

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN IN ANDHRA PRADESH - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The experience gained by planners made them to realize that the previous approaches to Rural Development namely policy of isolation (*laissez-faire*) policy of assimilation (observation), middle path have some critical factors i.e. the cultural contest of the people for whom development plans were implemented. A number of factors of a Tribal Area like the environment of an area, its impact on the administration of the area, the tribal culture its economy; social customs and political system also influence the administrative set-up. Therefore, the administrative system i.e. set-up has to be changed keeping in view the ecology of the tribal areas, the complexities arising out of the tribal ecology are different from those of the other areas and hence call for a divergent approach. Further, the administrative development acknowledges of Tribal Social System, their customs and socio-economic conditions are greatly relevant.

INTRODUCTION

As per the directions of Government of India the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been implementing the tribal sub-plan from the time of 5th Five year plan i.e. from 1975 onwards.

The main objectives are namely:

1. Socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes
2. Protection against exploitation under the tribal sub-plan strategy all the departments in the state have been allocating a minimum of 6.6% of their plan budget for the development programmes. For the purpose of taking up appropriate programmes the tribals have been broad under the scheme of integrated tribal development agency (ITDA) modified area development approach, cluster, dispersed tribal groups (DTG) and primitive tribal groups (PTG) there are 10 ITDAs functioning in the state 41 MADA pockets 17 clusters and 12 PTGs. Rest of the tribal population not covered, under this project is covered under DTG projects.

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

Among the various developmental programmes the department is giving high priority for development of Education among STs in the state as education accelerates the developmental process. Government is proposing an allocation of 78% of the budget of the development for 2009-10 for development of education among STs. The development has a threefold objectives of¹:

- a. Providing universal access to education up to upper primary level in tribal area
- b. To provide support to all eligible children of ST families below poverty line for pursuing education including post matric education and
- c. To import quality education with a long term objective of making tribal children able to get through various entrance / competitive exams for professional and other related courses.

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED AREA

The Department has also been focusing on development of Scheduled Areas / Tribal Areas in order to reduce the accumulated gap in the levels of development of scheduled areas and general areas. Special programmes have been evolved for accelerated development of tribal areas and tribals. Accordingly provision of drinking water, providing road connectivity, electrification, development of minor irrigation, agricultural credit, consumption loaned, comprehensive training programmes, regeneration of minor forest produce, etc., are being taken care of special focus is given to strengthen primary education and primary health care in the tribal areas².

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The main approach of the Department in planning and execution of various welfare and developmental programmes centres around a process of participatory management by tribals. The local tribals are involved in planning, implementation and monitoring the socio-economic development schemes. The ST women self-help groups organized into village organizations and subsequently federated into Mandal and Zilla Samakhyas have been actively involved in the entire development process of tribals in the state. Further, Government has taken a decision to entrust all civil works up to an estimated cost of Rs.10.00 Lakhs to the Local Village Tribal Development Associations (VTDA's) only.

COORDINATION

The Department believes that tribal development is a collective responsibility of all line departments in true letter and spirit. The Department also provides necessary space for public-private partnership.

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 functions³.

CONSTITUTIONAL FUNCTIONS

The Department is responsible for the following functions as per the provisions contained in V Schedule of Constitution of India.

- i. Assisting Government in formulating policies concerning the law applicable in the scheduled area of the State.
- ii. Convening the AP Tribes Advisory Council not less than twice in a year to seek the advice on issuing concerning STs and scheduled areas.
- iii. Enforcing various protective regulations, specialty the Land Transfer Regulations in the scheduled areas of the State.
- iv. Implementing and coordinating on Rule of Reservation in favour of STs in the State and special reservations for STs in scheduled areas.
- v. Preparing and furnishing the draft annual report on administration of the scheduled areas in the State.
- vi. Assisting Government in conducting caste verification and social status verification of STs and to weed out the fake certificate holders.
- vii. Implementing single line administration in the tribal areas of the State through ITDAs⁴.

DEVELOPMENTAL FUNCTIONS

- i. Providing necessary support to children of ST families below poverty line for their educational development through hostels, ashram schools and by sanctioning scholarships.

