

Role of Developmental Programmes for the Tribals in the Nilgiris District

*** Dr. Hemasrikumar, ** G. Nithya**

Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Providence College for Women, Coonoor

Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Providence College for Women, Coonoor

Corresponding Author: Dr. Hemasrikumar

Abstract: The tribal people of India constitute an integral part of the Indian population and represent a part of Indian culture. The total population of the Scheduled tribes in the country is about 67.8 million and they constitute of about 8.08% of the total population. Tribal Development in India is a subject, which is being discussed among statesmen, academics and scholars over six decades. During this period, it has become a subject which drew serious and widespread concern and pronounced attention from several quarters ranging from policy makers and development planners to academics providing material for all of them. Thus, the state is becoming increasingly important in the context of tribal development. The present study is based on secondary source of information and provides an overall picture of developmental programmes by the Government for the upliftment of tribal communities in the Nilgiris District.

Date of Submission: 11-01-2018

Date of acceptance: 03-02-2018

I. INTRODUCTION

The mountain ranges and hill areas of India have a crucial role to play in determining the climate and physiography of the country and are prime determinants of socio-economic development of plain areas as the rivers have their genesis here and the protection and climatic control they provide have enabled India to sustain its position as an economic power. Keeping in view the increasing population pressure in the hill areas and the need to preserve their fragile ecology, the Central Government has been allocating Special Central Assistance to these areas through the Hill Area Development Programme, Western Ghats Development Programme which have been in operation from the Fifth Five Year Plan in designated hill areas. Under these programmes, Special Central Assistance is given to designated hill areas in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in the development of these ecologically fragile areas.

The approach and strategy of the programme have evolved through the Plans. The programmes implemented during the Fifth Plan period were mainly beneficiary oriented. During the Sixth Plan, though the emphasis shifted to eco development, the general tenor of HADP remained substantially the same as that of normal State Plan following the same sectoral approach. The Seventh Plan laid particular emphasis on the development of ecology and environment, namely eco-restoration, eco-preservation and eco-development. The aim was to evolve plans and programmes which would stimulate socio-economic growth, development of infrastructure and promotion of ecology of the areas covered by HADP. The following table shows the allocation during the tenth plan.

Table-1: Fund Allocation to the Tribes during the Tenth Plan

States	Pop.(in Lakhs) As per 2011 Census	% age to total Pop of HADP/ WGDP	Area (In Sq Kms) As per 2011 Census	% age to total Area of HADP/ WGDP	Allocation during Tenth Plan (Rs in crore)
HADP					
Tamil Nadu	6.29	1.56	2540	1.43	123.90

States	Pop.(in Lakhs) As per 2011 Census	% age to total Pop of HADP/ WGDP	Area (In Sq Kms) As per 2011 Census	% age to total Area of HADP/ WGDP	Allocation during Tenth Plan (Rs in crore)
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WGDP					
Tamil Nadu	89.10	22.07	25480	14.31	61.00

Sources: Census of 2011

Special Central Assistance under the programme is given on 90:10 basis i.e. 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan. As per the direction of Ministry of Finance, from the Annual Plan 2004-05 only grant portion is being released to the State Governments, the loan portion is being raised by the State Governments from the market.

Table-2: Population of STs in Nilgiris

S. No	ST	House hold	Percentage of Household	Population		Total Population	Percentage of Total Population	Area of concentration
				Male	Female			
1	Toda	418	6.39	785	695	1480	4.98	Udhagamandalam, Kotagiri
2	Kotas	491	7.5	1009	976	1985	6.68	Udhagamandalam
3	Kurumbas	2076	31.71	5196	5157	10353	34.86	Connoor
4	Irulas	1913	29.22	4219	4495	8714	29.34	Kundah Coonoor, Kotagiri
5	Paniyas	1197	18.28	2795	2746	5541	18.65	Pandalur, Gudalur
6	Kattudayakan	452	6.9	824	805	1629	5.49	Pandalur, Gudalur
Total		6547	100	14828	14874	29702	100	

Source: Census of 2011

Objectives

1. To find out the factors which encourage tribals in development
2. To study the support given by the government to tribals.
3. To examine the obstacles faced by the tribals
4. To draw conclusions and offer suggestions

