

## **ROLE OF ITDAS IN ERADICATION OF POVERTY AMONG TRIBAL PEOPLE OF TELANGANA STATE**

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### **Introduction**

Over the years, programmes and policies have been evolved to bring about change and development in the tribal region of Telangana State. A considerable amount of planning and resources have been invested to improve the quality of life, the nature and distribution of some such schemes have already been discussed in other chapters. Tribal communities of Telangana State have been exposed to various changes and development in their surroundings. To some extent they have benefited from them and have responded to the changes by adopting settled cultivation in place of shifting cultivation, to horticulture and animal husbandry in place of hunting and gathering, to education in place of illiteracy and ignorance, to modern Medicare system in place of superstition and appeasement of spirits, to greater interaction in place of physical and cultural isolation. While there has been an overall development in the state in the general and the sample tribal communities are now also witnessing growing inequality in income distribution and possession of wealth, as a result of constant exposure to a new set of socio-cultural values and practices, hitherto unknown to them. In this paper the main objective is to assess the change that has been brought about in the life of tribals as a result of developmental planning. Attempt will be made to examine the institutional dimensions of change, especially with reference to people's participation in various development programmes in order to initiate development programmes from below so as to make them a part of decision making.

### **Impact of Developmental Planning in Telangana State**

The state is some extent dependent on central funds to carry out" its development activities in connection to the tribal people.

The tribal welfare was an integral part of the Social Welfare Department to look after the welfare of the tribals, creation of separate department was being frequently voiced in the public. It felt that the problems relating to tribals are quite different from those relating to scheduled castes, who lived for centuries with other castes in the plains and that the problems relating to Health, Education, Water supply, easier communications, etc., need special attention.

In view of the backwardness of the tribals and several problems confronting them, the need for a separate head of the department exclusively for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes has been strongly emphasized for the effective functioning which is intended to uplift the economic living conditions of the tribals, and to ensure that the concessions to the tribals in the various development departments have really gone to them to serve their

needs and also to achieve coordination of the various agencies of the departments, and voluntary agencies dealing with tribal welfare programmes, a separate department is considered absolutely necessary which has within its ambit the Tribal Research Institute, also to accord its technical advice and guidance in solving the tribal problems.

The government is, therefore, convinced of the need for a separate department for tribals and created the "Department of Tribal Welfare" on 14th November 1961 in Undivided Andhra Pradesh. For implementing the constitutional safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes, the Tribal Welfare Department is committed for all round development of Scheduled Tribes in the state through formulation of policies and programmes. Tribes and scheduled areas in the state and various developmental activities of tribal welfare and under TSP.

British Government in India had followed a policy of isolation, which led to the exploitation of tribals by Zamindars and landlords. After Independence, the Government of India has provided a number of provisions in the Constitution to safeguard the tribal interests and to achieve faster economic development. The Indian Constitution has laid down various protective as well as ameliorative measures to develop the tribals. These measures have been in the form of assuring their political representation as well as their representation in services through reservation.

In order to advise on matters pertaining to the development of scheduled tribes, compulsory Tribal Advisory Councils have been formed in the states where tribals live both in scheduled areas and outside. Changes have been made in the forest policy, guaranteeing the tribals certain rights on forest produce. The long term credit should be provided to enable the tribal to free himself from the strangle hold of the usurious moneylenders and the tribals repaying capacity should be raised by improving their economic conditions. Aims and Objectives of the ITDAs. To promote and develop education among Scheduled Tribes and thereby improve literacy among Scheduled Tribes. To assist Scheduled Tribes families of below poverty line for their economic development. To provide necessary constitutional protection to the Scheduled Tribes in the state in general and the Scheduled Tribes in the scheduled areas in particular and to safeguard their interests from exploitation and strive for their overall development.

### **Functions of the Department**

The functions of the department have been defined as per the above policy framework under the broad categorization as constitutional functions, developmental functions and coordinating functions.

### **Constitutional Functions**

The department is responsible for the following function as per the Provisions contained in V Schedule of Constitution of India.

### **Part Three District Level**

Presently three ITDAs have been located in Telangana State viz, Khammam, Warangal and Adilabad, Project Officer of ITDA is the district level unit officer. He is assisted by various sectoral officers including Assistant Project Officers, Tribal Welfare; Executive Engineers, Tribal Welfare and Divisional Manager of GCC concerned and

special Deputy Collector of Tribal Welfare.

### **Tribal Development Programmes in Telangana State**

#### **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)**

The Fifth Five Year Plan marked a significant change in the process of tribal development. The plurality of occupations marked variations in the levels of development and varied geo-ethnic milieu of various tribes give rise to plethora of problems, which are for their development. Therefore, area specific strategy been evolved basing has on the expert committee setup by the Ministry of Education and recommendations of Social development.

#### **Telangana Tribal Mining Company (TRIMCO)**

Tribal Mining Company was established in 2001 under the companies' act 1956 as a joint venture TRICOR (74 per cent) and APMDC (26 per cent) to take up mining activity with active participation of Tribal Mining Cooperative Societies. Activity commenced in mining of semi-precious stones at 7 locations and project surveys are being taken up for assessing the potential and mining of other major important mineral resources. To harness the mining potential in tribal areas for improving the living conditions of tribal communities by distributing the mineral wealth generated, by exploiting the various mineral resources lying in the tribal regions of the state.