- ii. Imparting quality education to children of ST families below poverty line through residential schools, colleges and institutions of excellence.
- iii. Providing economic support to ST families below poverty line for taking up various income generating activities and thereby aiming at poverty reduction among STs.
- iv. Building up infrastructure support to the scheduled tribes for taking up various economic activities like agriculture, live-stock development, minor irrigation, etc., for their overall economic development.
- v. Development of infrastructure such as providing road connectivity, safe drinking water and strengthening educational infrastructure in the tribal areas.
- vi. Procuring minor forest produce (MFP) from the forest dependent ST families by paying remunerative price.
- vii. Undertaking public distribution system in the remote and interior tribal areas of the State.
- viii. To study, protect, preserve and disseminate information on tribal culture through TCR & TI.
- ix. Harnessing the natural resources like water resources and mineral resources in scheduled areas by constructing mini-hydel projects and other energy related projects and also by taking up mining activity through tribal groups / tribal cooperatives and thereby enabling their economic development.
- x. Implementing various central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes of the Government of India intended for the development of the STs in the State.

COORDINATING FUNCTIONS

Coordinating with the line departments of the State Government and ensuring formulation and implementation of TSP. The department is responsible for convening the meetings of Nodal Agency on TSP to review the allocations and expenditure of all departments under TSP once in two months⁵.

ORGANIZATION SETUP

- a. State level: The Department functions under the overall leadership and guidance of Minister for Tribal Welfare. Principal Secretary to Government, Tribal Welfare assists the Government in formulating, implementing and in reviewing tribal welfare policies and programmes.
- b. The Tribal Welfare Department has (3) Heads of Departments. Commissioner of Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad, Engineer-in-Chief, Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad and Managing Director, Girijan Co-

operative Corporation (GCC), Visakhapatnam. The Commissioner, Tribal Welfare is also ex-officio Managing Director of AP ST Co-operative Finance Corporation (TRICOR), AP Tribal Power Company (TRIPCO), Chairman, AP Tribal Mining Company (TRIMCO), Hyderabad, and also Member Secretary, AP TW Residential Educational Institutions Society (Gurukulam), Hyderabad.

- c. Regional level: The regional center of TCR & TI at Bhadrachalam, the (3) circles offices manned by Superintendent Engineers of Tribal Welfare and Regional Office of GCC, Hyderabad are the regional offices of the Department. The ITDA for Chenchu, Srisailam covers the chenchus of (6) districts and ITDA for Yanadis at Nellore covers the Yanadis of (4) districts and Commissioner / Director, Tribal Welfare is the Chairman of both the ITDAs.

PROGRAMMES OF THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTION AND ADMINISTRATION: HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

The headquarters office is headed by Commissioner; Tribal Welfare assisted by an Additional Director, Joint Directors, Dy. Directors, Asst. Directors, Accounts Officer and other officers. The CTW is the chief controlling officer of the budget of the department. He approves the annual action plans, releases budget to all the unit offices, supervises the programmes and reviews performance on a periodical basis. Joint Director, Administration is the Public Information Officer of the Department. The officers of the headquarters office are also appointed as liaison officers to districts offices/ ITDAs for regular inspection and visits. The internal audit wing of the headquarters office takes up internal audit-of the unit offices. Apart from the internal audit Wing the services of Institute of Public Auditors (IPA), Hyderabad also being utilized for internal audit of the ITDAs⁶.

DISTRICT OFFICES

The district offices include (10) ITDAs, (2) MADA Project Offices, (23) District Tribal Welfare Offices, (65) Assistant Tribal Welfare Offices, OSD, Karimnagar and Assistant Project Officer, Mahadevpur and Mahabubabad.

Government have also sanctioned (8) Special Deputy Collectors for Tribal Welfare to enforce the protective regulations, especially AP Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulations, 1959 as amended by 1970, 1971 and 1978. In scheduled areas under LTR so far (76,581) cases involving an extent of (3,38,742) Acs., have been detected. Out of them (74,769) cases were disposed off involving an extent of (3,31,895) Acs. Out them (36,329) cases were decided in favour of STs covering an area of (1,42,779) Acs.

Out of the extent, an area of (1,21,910) Acs. was restored to tribals in (36,329) cases.

