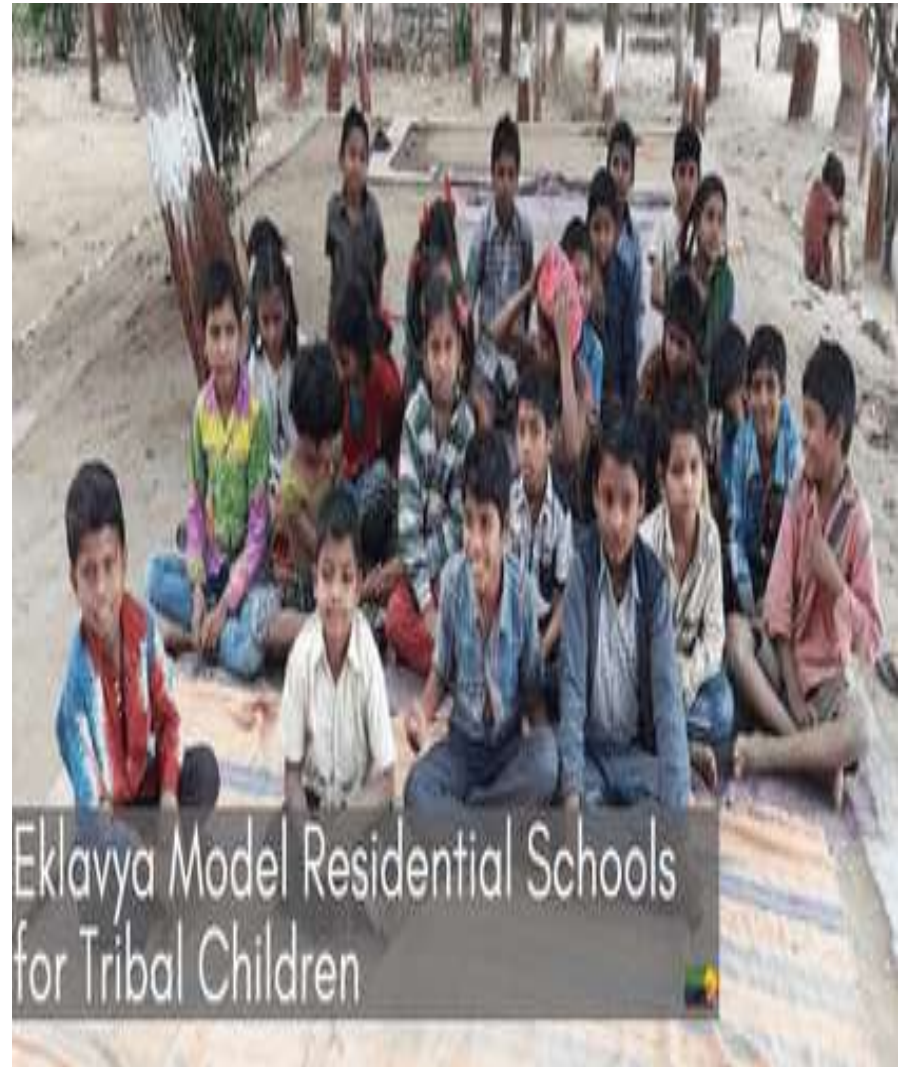
- Grants-in-aid under Proviso to Article 275(1) of Constitution of India is 100% annual grant from Government of India to States. It is charged to Consolidated Fund of India (except grants for NE States, a voted item) and is an additive to State Plan funds and efforts for Tribal Development.
 - Grant is provided to 27 States, 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. Funds are utilised for the socio economic development of ITDA, MADA, Clusters and for PVTGs.
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- Under the programme, Grants are released to States, having ST population for raising the level of Administration in Scheduled Areas and for the welfare of tribal people.
 - Funds are released to States based on proposals received from the States Governments depending on the felt needs of ST population to bridge the gap in infrastructure activities in sectors like education, health and agriculture etc. and for setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) in the States.
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- With the objective of providing quality education to the tribal students, it was decided during 1997-98 to utilize a part of the grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India for setting up of Model Residential Schools from Class VI to Class XII.



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- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) with the capacity of 480 students in each school are set up in the States/ UTs under the programme under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India on the pattern of Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs) of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas.



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- The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and get jobs in government, public and private sectors, but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population.
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Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- The scheme of Development of PVTGs covers 75 identified PVTGs in 18 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the activities like housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including JanashreeBima Yojana or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.
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- The scheme is flexible as it enables the States to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment.



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- Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry. Activities for development of PVTGs are undertaken in Sectors of Education, Health, Livelihood and Skill Development , Agricultural Development , Housing & Habitat, Conservation of Culture etc.



Conclusion

- The socio-economic conditions of the tribal people of India are not appreciable.
- Their standards of living are still low. Moreover the tribal development schemes have not brought any changes in the life of majority of the tribal people.
- Inclusive growth is not making the fruits of development available and accessible to the tribal population of India.
- To include, it can be summed up that **“Inclusion” should be seen as a process of including these excluded sections of the population as agents whose participation is essential in the very design of the development process and not simply welfare targets of development programmes.**
- It is necessary that steps should be taken to make these people informed about the development schemes. At the same time **procedures of sanctioning of the schemes should be made easy so that the number of total benefitted families increase.**

Thank you
