

Policies and Programmes for Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract: India is the one of the country having largest tribal population. Scheduled Tribe is the backward section of the society. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in one of the most disturbed states of India. It is facing serious socio-economic and political problems ranging from terrorism to its underdevelopment, both of which adversely affect women. According to census of India 2011 there are 1493299 scheduled tribe people in Jammu and Kashmir. A majority of the tribal population of the J&K belongs to nomadic as well semi-nomadic tribes. In Jammu and Kashmir scheduled tribe is the only community in the state which maintains its culture and heritage throughout the ages. This paper is an attempt to know about the policies and programmes for scheduled tribe of Jammu and Kashmir. It is mostly based on secondary data available in the form of published as well as unpublished word. Both center govt. and state govt. are spending on the name of tribe but they are not getting proper benefit from these schemes. Moreover center govt. has not progressed the development programs as for other states because of the restrictions of art 370.

Keywords: Tribe, Scheduled Tribe, Nomadism, and Jammu and Kashmir.

INTRODUCTION

India is a country having a large section of people ranging from different caste as well as different tribes to the rich and poor people. India is the one of the country having largest tribal population.

During the British era they were alienated because of their revolt nature. After independence different Govt. has tried their perhaps best for the welfare of tribe but they have not succeeded so much.

In India the tribes are known to be the autochthonous people of the land. Tribals are often referred to as Adivasi, Vanyajati, Vanvasi, Pahari, Adimjati and Anusuchit Jan Jati, the latter being the constitutional name. Tribe as a category, separate from the mainstream caste society, is an invention of the British administrators. "The notion of a tribe was introduced by colonial administrators. It was part of the universal trend to dichotomize the indigenous peoples and colonizers, the savage and the civilized, the tribals and non-tribals [1]"

According to D N Majurndar, "a Tribe is a collection of families or group of families bearing a common name, member of which occupy the territory, speak the same language, observe certain taboos regarding marriage, profession or occupation and have developed a well assessed system of reciprocity and mutation of obligations[2]". Unlike the scheduled caste, there are differences among the scholars on the criteria to identify the tribals or the scheduled tribes. While the scheduled caste consists of the erstwhile untouchable castes placed in the lowest rung of the Hindu society, the tribals follow multiple religions in the country—

Buddism, Christianity, Islam or their indigeneous religions. However, there is almost unanimity among the scholars on certain characteristics of the tribals. The principle of these characteristics is follow:

- Their close association with nature, mainly the forests.
- Relatively traditional means of cultivation and less developed market.
- Near absence of the rigid division within the community and discrimination on the basis of the birth, unlike the caste division among the Hindus.
- Presence of the traditional chiefs or headmen and better position of women as compared to the non-tribals.
- Attachment/reverence to traditional customs and culture.

Art. 342 of the constitution attributes "isolation, backwardness and cultural distinctiveness" as the characteristics of the Scheduled Tribe. These characteristics, however has undergone changes as a result of modernization – education, impact of Christianity on many tribes, changing cropping pattern or penetration of market, economic differentiation and emergence of middle classes and in some cases decline in the authority of traditional chiefs. These changes have given rise to the ethnicisation of tribes reflected in their ethnic movements. Art. 342 mentions 212 Scheduled tribe in the country [3]. These tribes are

found in all parts of the country – all states of north-east India, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Guajarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshdweep Islands. The tribes of north east are called frontier tribes and those of the other part are called non-frontier tribes. Of the entire tribal population 11 % are found in north-east India and 89 % are found in other regions. In Jammu and Kashmir there is about 14 lack scheduled Tribe out of which about 90 % are nomadic as well as semi-nomadic. Before 1989 there was none a single tribe registered as scheduled Tribe in Jammu and Kashmir. In 1989 few tribes managed to got registered as scheduled tribe and in 1991 four more tribe entered in the scheduled tribe list. As there are 12 scheduled tribes in Jammu and Kashmir but majority of the population is dominated by three tribes i.e. Guggars, Bakarwals and Gaddis. Gujjars and Bakarwals belong to nomadic tribe and Gaddis belong to semi-nomadic [4].

