



TRIBAL WELFARE IN GOA: STATUTORY INTERVENTIONS

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ABSTRACT

A change in the agriculture land use implies a change in the proportion of area under different crops. The intensity of land utilization is reflected in number of crops raised during the year. Among the various determinants of agriculture, it is assumed that irrigation positively affects the intensity of cropping. The study area has recorded significant increase in residential and agricultural area due to which gained more land from water bodies, barren and vacant lands. It is observed from the study area, there is a greater variation in the cropping pattern. Farmers have adopted modern technologies i.e. fruits and vegetables, drip irrigation facility, variety seed, improving planting technology and micro irrigation, good network of transports and markets, agricultural advisory centers. Therefore, recently cropping pattern is positively increased. Management practices have a major impact on natural resources including water, soil, nutrients, plants and animal.

KEYWORDS : Scheduled Tribes, Tribal Welfare, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), Welfare Schemes

Introduction

The Scheduled Tribe population is an important social category of the Indian society. One finds that they are not at par with the rest of the population. In other words, the way of life, material well being and living conditions are not satisfactory. While the contemporary world appears to be changing more rapidly than any time in human history (Moore: 2004), it is no doubt the tribal societies are on the threshold of getting exposed more to the modern forces of development than yesterday. Apparently, the dawn of the 21st century truly indicate a gradual progressive trend among the tribals in the country. The testimony to this fact is that, by and large the tribal social worlds are undergoing a change. Despite this happening, the concerns of some tribes are more severe and challenging. Their struggle with fundamental livelihood resources continues amidst adverse geographical conditions.

The constitutional provisions and safeguards are the basic and chief instruments of social change aiming towards the amelioration of tribes. The interventionist strategy of the centre and the state into the tribal society in the post independence period has resulted in the advancement of tribal lives. Nevertheless, the extension of welfare through various statutory means has not completely resolved the aspirations of the tribal masses. The present study in this context highlights the statutory efforts undertaken towards the welfare of tribes in the State of Goa. In this regard, the paper mainly looks at the formation of the Department of Tribal Welfare and the schemes undertaken by it. It also throws light on the achievements of the Tribal Sub Plan spanning from the year 2009 to 2014.

Method and objectives of the study

The study makes use of inputs pertaining to the welfare schemes and Tribal Sub Plan collected from the Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Goa. Formal interviews with the Minister and the Director of Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Goa have enriched the discussion on the subject. The general aim of the study is to uncover the design and plan of action undertaken by the Department of Tribal Welfare. In doing so the paper lays an emphasis on the objectives and various schemes run by the department aiming for an inclusive development of the tribal community. It also throws light on the achievements of the department during the year 2013-14. In particular, the study analyses the effectiveness of the Tribal Sub Plan from the year 2009 to 2014.

Demography of Goan tribes

In the erstwhile Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu five communities namely Dhodia, Dubla, Nayaka, Siddi and Varli were notified as Scheduled tribes in the year 1968. Presently, the people of these communities are found in Daman and Diu. After the attainment of independent statehood, three communities namely, Gawda, Kunbi, and Velip were declared as Scheduled tribes in the year 2003.

In absolute figures the Scheduled Tribe population of the country as per the Census of India, 2011 is 10,42,81,034. The proportion of Scheduled Tribe population to the total population is 8.6 per cent. The share of Scheduled Tribe population of Goa to the total Scheduled Tribe population of India is less than one per cent. As per the Census of 2011, of the total population of 14,58,545 of the State of Goa, there are as many as 1,49,275 persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes which constitute 10.23 per cent of the total population of the State (Census of India: 2011).

A new beginning

The welfare of the tribal communities in the State of Goa remained silent until they were accepted into the official fold of the list of Scheduled Tribes in the year 2003. The period from 2003 until 2010 manifested a major lag in terms of the overall welfare of the tribal communities. During this period, the Goan society witnessed the rise and growth of tribal associations. Tribal associations such as The Gawada, Kunbi, Velip and Dhangar Federation (GAKUVED) and The United Tribal Association Alliance (UTTA) became more active. They put forth their demands by launching protest movements before the State Government aiming towards the general welfare of the tribes.