Statement of the problem

The initial scoping and preliminary assessments made during the social assessment has established that the profiles of tribal households in the hills are diverse, comprising of a number of societal and ethnic sub-groups and other cultural features. The findings of the social assessment bring out this very clearly. There is substantial number of tribal people in the sample pilot district of The Nilgiris and they do have a collective attachment to the land, they speak indigenous language and have different cultural and social institutions that are distinct from that of the mainstream population. It is clear that the project interventions will not affect adversely the tribal people and only positive benefits are envisaged, but, they require special attention from the view point of ensuring inclusion and equity. Accordingly, the Tribal Development Plan (TDP) is developed to address tribal issues up-front and provide culturally compatible resolutions that ensure focused and exclusive attention towards tribal/indigenous people. The objectives of the Tribal Development Plan are to ensure that the:

- (i) the tribal populations are provided an opportunity for free, prior and informed consultations leading to broad community support for the TNRTP; and are enabled to participate in the project and derive full benefits; and
- ii) that the project's institutional and implementation arrangements take due note of the existing governance in the tribal areas as specified under the Constitution of India and relevant legal provisions.

II. METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the way to systematically solve the research problems. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done systematically. It explains various steps that are adopted by a researcher in conducting the research problem along with the logic behind them. This study is focused on "Role of the HADP development programmes for the tribals in Nilgiri District" in accordance with the objectives of

the study. The Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu was purposively selected because it is one of the districts in Tamil Nadu where the percentage of tribal population is higher. Also, the familiarity of the researcher to the culture and local dialect of the district was considered. Secondary source has been used.

III. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Table-3: Financial allocation to Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department

During 2016-2017 S.No	Particulars	Revenue	Capital	Total (Rs. in crore)
1	Tribal Welfare	228.74	39.91	268.65

Source: Census of 2011

The Government has allocated a sum of Rs.50 Crore for the Comprehensive Tribal Development Programme for the year 2016-17. Through this programme, Land development activities, improvement of Katcha houses, road work, improvement of GTR schools, provision of drinking water facilities, economic development schemes and training skills are implemented through HADP for Tribal Development

Table-4: Educational level of Household Members

Educational level	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Up to Primary	63	27.3	49	19.4	112	23.1
Middle School	52	22.5	40	15.8	92	19.0
High School	33	14.3	36	14.2	69	14.3
Higher Secondary	24	10.4	25	9.9	49	10.1
Technical	6	2.6	4	1.6	10	2.1
Graduate	7	3.0	10	4.0	17	3.5
Post Graduate	4	1.7	3	1.2	7	1.4
Uneducated	42	18.2	86	34.0	128	26.4
Total	231	100	253	100	484	100

Source: Census of 2011

Thirty four percent amongst females and 18 percent amongst males are uneducated. This in comparison to State average of 27 percent female illiteracy and 13 percent of male illiteracy is high. Female educational attainment is comparatively lower than the male educational level till up to higher secondary level. The females are faring better at graduation level. Interestingly there are not many takers for technical education amongst the females compared to the males. Efforts should be made to impart technical skills to women that can easily be picked up even after days of formal education and this would become the driving force in making some girl children opting for technical education and become employable in the nearby towns.

Table-5: Occupation of Household Members

Occupation	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Petty/Tea shop	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.4
Repair shop	3	1.3	0	0.0	3	0.6
Small Trade	0	0.0	2	0.8	2	0.4
Trading	3	1.3	2	0.8	5	1.0
Self employed	8	3.5	10	4.0	18	3.7
Salaried	4	1.7	7	2.8	11	2.3
Professional	2	0.9	3	1.2	5	1.0
Casual laborer	95	41.1	77	30.4	172	35.5
Agri labourer	11	4.8	18	7.1	29	6.0
Livestock	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.4
Cultivator	12	5.2	12	4.7	24	5.0
Unemployed	2	0.9	2	0.8	4	0.8
Not in workforce	87	37.7	120	47.4	207	42.8
Total	231	100	253	100	484	100