Nomadism

It is a primitive subsistence activity, in which the herders rely on animals for food, clothing, shelter, tools and transport. They move from one place to another along with their live livestock, depending on the amount and quality of pasture and water. Each nomadic community occupies a well-defined territory as a matter of tradition. A wide variety of animals is kept in different regions. In tropical Africa, cattle are the most important livestock, while in Sahara and Asiatic deserts, sheep, goats and camel are reared. In the mountain area of Tibet and Andes, yak and llamas and in the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas, reindeer are most important animals. Movement in search of pastures is undertaken either over vast horizontal distances or vertically from one elevation to another in the mountainous regions. The process of migration from plain areas to during winter is known as transhumance. In mountain regions, such as Himalayas, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Bhutiyas migrate from plain the mountains in summers and to the plains from the high altitude pastures in winters[5]. In Jammu and Kashmir every Scheduled Tribe has a specific animal related to its nomadism such as Gaddis have Sheep, Bakarwals have Goat and Gujjars have Buffalos etc. Nomadic pastoralists are found in the arid zones of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat etc. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the border states of India, has a total population of 1,25,41302 including male population of 66,40662 and female population of 59,00640. The Scheduled Tribes account for 11.9 per cent of the total population of the State as per Census 2011. In Jammu and Kashmir, there are 12 Scheduled Tribes which were enumerated officially for the first time during the 2001 census recording a population of 1,105,979. The Census 2011 shows the entire ST population of the state at 14, 93, 299 in comparison to 11,0,5979 of Census 2001[6].

There is a Tribal development Board known as Jammu and Kashmir Gujjars and Bakerwals

Development Advisory Board. It was formed in 1975 headed by Begum Akbar Jahan, the wife the Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. As the name indicates, this Board was constituted for the term 'Tribe' is derived from Latin word 'Tribes' meaning the poor or the masses. In English language the word denotes a community of persons claiming descent from a common ancestor. According to oxford dictionary, a tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and regard themselves as having common ancestors.

A tribe inhabits and remains within definite and common topography. The members of a tribe possess a consciousness of mutual unity. The members of a tribe speak a common language. Usually they marry into their own group but now due to increased contact with outsiders there are instances of tribal marrying outside as well. Gujjars and Bakarwals and not for rest of ten Tribes. Today also it has only Gujjars Representatives.

Scheduled Tribes

The term 'scheduled tribe' first appeared in the constitution of India. Article 366(25) defined scheduled tribes as "such tribes or tribal community or parts of or a group within such tribes or tribal community as are deemed under Article 342 to be scheduled tribe for the purpose of the constitution". Article 342 prescribes procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of Scheduled Tribes [7]. As per the census of India 2011, there is about 104281034 Schedule Tribe Population in India, which constitutes about 8.62 % of India's total population. Out of which 5.2 crore are male and 5.1 crore is females.

Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir

In Jammu & Kashmir there are twelve scheduled Tribes: Balti, Beda, Boto, Changpa, Garra, Mon, Purigpa, (Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin), Gujjar, Bakarwal, Gaddi and Sippi. First eight Tribes got scheduled Tribe status in 1989. Rest four namely Gujjar, Bakarwal, Gaddi and Sippi got it in 1991 vide constitution (scheduled Tribe) Act (Amendment) 1991. According to the census of 2011, there is about 1493299 Scheduled Tribe populations in Jammu and Kashmir, which is about 11.91 % of total population of Jammu and Kashmir and about 1.43% of total Scheduled Tribe population of India [8]. Out of the total population of Scheduled Tribe in Jammu and Kashmir, Gujjar holds the largest share followed by Bakerwal and Gaddis. Majority of the Tribal people belongs to nomadic and semi-nomadic community.