A series of protests ultimately brought an awakening on the part of the government, when in the year 2010 an independent Department of Tribal Welfare was established in the State. However, it is important to mention here that prior to the establishment of the Department of Tribal Welfare the welfare of the tribal masses in general was undertaken and monitored by the Department of Social Welfare. The Department of Tribal Welfare, though in its infant stage has constructively formulated certain objectives aiming at the overall development of the tribes.

Broad objectives laid down by the Department of Tribal Welfare are as follows:

- Statutory and administrative facilities to protect and to empower the Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- Implementation and monitoring of welfare schemes and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for tribals framed by Government of Goa as well as Government of India
- Protecting interests of tribals in matters pertaining to employment in government service
- Establishing and monitoring functions of statutory bodies pertaining to growth and protection of tribals. Carrying out Census and survey of Scheduled Tribe communities.
- Training and capacity building among tribals.
- Implementation of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Regulation of Forest Right Act, 2006)

The schemes formulated by the Department of Tribal Welfare are:

√ Pre-matric scholarship: Provides financial assistance to ST students undergoing pre matric education

√ Kanya Dhan: Promote education among girl students of ST communities

√ Scholarship for Home nursing: Provides financial assistance to ST community students undergoing courses in nursing

√ Grants to voluntary organisations for running hostels for ST students: To give grant in aid to the voluntary social organization who run hostels for ST students to enable them to pursue their studies away from their place of residence

√ Post-matric scholarship: Provide financial assistance to ST students studying at post secondary stage to enable them to complete their higher education

√ Book bank scheme: Establish book banks in medical colleges (including Indian systems of medicine and homeopathy) engineering, agriculture, veterinary, polytechnics, law course, chartered accountancy, MBA, and bio-sciences

√ Gagan bharari shiksha yojana: Financial assistance to support the expenditure on travel, food for the students undergoing post matric education

√ Merit based award and recognition of high performers in board exams: Felicitation of rank holders and merit based wards for high performers in board exams

√ Sahayata: For creating of awareness of schemes, programmes for the upliftment of tribal population

√ Antya sanskar sahay yojana: Financial assistance for incurring expenditure for conducting funerals and religious ceremonies related to last rites of the deceased

√ Atal asra yojana: Financial assistance for construction/ repairs of house to ST population

√ Mundkarache ghar: Financial assistance to the mundkars of ST community to exercise their right to purchase dwelling house

√ Scheme to support orphan child/ children of widow belonging to ST community: To give financial support to the orphan children and the children of widows for meeting the expenditure on food, clothing, shelter till the children attains the age of 18 years

√ Prashikshan yatra: To provide financial assistance to the educational institutes in the tribal dominated areas to conduct study tours/ excursions across the country to cover places of historic, cultural and educational importance during school vacations

√ Sanskriti bhavan: To help the ST community by providing the most needed infrastructure of multipurpose community halls in the habitations of ST people

√ Adivasi vikas yojana: To provide financial support to village panchayats/ zilla panchayats and municipalities where there is substantial tribal population to create new infrastructure and upgrade the existing infrastructure as also carry out one time maintenance for the benefit of the village communities

√ Special central assistance and grants under article 275: Financial assistance for development of infrastructure and minor irrigation works and self employment

√ Pre primary schools for Scheduled Tribes children in remote areas: To provide financial assistance to set up pre-primary schools in the remote tribal areas which lack the facility of the pre-primary education for tribal population, financial assistance in the form of rent amount payable for the premises, fixed remuneration to one teacher, one helper, teaching aid/ equipments, toys, mid-day meal to be provided under the scheme

The schemes outlined by the department clearly indicate a major thrust given to the domain of education. This is true from the fact that as many as nine out of eighteen welfare schemes are directly or indirectly committed to the cause of education among the tribes. The keen effort of the government to raise the educational standards of the community will help in overcoming the various problems faced by the community. Housing, infrastructure development, irrigation, and self employment are also other areas of concern. Currently, the department is in the process of designing additional three to four welfare schemes which are likely to be implemented during the next financial year. The following table looks into the achievements of the tribal welfare department for the year 2013-14:

Table no. 1
Expenditure and Achievements of Tribal Welfare Department under Plan Schemes for the Year 2013-14