Source: Census of 2011

Forty seven percent amongst females and 38 percent amongst males are not in workforce, comprising largely of children, students, elderly, housewives and females who do not go for work (the State average of men not in workforce constitute 41 percent and women not in workforce constitute 68 percent). Forty one percent of the men work as casual labourers, followed by 5 percent each of cultivators and agricultural labourers, 4 percent are self-employed and 3 percent are into some form of trading. Amongst the women, 30 percent are casual labourers, followed by 7 percent agricultural labourers, 5 percent are cultivators, 4 percent are self-employed, 3 percent are salaried and 2 percent are into some form of trading. Significant number of women are working as casual labourers and agricultural labourers (37%) and this segment should be provided with required support to take up cultivation and rear livestock as desired by them in the consultations. Amongst those who are not in workforce, the employable age group of 25 years to 45 years comprises of 13 percent and most of them are female (85%) women and as housewives they are not in workforce. If motivated and provided option to work at their own convenient time close to their place of living, this segment can very well form part of the workforce. Twelve percent of the workforce travel outside their village for work and the rest (88%) work within the same place.

Table-6: Traditional Occupational Skill

Type	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Traditional	41	30.4	33.9
Self-Acquired	12	8.9	9.9
Training	13	9.6	10.7
No	55	40.7	45.5
No Response	14	10.4	-
Total	135	100	100

Source: Census of 2011

Forty six percent of the women reported that they have not had any training. The occupational skill had been traditional for 34 percent, self-acquired for 10 percent and 11 percent had acquired by attending formal training programs.

Table-7: Economic Activity

Type of Activity	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	17	70.8
Coffee Estate (small holding)	3	12.5
Tailoring	2	8.3
Livestock	1	4.2
Potter	1	4.2
Total	24	100

Source: Census of 2011

Seventy one percent of the respondent women are into cultivation, followed by 13 percent who are growing coffee, 8 percent are into tailoring and 4 percent each are into rearing livestock and into pottery (table 4.11). It can be seen that majority (88%) are either into agriculture, coffee and livestock, which is their preferred activity that was indicated during the consultations. The interventions proposed amongst this tribal community should keep their aspirations and collective attachment to land in mind while facilitating enterprise.

Table-8: Amount Mobilized for the Economic Activity

Amount Mobilized (in INR)	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
≤ 5,000	4	16.7	22.2
>5,000 and ≤ 10,000	-	-	-
>10,000 and ≤ 30,000	10	41.6	55.6
>30,000 and ≤ 1,00,000	4	16.7	22.2
>1,00,000	-	-	-
No Response	6	25.0	-
Total	24	100	100

Source: Census of 2011

The investment mobilized for the economy activity ranges from Rs.1000 (tailoring) to Rs.1,00,000 (agriculture). Fifty six percent reported of having mobilized an amount in the range of Rs.10,001 to Rs.30,000, followed by 22 percent each who reported of having mobilized an amount ranging from Rs.30,001 to Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.5,000 and less. The average amount mobilized works out to Rs.32, 056.

Table-9: Investment Made in the Economic Activity

Type of Investment	Number of Women who had Invested	Percentage out of Total Women into Economic Activity	Average Amount of Investment Made
Building	4	16.7	2,875
Raw Material / Goods	5	20.8	5,400
Machinery / Equipment	5	20.8	9,800
Deposits	6	25.0	4,333
Total of Some Investment	7	29.2	16,214

Source: Census of 2011

The respondent women who are into economic activity were asked to indicate the amount that they invested further in the activity at the time they started it. Twenty one percent each of the respondents reported of having invested in goods and raw material, the average investment made was Rs.5,400, and in machinery and equipment the average of which was Rs.9,800 . Twenty five percent had made some deposit related to their activity and the average deposit made was Rs.4,333. Seventeen percent had invested on building and the average investment made was Rs.2,875.

Table-10: Borrowings for Economic Activity

Type of Loan	Number of Women who had Borrowed	Percentage out of Total Women into Economic Activity	Average Amount of Borrowing
Bank Loan as Capital	3	12.5	1,04,000
Private Loan as Capital	1	4.2	5,000
Bank Loan for Working Capital	-	-	-
Private Loan for Working Capital	-	-	-

Source: Census of 2011

None had been able to borrow for working capital either from bank or from private financiers. This indicates that finances for agricultural activity is not accessible to these tribal community, who during the consultations had expressed their desire to do cultivation and requested for financial support.