AREA OF STUDY

This study is based on the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is located between 32^o.15' and 37^o.05' north latitude and 72^o.35' east and 83^o.20' east longitude. It is about 640 km in length from north to south and 480 km

from east to west. Its total area is 2, 22,236 Sq. km including 78,114 Sq. km illegally occupied by Pakistan and 37555 sq. km by China. The Jammu and Kashmir state is the northern most state of the union of India. Tibet is in its east. Afghanistan and China are in its North. Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are on its south. Pakistan is in its west. This state is 6th largest state of India in terms of its area and 17th in terms of its population. The height of state varies from 1000 ft. to 28500 ft. about sea level [9]. Jammu and Kashmir is geographically divided into three divisions i.e. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Kashmir division is inhabited by Muslim as majority and Jammu by Hindus as majority where as Ladakh division is inhabited by Buddhist as majority.

METHODOLOGY

This work is based on secondary date available in the form of published as well as unpublished reports. Reports published by ministry of tribal welfare Govt. of India as well as Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir is used.

OBJECTIVES

- To know about the policies and programmes for scheduled Tribe in Jammu and Kashmir.
- To know about their implantation.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Both central and state governments have launched several developmental programmes for the welfare and empowerment of the weaker section of society including STs. In J&K these comprise schemes for educational development, economic development and social development. The Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare are a nodal agency which looks after the affairs of tribal in Jammu and Kashmir. The Department performs following functions:

- All matters connected with the welfare of STs, economic betterment schemes, educational development schemes, facilities for vocational training and voluntary organizations connected with the welfare of STs.
- Pre-Matric scholarship scheme for ST/SC/OBC.
- Post-Matric scholarship scheme for ST/SC.
- Up-gradation of Merit Scholarship for ST/SC students.
- Tribal sub-plan for STs.
- ST, SC and OBC Welfare Boards.
- Monitoring and evaluation of schemes for STs.
- Implementation of ST Prevention of Atrocities.

Table-1: representing population of individual tribe in Jammu and Kashmir

S. NO.	Name of Tribe	Total Population		
		Total	Male	Female
1	Gujjar	980654	510710	469944
2	Bakarwal	113198	59621	53577
3	Balti	51918	26473	25445
4	Gaddi s	46489	23808	22681
5	Sippi	5966	3064	2902
6	Bot, Boto	91495	45295	46200
7	Brokpa, Dropka, Dard Shin	48439	25240	23199
8	Changpa	2661	1355	1306
9	Garra	504	275	229
10	Mon	829	418	411
11	Purigpa	39101	20119	18982
12	Beda	420	216	204
13	Other Genetic Tribe	111625	59663	51962
14	Total	1493299	776257	717042

Source: Census of India, 2011[10]

Analysis of the table 1 reveals that Gujjars has the largest share of population followed by Bakarwals and bot. Bakarwals is having the lowest sex ratio i.e. 898 followed by Brokpa and others i.e. 919, Gujjar by 920. Only Bot and Boto is having the good sex ratio i.e. 1087.

Some of development programmes for tribes in Jammu and Kashmir are as under

- Integrated Tribal Development Area Programme (ITDAP) This programme is launched by the central government and implemented in all the

states where the tribal population exceeds 50 per cent of the local population. More than 55 per cent of the tribal populations are residing outside the ITDAP areas. With the view to cover more tribal population. The Welfare Officers of each district act as the drawing and disbursing office for the implementation of the programme.

- Reservation of Seats the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reserved 12 seats out of 32 for tribal in J&K Legislative Assembly. The provision of reservation is also extended to public employment. The new reservation policy under

Notification No.5/GOS/9/(15)/SWD/WD dated 19.8.2003 reserves 33 per cent of seats for STs in all government jobs and in professional courses. Besides, five years relaxation in age is given to STs Candidates. As a result of this policy, the participation of STs in public employment is good but only an elite class manages to get the reservation benefit. As against their population percentage of 20.6 per cent, the percentage of STs Employees in the state government service as on December 2007 was 33.57 per cent. Even the representation of ST females in the government services is very high (7.20 per cent) which is encouraging sign of women's participation in the administration of the state.