Demand No.	Demand/ Major, Sub-Major, Minor Heads/ Schemes	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)	Achievements
1	Capital outlay on roads and bridges	2700.45	----
2	Financial assistance for construction of new houses and repairs "Atal Asra Yojana"	1917.5	2108 beneficiaries
3	Education programme (stipends, meritorious scholarships to ST students)	569.23	9737 students
4	Capital outlay on water supply	387.00	----
5	Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Tribes	381.18	3162 students
6	Financial assistance to ST students under "Gagan Bharari Shiksha Yojana"	318.75	3736 students
7	Kanya Dhan	156.50	639 students
8	Grants to voluntary organisations for running hostels	82.01	5 NGOs
9	Merit based award and recognition of high performance in the board exams of SSC and HSSC in the State of Goa	75.08	916 students
10	Grant of financial assistance for performance of funeral and religious ceremonies related to last rites of a person of ST community under "Antya Sanskar Sahay Yojana"	44.60	32 beneficiaries
11	Prashikshan Yatra- scheme to provide financial assistance for conducting study tours (excursion) for ST students during vacations	36.68	37 institutions
12	Non recurring grants for infrastructure development and minor irrigation	21.25	15
13	Implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006)	6.41	----
14	Scheme to support orphan child/ children of widow belonging to ST community	3.80	47
15	Coaching to ST students	2.14	
16	"Sahayata"- financial assistance for creating awareness and implementation of schemes/ programmes of ST	1.93	4 NGOs
17	Scholarships to ST community students in Nursing Courses	1.71	13 students
18	Financial assistance for self employment and training	1.35	----
19	Book bank for ST students	0.29	1 set

Source: Department of Tribal Welfare

Table no. 1 indicate higher expenditures done in the area of public works (roads and bridges), followed by housing, water supply and education. Access to certain tribal areas still continues to pose a major challenge for people living in remote regions. By and large these areas have remained backward as a result of their settlements in the hilly regions making commutation difficult. There is an urgent need to connect these places through adequate means of transportation by constructing roads and bridges. The living condition of the tribals is well depicted in the form of housing. A gradual process of change is witnessed in the pattern of housing among the tribes in the recent years. One may rarely come across one or two mud houses or with that of a thatched roof in a tribal hamlet of Goa. A majority of the tribals are the beneficiaries of the housing schemes which are at their disposal.

The Tribal sub plan

Even after Independence, the issues confronted by the tribals did not receive adequate attention from the government. To tackle the problems faced by the tribal communities across the length and breadth of the country the planning commission evolved a total and comprehensive strategy on the eve of the fifth plan (1974-75) known as Tribal Sub-Plan. The long term objective of the tribal sub-plan approach was to narrow the gap between the levels of development of tribal and other areas while improving the quality of life of the tribal communities (Chhotroy: 2006).

The tribal sub plan funds are channelized through the various departments in the State of Goa. Initially, i.e. in the year 2009-10, a total of only seventeen departments were allocated funds to meet the welfare of tribes in the State. Presently, there are altogether twenty five departments utilising funds of the Tribal Sub Plan in the areas wherever there is the presence of tribal habitats. In keeping with the norms of the planning commission, funds are earmarked for the ST component and efforts are on to identify works for implementation of projects and programmes for the overall development of the scheduled tribe population (Tribal Sub Plan: 2013-14).

Table no. 2
Outlay and Expenditure of Tribal Sub Plan from 2009 to 2014 (in lakhs)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure	%
2009-10	10715.01	9793.61	91.40
2010-11	13432.35	11221.61	83.54
2011-12	27358.47	17127.84	62.61
2012-13	37370.53	11273.64	30.17
2013-14	42650.46	17386.75	40.76

Source: Department of Tribal Welfare

Table no. 2 indicates the provision and expenditure of tribal sub plan funds from the year 2009 to 2014. The expenditure of funds, as shown in the table has declined from the year 2009 to 2013, but demonstrated a gradual increase during 2013-14. There is a steady decline in the expenditure pattern from the year 2010 to 2012. One can notice a radical fall in the percentage of expenditure during the period 2012-13. Though, there is a decrease in the expenditure on the one hand, one can observe that the allocation of funds during the period has shown a tremendous increase on the other hand. The outlay doubled during the year 2011-12 in comparison to the preceding year, and subsequently there is a hike of another hundred crores during the succeeding years.