Table-11: Difficulties in the Economic Activity

Difficulties	Frequency	Percent
Lack of Working Capital	21	87.5
Non-availability of Finance for Low Interest	16	66.7
Non-availability of Raw Material	18	75.0
Payment (receivables) delayed	14	58.3
Health Issues Involved in the Activity	6	25.0
Lack of equipment/machinery	11	45.8
Lack of skill / business knowledge	14	58.3
Difficulty in Marketing	20	83.3

Source: Census of 2011

Eighty eight percent reported that lack of working capital was a difficulty faced by them in their economic activity, followed by 83 percent reported of difficulty in marketing (table 4.17). 75 percent cited non-availability of raw material as a difficulty faced by them, 67 percent reported of non-availability of finance at low interest as a difficulty, 58 percent each reported of delayed payments as a difficulty and lack of business knowledge, 46 percent each reported of lack of equipment / machinery as a difficulty and shortage of skilled labour and 25 percent reported that health issues related with their activity as a difficulty.

Table-12: Support Required to Expand Activity

Support Required to Expand	Most Important	Important	May be Useful	Not Required	Not at all Required	Weighted Average of Responses	Importance of Support
Working capital	83.3	12.5	4.2	-	-	4.8	Most Important
Term loan	56.5	26.1	13.0	4.3	-	4.3	Important
Training	29.2	12.5	25.0	29.2	4.2	3.3	May be Useful
Raw material made locally available	54.2	16.7	16.7	8.3	4.2	4.1	Important
Marketing support	37.5	41.7	4.2	12.5	4.2	4.0	Important
Guidance at times of difficulty	20.8	37.5	25.0	12.5	4.2	3.6	Important
Technical support	29.2	41.7	16.7	12.5	-	3.9	Important
Linkage to other Govt. schemes	39.1	30.4	17.4	13.0	-	4.0	Important

Source: Census of 2011

Respondents who are into economic activity were asked to assign the level of importance that they attribute to support measures. In order to identify the requirement, weightage were given by assigning 5 to most important requirement through 1 to not at all required. It can be seen from table that the requirement of working capital for the economic activity has been regarded as most important support required and all other support measures are reported as important except training that is reported as may be useful.

IV. CONCLUSION

The initial scoping and preliminary assessments made during the social assessment has established that the profiles of tribal households in the hills are diverse, comprising of a number of societal and ethnic sub-groups and other cultural features. The findings of the social assessment, brings this out very clearly. There are substantial number of tribal people in the sample pilot district of The Nilgiris; and they do have a collective attachment to the land, speak indigenous language and have a different cultural and social institutions, that are distinct from that of the mainstream population.

Significant number of women are working as casual labourers and agricultural labourers (37%) and this segment should be provided with required support to take up cultivation and rear livestock as desired by them in the consultations.

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Some of the indicative livelihood options are:

- a) Agriculture and Livestock
- b) Promotion of ecotourism
- c) Promotion of Tribal tourism
- d) Value addition of NTFPs
- e) Increasing the intensity of collecting more number of NTFPs in Nilgiris
- f) Collection of parking charges by the federation in tourist places
- g) Rearing of white pigs (white Yorkshire) for pork, this could be marketed in Mysore, Bangalore and Chennai (This could be done if those tribes have habit of rearing pigs) – Climate is favourable for rearing pigs (white)
- h) Vermi-composting is the very good business, manure is the most wanted for tea and coffee estates.
- i) As the climate is favourable, viable micro enterprises such as mushroom culture, rearing rabbits and sericulture could be encouraged.
- j) Goat rearing in cages is also an appropriate option to increase income of project target community
- k) Cold storage could be installed to store vegetables and seasonal fruits for marketing based on demand
- l) Exportable flower cultivation in polyhouse mist chambers could fetch significant income.

The project cycle for hilly locations requires adequate time for preparations ie; to ensure placement of local staff; to ensure tribal community participation in institutional development; and business development services suits the needs and caters to tribal livelihoods and developing value chain, internal learning process. Hence preference to hilly blocks (with tribal HHs) in the first phase of the project implementation to allow the interventions with adequate preparatory and learning process is recommended.

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Dr. Hemasrikumar "Role of Developmental Programmes for the Tribals in the Nilgiris District." IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS). vol. 23 no. 1, 2018, pp. 23-29.