- **Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)** The TSP as a strategy for tribal development was evolved in the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) on the recommendation of an expert committee headed by Prof. S.C. Dube. The committee was constituted by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare in 1972. The TSP covers all scheduled areas and Teshils/Block, with more than 60 per cent tribal population is living. The two main objectives of the TSP are: socio-economic development of STs and protection of tribes against exploitation. The salient features of TSP are:

- ✓ It falls within the ambit of state plan meant for the welfare and development of tribes. Such a plan is a part of the overall plan of a state and is therefore called sub-plan. The benefits given to the tribes and tribal areas of a state from the TSP are in addition to what percolates from the overall plans of the state.
- ✓ The sub-plan identifies the resources for TSP areas; prepare a broad policy framework for the development; and define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation.
- ✓ The most significant aspect of this strategy is to ensure flow of funds for TSP areas at least in equal proportion to the ST population of the state.

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**

The census of India 2011 showed a significant decline trends in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) between 0-6 years with an all-time low of 918. For this problem Government has announced 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Programme to address the issue of decline in CSR through a mass campaign and Multi sectoral action in 100 gender critical districts.

- **Indera Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)**

This scheme was launched in February 2009. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is implementing this scheme. The rate of monthly pension under IGNWPS was enhanced from RS 200 to RS 300 per BPL beneficiary in the year 2012.

- **Mid-Day Meal Programme**

The Govt. of India initiated the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) on 15 August 1995 as a centrally sponsored scheme to give a boost to universalization of primary education by mitigation classroom hunger and improving nutritional status of primary school children.

- **Mission Indradhanush**

India records 5 lakhs child deaths annually due to vaccine preventable diseases. Despite high childhood mortality rates due to vaccine preventable diseases, 30% of India children miss the benefits of full immunization every year. For this problem The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) adopted the mission mode and launched 'Mission Indradhanush depicting seven colors of rain on 25th December, 2014.

- **Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK)**

It is a national Credit Fund for Women was set up as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on March 30,1993 to provide credit support or micro-finance to poor women for starting income generating activities such dairy, agriculture, shop-keeping, vending and handicrafts.

- **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)- SABLA**

The Govt. of India introduced the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-SABLA in 200 districts in November, 2010 to empower adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years by improving their nutritional and health status.

- **Swayasjdha**

It is an integrated project for the development and empowerment of women through Self Help Group (SHG) with emphasis on covering services, developing access to micro-credit and promoting micro-enterprises.

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Account**

The prime Minister of India launched a small saving scheme called Sukanya Samriddhi Account (Girl Child Prosperity Account) on January 22, 2015 for improving the welfare of the Girl Children in India. A guardian can open only one account in the name of one Girl child and maximum two accounts in the name of two different girl children. This facility will be extended to the third girl in the event of birth of twin girls in 2nd birth or birth of 3 girl child's in 1st birth itself.

- **Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme**

The Govt. of India launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a comprehensive and integrated flagship Programmes in 2001-02 in partnership with the State Governments and Local Self Governments to attain Universal Elementary Education and cover the entire country in a mission mode. The Programme covers the whole gamut of elementary education sector and is flexible enough to incorporate new interventions

like specific interventions for girls, e.g., National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) and Kasturab Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV). SSA provides free education between 6-14 years age.

- **Ujjawala**

The trafficking of women for commercial sexual exploitation is an organized crime that violates basic human rights. India emerged as destination and transit for both in-country and cross border trafficking. Preventing this Government of India has adopted a multi-sector approach by formulating a “comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation Ujjawala” in 2007.

- **Scheme for the Financial Assistance to Scheduled Tribes**

Under this scheme financial assistance at concessional rate is provided for income generation activities and training in skill development to those STs whose income is below the poverty line.

- **Coaching for Competitive examinations**

This Scheme provides 100% central assistance to State/ UT administration for arranging coaching classes in reputed colleges for developing competence among ST students.