Table no. 3
Comparison of expenditures of departments (Tribal Sub Plan) in percentages

Sr. No.	Department	2012-13	2013-14
I	Water resources	65.42	36.37
II	Public works	33.52	--
III	Municipal administration	0.00	--
IV	Social welfare	4.66	98.20
V	Tribal welfare	12.73	31.30
VI	Education	56.06	17.21
VII	Electricity	58.32	83.11

VIII	Sports and youth affairs	16.51	31.05
IX	Women and child development	84.96	51.29
X	Health	78.87	54.30
XI	Animal husbandry and vet. services	51.64	39.28
XII	Agriculture	67.68	55.27
XIII	Forest	91.33	79.42
XIV	Dist. Rural dev. agency	42.31	54.71
XV	Panchayats	63.02	84.27
XVI	Fisheries	100	100
XVII	Craftsmen training centre	20.86	8.42
XVIII	Art and culture	9.68	48.85
XIX	Industries, trade and commerce	2.77	87.26
XX	Information and technology	82.82	--
XXI	Labour	0.00	3.62
XXII	Co-operation	0.00	--
XXIII	Tourism	5.15	--
XXIV	Science, technology and environment	2.04	4.82
XXV	Higher education	50.00	--

Source: Department of Tribal Welfare

As indicated in the table no.3, the departments which have shown a rise in the expenditure pattern during the year 2013-14 are: Social welfare, Tribal welfare, Electricity, Sports and youth affairs, Dist. Rural dev. Agency, Panchayats, Fisheries, Art and culture, Industries, trade and commerce, Labour, and Science, technology and environment. Whereas, the department which show low expenditures are Water resources, Education, Women and child development, Health, Animal husbandry and vet. Services, Agriculture, Forest, Craftsmen training centre. Departments such as (Public works, Municipal administration, Information and technology, Co-operation, Tourism, and Higher education) have failed to meet any expenditure.

As shown in the table above, the departments showing expenditure of more than 76 per cent are Social welfare, Electricity, Forest, Panchayats, Fisheries, Industries, trade and commerce. The rest of the departments indicate fairly low, moderate and no expenditures.

The Department of Social Welfare during the period of 2013-14 has shown a good rise in the expenditure in comparison to the preceding period (2012-13). The increase in the expenditure of the department is largely because of the schemes run by the department such as Dayanand Social Security Scheme, the Rajiv Awaas Yojana and also financial assistance to tiny enterprises. It may pointed that the number of beneficiaries increased more significantly through schemes such as the Dayanand Social Security Scheme, wherein financial assistance is provided to the most vulnerable sections of the society. The Department of Electricity has carried out major works in reaching to tribal people especially in areas in the vicinity of wild life sanctuary. The whopping expenditure is largely used in the setting up and up grading of sub-stations, and in laying underground cabling of electricity lines.

Interestingly, the Department Of Forest reveal healthy figures since works such as establishment and maintenance of fire wood depots, rising of plantation under social forestry and maintenance, maintenance of nursery, maintenance of parks, maintenance of development works in forest areas, de silting of water holes, construction of roads, rubble walls, check dams and promotion of eco tourism are taken up.

The expenditure figures of the panchayats dealing with rural infrastructure too are contributing significantly towards tribal development. Similarly, the department of fisheries and the department of industries, trade and commerce have shown high indices of expenditure.

Conclusions

Though the Department of Tribal Welfare is in its nascent stages of growth, the progress achieved by it is noteworthy. The formation of Tribal Ministry in the State is largely responsible for the change. However, the tribal situation in the State warrants more attention and con-

certed action to attend to fundamental livelihood issues, especially in the remote locations. It is inferred that there is no optimum utilisation of the funds of the Tribal Sub Plan by few departments. The expectations of the tribal communities perhaps are likely to be fulfilled if the allocations and expenditure of the funds probably do not show much bigger variations. At this juncture, there is rigorous need to relook into the effective and timely implementation of the programmes. An all inclusive development of the tribes can only come true if the departmental propositions are to be translated into action programmes to meet the desired ends.

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