



Research Article

INTERNATIONAL TRIBAL PROGRESS PLANS AND SUB-PLANS IN INDIA

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Received: July 25, 2016; Revised: August 02, 2016; Accepted: August 03, 2016; Published: August 07, 2016

Abstract- The present paper discusses the various policies implemented by Indian government for the tribal progress through five-year plan and tribal sub plans. The tribal progress policies are aimed to guard and initiate the all-round progress of tribes. The expenditure on tribal progress has increased during the last sixty years of Independence. A concept of 'area progress with focus on the progress of tribal communities' was accepted in the tribal areas.

Keywords- Tribal Progress, Tribal Sub Plan, Area Progress.

Citation: Misal Dilip M. (2016) International Tribal Progress Plans and Sub-Plans in India. International Journal of Humanity and Social Sciences, ISSN: 2231-3532 & E-ISSN: 2231-3540, Volume 5, Issue 1, pp.-79-80.

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Academic Editor / Reviewer: Mamata Hatkar, Mishra Mahendra

Introduction

Tribal Progress in during the Pre-Independence era included the strategy of isolation, strategy of assimilation and strategy of integration. The strategy of isolation is widely known as "National Park theory", popularized by Dr. Verrier Elwin. This strategy was adopted by British rulers in the pre - independence period and even after independence, this strategy was continued for some time. Nationalist politicians and social workers like A.V. Thakkar advocated this policy; G.S. Ghure is also a protagonist of this strategy and whose main objective is a constant assimilation of tribals and a result of constant contact of the tribals with the rest of the Indian people and the efforts of social reforms towards progress. During the Post-Independence India tribals were tried to incorporate into the India's financial progress. There was one school of thought led by Dr. Verrier Elwin argued to guard the aborigines by completely isolating them from the rest of India. Mr. Elwin later shifted his stance. A second school of thought led by G. S. Ghure opined total absorption of the tribals into national mainstream as essential. A third school of consideration, believed that tribes should be included into the Indian culture, but not necessarily assimilate which means that it aims to preserve their identity. The Government of India came to the stand that the tribal people cannot be left to lag behind and get further not isolated, nor can the natural resources in tribal areas be underutilized. For all problems, integration of tribes into the national mainstream is considered to be the solution.

Tribal Progress through Five-Year Plans (1951-2007)

The legal commitments, referred to above, prompted the policy-makers and the planners to accord high priority for the welfare and progress of STs right from the beginning of the country's progress planning, launched in 1951.

The First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) lays down the code that the general progress programmes should be so designed as to cater sufficiently to the backward classes and the particular provision should be used for securing additional and more intensified progress for tribals. The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61) promise to ensure that the reimbursement of financial progress accrues more and more to the comparatively less privileged education of society in order to reduce inequality. As for the STs, "Welfare programmes have to be based on respect and

understanding of their culture and civilization and an approval of the social, mental and financial problems with which they are faced". This was in tune with PANCHSHEEL – the Five Principles of Tribal Progress – enunciated by the first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. An important landmark during the Second Plan was the opening of 43 Special Multi-purpose Tribal Blocks (SMPTBs) later called Tribal Progress 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 Group on SMPTBs set up under the chairmanship of Verrier Elwin (1951) considered 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 the decrease of disparities in income and prosperity and a more even sharing of financial power. The Plan document added that, "it is essential that the general progress programmes should be so designed as to cater sufficiently for the backward classes and the special provisions in the Plan should be used as far as possible for securing additional and more intensified progress". The Shilu Ao Study Team, appraise the programmes, especially during the Third Plan period remarked: "If progress is to be judged by what remains to be done to bring the tribals on par with the rest of the people s, the leeway is still considerable".

The Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74) proclaimed that the basic goal was to realize a rapid increase in the normal of living of the people from side to side 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 a Central Sector Scheme with the primary objective of combating political unrest and Left Wing extremism. A separate Tribal Progress Agency was established for each project. These agencies were later merged with Integrated Tribal Progress Projects (ITDPs) during the Fifth Plan.

The Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-78) marks a shift in approach reflected in the initiation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the direct advantage of the progress of tribals. The TSP predetermined that funds of the state and centre should be quantified on the people proportion basis, with budgetary mechanisms and exploitation for the welfare and progress of STs. With this thrust, the concept of

Tribal Sub-Plan came into action during the Fifth Plan. The TSP strategy is presently being implemented in 194 Integrated Tribal Progress Projects, 259 pockets of tribal attentiveness under Modified Area Progress Approach (MADA), 82 clusters and habitations of 75 Primitive Tribal Groups. There has been a considerable increase in the flow of funds for the development of STs under this arrangement. The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85) sought to ensure a higher degree of decentralization of funds so that at least 50 percent of tribal families were provided assistance to cross the poverty line. The emphasis was on family-oriented financial activities rather than communications progress schemes. MADA, was devised for pockets of tribal concentration with people of 10,000, at least half of them being STs, and 245 pockets were delineated. Also, 20 more tribal communities were identified as 'primitive', raising the total to 72 and the number of ITDPs increased to 181.

The Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-90), there was a considerable rise in the flow of funds for the progress of STs, resulting in the growth of infrastructural amenities and the enlargement of coverage. Emphasis was laid on the instructive progress of STs. For the financial progress of SCs and STs, two national level institutions were set up namely: (i) Tribal Co-operative Marketing Progress Federation (TRIFED) in 1987 as an apex body for State Tribal Progress Cooperative Corporations; and (ii) National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Progress Corporation (NSFDC) in 1989. The TRIFED was envisaged to provide remunerative price for the forest and cultivation produce of tribals was future to provide credit support for service generation. The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97), efforts were intensify to bridge the gap between the levels of progress of the STs and those of other sections of the society so that by the turn of the century, these underprivileged sections of the people are brought on par with the rest of the society. The Plan not only emphasize the elimination of use, but also paid attention to the special troubles of suppression of rights, land alienation, non-payment of minimum wages and limits on right to collect minor forest produce, etc. notice, on priority basis, sustained to be paid for the socio-financial upliftment of STs. A review of ethnic progress in the early Nineties revealed that "Though the TSP Strategy has yielded results, but they are not equal to the efforts put in and investments made'.

The Ninth Plan (1997-2002), move toward envisages progression of STs through a process of empowerment wherein efforts are made to create an enable environment conducive for the exercise of their rights freely, enjoyment of their privileges and leading a life of self-confidence and dignity at par with the other citizens of the country. This will, essentially encompass three very important components: (i) Social empowerment; (ii) Financial advancement; and (iii) Social justice. In this direction, setting up of an exclusive Ministry for Tribal Affairs in October 1999 under the charge of a full fledged Cabinet rank Minister, it is indeed a landmark step and marks the beginning of a more focused approach to the progress of tribals of this country.

The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007), it is pertinent to high light that the organization places a heavy blame for the welfare, protection, progress and empowerment of the tribes on the government, both central and of the states. This responsibility at times results in a heavy dependence of the tribals on administration agencies officials and the political managerial set-up. As collector of District Sirohi in the State of Rajasthan the writer had the direct opportunity to see, rather sadly, otherwise strong community like Bhils and Girasias depending on administration agencies for a large number of the activities and falling pray to short-term loses and long-term benefits in programmes such as included Rural Progress Programme (IRDP), where subsidies were involved. The participation of tribals themselves in decision-making, creating an enabling environment, is a scenario, which is only now gradually emerging. This blame, if not carried out with great concern and sympathy for the tribals and their rights / interests, can lead to a greater deprivation than development in their lives. Massive problems of land estrangement thanks, marginalization on description of displacement have arisen despite efforts made to guard their interests. At this stage it is sufficient to say that the Constitution has itself recognized the need to directly empower the tribal groups through the 73rd Amendment which provides for a condition for SCs and STs at all levels of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and giving greater power to the Gram Sabhas and PRIs in the Fifth Schedule Areas through the Extension

Act. This is particularly heartening as it is in these areas that the tribals have a regular interaction with other communities.

Tribal Sub-Plan

In the Fourth Five-Year Plans it was expected that benefits would accrue to the tribals in due proportion under various progressal programmes. In practice, though, the Tribal Progress Block programme and schemes, taken up under the Welfare of Backward Classes Sector, were expected to be extra in nature alternate the progressal efforts of the sectoral programmes. The move toward and strategy for tribal growth in areas of tribal attentiveness and that for dispersed tribal people had to be quite separate. In the previous case, some elements of area progress have to be included in any diagram even when it may be exclusively designed for people's progress, chiefly in the backward area where the infrastructure was not developed. However, progress of the physical potential and communications need not of need lead to the progress of the tribal people and, on the contrary, they have often to face the backlash of progress. Therefore, infrastructural progress has to be suitably adopted as a part of the bigger package of programmes.

Thus, a concept of 'area development with focus on the growth of tribal communities' was accepted for the tribal areas. Besides, the primitive tribal communities were treated as a divide group for whom a very flexible move toward of development was to be evolved keeping in view the conditions of each primitive community. Intensive progress of discrete tribals was to be taken up in the second phase.

Conclusions

With the help of tribal plans and sub plans capital for their development were pooled and the priority within these resources was worked out with reference to the needs of these areas. The development of the tribal area was an essential part of the total development of the State and the nation. The long-term objectives of the tribal sub-plan are to narrow the gap between the levels of development of tribal and Non-tribal areas, and to get better the quality of life of the tribal communities. Each central ministry was responsible for progress of these areas in relation to its practical jurisdiction. They used to review the tribal state of affairs and provide the necessary investments for their speedy progress. As well, these two broad categories, primitive tribal communities at the pre-agricultural level of technology were defined as a special group.

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