TW ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE AND OTHER OFFICES

Tribal Welfare Engineering wing was created in 1984 for executing road works, educational buildings and drinking water works and other works as entrusted by Government from time to time in tribal areas. The Tribal Welfare Engineering Department consists of (1) Engineer-in-Chief and (1) QC division at State level and (3) Superintendent Engineers at circle Level, and (9) Executive Engineers at divisional level supported by sub-divisional, engineers and section officers.

TRAINING

The scheme is intended to provide training, orientation and skill up gradation of staff working in Tribal Welfare and to the staff working in tribal areas. During 2008-09, training programs have been organised for Tahasildars and Village Revenue Officers on land issues, Tahasildars and RDOs in issuance of caste certificates, engineering staff of tribal welfare on construction and maintenance of roads and buildings in tribal areas. Preparation of action plan on health and education sectors for ATWOs / DTWOs. Process of implementation of Tricor action plan to MPDOs / APMs / APDs. Training program on food safety, nutrition, hygiene, safe drinking water ("Suchi-Ruchi") for HWOs / ANMS / kitchen workers. Training was also given to progressive tribal farmers on organic farming, cashew, mango, tapioca production and on integrated nutrient management and pest management of agricultural crops⁷.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SCHEMES UNDER TRIBAL AREA SUB PLAN

The economic development programs include staff cost of ITDAs, and Grants-in-Aid under State Plan as well as Special Central Assistance for developmental activities. The staff programs include certain office staff of ITDAs, (10) Agricultural demonstration units, Government Livestock Farms, Mat weaving centres, Sericulture units, HNTCs in the ITDAs and monitoring units in the ITDAs.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT SCHEMES AND SCHEMES UNDER TRIBAL AREA SUB PLAN

Under this, financial assistance to ST families below poverty line for taking up economic support activities. The action plan for these programmes is approved by MD, TRICO, Hyderabad. He reviews the implementation from time to time. The implementation of the projects shall be as per the procedure.

CONSERVATION-CUM-DEVELOPMENT PLANS (CCDP) OF PTGS

Special projects approved by Government of India for development of PTGs are taken up under this with equal matching grants from State Government. During XI Five Year Plan, Conservation cum Development Plans (CCDPs) for all PTGs being implemented from 2007-08 onwards.

Schemes under Article 275 (i): Under Article 275 (i) of the constitution of India, Government of India releases Grants-in-Aid to State Plan for development of Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Areas. These grants are being utilized to bridge critical gaps in infrastructure by taking up infrastructure development facilities, continuation of Residential Schools.

RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006

Government of India has enacted the STs and other traditional forest dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006 and the rules for operationalising the act have come into effect from 1-1-2008. Under this law, the forest dwelling scheduled tribes would be granted legal rights for the lands in their possession up to the extent of 10 acres per family. Similarly, the tribals would be vested with the rights of collecting minor forest produce, grazing their livestock, establishing their homes and hearths in their natural habitat. Government is according highest priority to take immediate action to recognize, register and vest the rights of forest resources in favour of STs living in and around forest areas.

NABARD PROGRAMME

The objective of the scheme is to develop infrastructure facilities in tribal areas with assistance from NABARD by taking up BT roads, Mini Hydel Power Projects etc.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS

The objective of the scheme is to provide road connectivity in tribal areas with financial assistance from NABARD⁸.

CONSTRUCTION OF MINI-HYDEL POWER PROJECTS

For the first time in the country, management of mini-hydel projects has been entrusted to village organizations of tribal women in the scheduled areas. To start with (3) projects have been commenced in

East Godavari district and a tripartite agreement was signed by Project Committees, PO, ITDA, Rampachodavaram and NEDCAP. The construction work is in progress.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The major program under the Department is maintenance of Educational Institutions. The components of the scheme are briefly discussed hereunder:

HOTELS

There are 442 hostels 331 for Boys and 111 for Girls with a total strength of 74,742 boarders. Accommodation and boarding are provided to the children at free of cost. Other material required for the children and also for the institution are being provided as per the pattern prescribed.