#### **Educational Programmes**

For Scheduled Tribes education is an input not only for their economic development, but also for promotion in them self-confidence and inner strength to face new challenges. It is worthwhile to note that the education increased at a faster rate amongst Scheduled Tribes than in the general population. Various educational programmes which are they implemented by the Government of Telangana.

#### **Ashram schools**

Ashram Schools are opened in 1974 to provide both school and hostel under the same roof. The Ashram Schools are exclusively for Scheduled Tribes. The Ashram Schools are established in all districts of United Andhra Pradesh state. Presently, These Ashram Schools are being categorized into Ashram Primary Schools, Ashram Upper Primary Schools and Ashram High Schools. In the tribal areas, Ashram Schools have been centres of awareness, social renaissance and qualitative academic performance.

#### **Post Metric Scholarships**

The objective of the scheme is to provide scholarships to scheduled tribe students studying post- matriculation or post-secondary state to enable them to complete their education and also provide books to scheduled students studying professional courses under Book Banks Scheme. The students staying in the post metric hostels receive the post metric scholarships Rs. 525 per month.

#### **Pre Metric Scholarships**

Under Pre Metric Scholarships bright scheduled children are identified and provided opportunity to receive quality education in reputed institutions and institutions of excellence.

### **Best Available Schools**

Bright children among Scheduled Tribes are selected by district selection committee under the chairmanship of Collector in each district and the selected scheduled tribe children are being admitted in the best available schools. This scheme is functioning from 1999 onwards.

### **Hyderabad Public Schools**

The Department is sponsoring scheduled tribe children for admission into Hyderabad Public Schools, which are established in 1966 at Begampet, Ramantapur, R.K.Vidyalaya and Sainkपुरi. Apart from the sponsored candidates, department is also sanctioning scholarship to all eligible scheduled tribe candidates admitted in the schools since 1993. The department is also maintaining two hostels for the day scholars of Scheduled Tribes' studying in the public schools.

### **College of Teacher Education**

A college of Teacher Education was started at Bhadrachalam to provide B.Ed., training to the Scheduled Tribes of Telangana State. The college has an intake capacity of 100 per year and the training is being imparted as per NCTE norms. The college is also providing distance mode training to in- service teachers. This college is also functioning as a study centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University for B.Ed., courses through distance mode

### **Residential Schools for Girls and Construction of Residential Junior Colleges for Girls**

This is a new scheme intended to provide quality education to scheduled tribe girl students through residential junior colleges in the uncovered areas by opening Residential Junior Colleges at Utnoor and Eturunagaram and also to provide buildings for all the proposed institutions to accommodate girls in 1st year intermediate.

### **Construction of High Schools in RIAD Areas**

The scheme is intended to provide additional accommodation to high schools especially tribal welfare girls' ashram high schools located in the RIAD area.

### **Buildings for Educational Institutions**

The objective of the scheme is construction of buildings (new/additional accommodation) to Integrated Hostels, Post Metric Hostels and Ashram Schools which are in private accommodation. The funding is shared by state and central government as 50:50 basis.

### **Economic Development Schemes**

Under the Economic Development for the tribals in the state, the government is framing and implementing several schemes in the state. The economic development schemes are given in the following lines:

### **Economic Support**

The objective of the scheme is to take up economic development programmes for Scheduled Tribes under schemes such as agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, coffee plantation, Janashree Bhima Yojana etc. facilities such as BT roads, minor irrigation schemes, and amenities to tribal welfare educational institutions etc.

### **Integrated Area Development Programme**

The objective of the scheme is to take up family oriented cum income generating schemes for Scheduled Tribes (Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan).

### **Schemes under Article 275(1)**

The objective of the scheme is to bridge critical gaps in infrastructure by taking up infrastructure development

### **Schemes under Tribal Area Sub-Plan**

The objective of the scheme is to provide quality education and amenities/additional accommodation to tribal welfare educational institutions/educational institutions in tribal areas.

### **Conclusion**

All the ITDAs efforts in Telangana are laudable and need to be appreciated and rewarded. But viewed in the context of population explosion, the objective of establishment of ITDA is not only to meet the present needs of the growing tribal problems but to visualize the needs that would crop up in another decade. All the efforts of the authority put together are not even adequate to meet the present needs. The foremost administrative acts of expenditure and income which all depend upon the finance allotted. The attention has to be paid to the fund to lead the authority for implementation of developmental activities in the ITDA Jurisdiction. The main source of the finance of ITDA is only grants from the governments of state and central. For the upliftment of ITDA the most important source is increase or enhancement of financial assistance which can be corpse up by the government through allotting the financial resources to implement various tribal development programmes.

The ITDA of Utnoor, Eturunagaram and Bhadrachalam has been creating rapid growth of tribal problems and to solve the problems arising thereon. The authority's main objective is to ensure an orderly development and growth of the tribal areas development which is witnessing bewildering changers on socio-economic and political fronts. The achievements of the authority are mostly of developmental nature for which tribes are the prime factor. Tribes are required in quantities and in different places to carry out developmental programmes; if it is not easily available thereby the authority assumes paramount prominence.

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