INTEGRATED HOSTELS

Government of Andhra Pradesh has started Integrated hostels. Out of (120) hostels sanctioned during 2006-07 (14) hostels have been entrusted to Tribal Welfare for management. Each of the Integrated Welfare Hostel Complexes will provide accommodation for (400) boarders belonging to SC, ST & BC. For each complex buildings and other amenities are being provided adequately.

ASHRAM SCHOOLS

There are 599 Ashram schools 451 for Boys and 148 for Girls functioning in the tribal concentrated areas. The schools provide both school and hostel under the same roof. There are 46 ashram primary schools, 223 Ashram Upper Primary Schools, 330 Ashram High Schools functioning providing schooling and hostelling to 1,50,787 children. During 2008-09, it is proposed to provide teachers to all the upgraded Upper Primary Schools and High Schools. Further, during 2008-09 English medium with CBSE syllabus was introduced in (158) ashram schools. Sanctioned strength in Class V & VI is (12,640) in each class. The admitted, strength in Class V was 4,240 and in Class VI is 6,535 during the year 2008-09.

POST MATRIC HOSTELS

129 hostels are functioning to facilitate ST college students with free accommodation and the

utility charges are borne by the Department. The students staying in these hostels receive post matric scholarships at attached hostel rates.

TW PRIMARY SCHOOLS

There are 4,317 Tribal Welfare Primary Schools (earlier known as GVVKs) functioning in the tribal areas. Out of them (940) schools are being run under this scheme and remaining, are funded by School Education Department.

COACHING AND ALLIED SCHEME

Coaching is provided to tribal students for competitive examinations through (5) Pre-Examination Training Centers (PETCs). During 2008-09 coaching was imparted to 5,767 candidates with an expenditure of Rs.3.06 cr. for appearing Group-I exams, Civils and DSC. Part of the coaching cost is provided by Government of India under 'Coaching and Allied' Scheme⁹.

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The objective of the scheme is to provide scholarships to ST students studying post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education and also to provide books to ST students studying Professional Courses under Book Banks Scheme. The sanction and disbursement of post matric scholarships to ST students is as per the procedure laid down by the Department both renewal and fresh are proposed to be sanctioned one-time only.

COLLEGE OF TEACHER EDUCATION (TW), BHADRACHALAM

A college of teacher education (TW) was started at Bhadrachalam to provide B.Ed. training to the STs of Andhra Pradesh in 2000. The college has an intake capacity of 200 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 study centre of IGNOU for B.Ed courses through distance mode.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR TRIBALS

With a view to impact quality education to ST Students, Government is maintaining 272

Residential Institutions with a strength of 65,431. 37 upgraded Residential Jr. Colleges are bifurcated into Residential Schools and Jr. Colleges in the year 2007-08. A separate Society in the name of APTW Residential Educational Institutions Society (Gurukulam) was established in 1999 for managing these 272 Institutions. Gurukulam is also providing special attention towards scouting, computer education, yoga, physical education, cultural activities and EAMCET coaching. Gurukulam is now proposing to intensify monitoring on the quality of curricular practice by taking up panel inspections of academic practice every quarter and also to strengthen career guidance counselling. It is also proposed to provide adequate infrastructure to all the residential institutions during 2009-10.

INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued orders for strengthening a 77 TW Residential Schools and 158 TW Ashram Schools. As per these orders medium of instruction will be in English and as per CBSE syllabus from Class V / VI to Intermediate in all these schools in phased manner. In every school, there will be 4 sections for-each class and 140 children in each class @35 students per section. Teaching staff and other infrastructure will be provided accordingly. In the first phase to provide buildings, Compound walls, library, laboratory, playground and extent of minimum 15 acres for each school.

DEVELOPMENT OF REMOTE AND INTERIOR TRIBAL HABITATIONS

There are (2351) tribal habitations in the State located on hill-tops in remote interior areas. Most of the habitations require basic amenities. Special projects are being formulated to provide basic infrastructure to these habitations¹⁰.

SUMMING UP

In this chapter, the guidelines and glaring futures of sub-plan strategies are introduced, with principles enshrined in the constitution of India for social economic and political empowerment of ST's. The members of the I.T.D.A. established in all tribal population states in India, and implementing values central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes intended for the development of the ST's under tribal area sub-plan in all states and in Andhra Pradesh.

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