- **Integrated Tribal Development Area Programme (ITDAP)**

This programme has been launched by the central government and implemented in all the states, including J&K, where the tribal population exceeds 50 per cent of the local population.

- **Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution**

Every year, funds are released to the state governments to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by them for promoting the welfare of scheduled tribes and for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas. The objective is to promote the welfare of scheduled tribes and better administration of scheduled areas. With an objective to extend educational facilities like establishing residential schools for

- **Construction of Hostels for ST Boys/ Girls Students**

In order to provide safeguard against exploitation and to promote and protect this socially, economically, educationally weaker section, special care has been taken for their educational interests. Construction of hostels for ST boys/girls comes under two centrally sponsored schemes shared between the centre and state on 50:50 bases.

- **Post-Matric Scholarship to SC/ST Students**

This is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) over and above the committed liability which is to be borne by the state government. Under the scheme students of SC/ST community are being provided scholarships.

- **Ashram School in Tribal Sub Plan Areas**

This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched during 1990-91 and extended to our state also scheduled tribes. The scheme provides funds for the construction of school building from the primary standard to the senior secondary stage of education including construction of hostels for student and staff quarters.

- **Advisory Board for Scheduled Tribes (Gujjar and Bakerwal)**

The J&K state social welfare advisory board was set up in the year 1995 to implement the programmes of social welfare and to assist the central social welfare board in expansion and development of welfare services. The scheduled tribes (Gujjar and Bakerwal) sub- plan is being implemented through state advisory board for the development and upliftment of scheduled tribes (Gujjar and Bakerwal).

- **Provision of Mobile Schools**

In order to provide education to the nomadic Gujjar and Bakerwal children, the state government launched the scheme of mobile schools for providing basic education to the nomadic children of Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes.

- **Khadi and Village Industry Board Schemes (KVIB)**

The Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) established in the year 1962, is playing a vital role in generating employment for rural poor, unemployed youth and down-trodden artisans of the state by providing financial and technical assistance for setting up of micro and small industrial production units

- **The J&K Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe & other Backward Classes Development Corporation Schemes (J&K SCs, STs & BCs Development Corporation)**

The Jammu & Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes development corporation (J&K SC/ST & BC Corporation) was established in the year 1986 for socio-economic upliftment of the weaker sections of the society belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes & backward classes

CONCLUSION

It is concluded by saying that govt. has launched the development policies for the tribe of Jammu and Kashmir but there had remained a gap between its formulation and implementation. There are

majority of tribes which belong to nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes but govt. has not even provided them a piece of land for settlement [11]. The govt. is spending a good amount on the tribe but its benefit is being taken by an elite class among the scheduled tribes. Those people who are the nomadic and semi-nomadic are not getting benefit from this scheme. Govt. has made reservation for the these tribes in govt. jobs but only the elite class are getting job as a result the needed one are not getting. They are today facing various problems such as nomadism, poor infrastructure as well as poorly motivated teachers, no electricity, no road road and mobile phone facility [12]. So, there is a lack of awareness among the tribal community. To make effort to generate educational awareness and attitudinal changes among the masses regarding tribal, the role of tribal's families, community leaders and media deserves special attention here. Little has been achieved in the area of tribal development by the efforts of both government and civil society but more improvement is required otherwise spending more and more money on name of tribe in these policies and scheme is all vain.

SUGGESTIONS

Some of the suggestion to increase the implementation of the schemes for scheduled tribe in Jammu and Kashmir is given below:

- There should be economic criteria for the benefit of reservation such as in case of Other Backward Category (OBC). Reservation benefit to the children of MLA, MPs and gazetted officers should be cancelled.
- The nomadic population of the scheduled tribe should be provided land to make them semi-nomadic tribe.
- All the tribal villages should be connected with road and mobile phone networks.
- Electricity should be provided to all the scheduled tribe villages as majority of schedule tribe villages are without electricity.
- A tribal advisory board should be formed by representative of all the 12 scheduled Tribe.
- Hostel should be constructed more to educate the tribal children of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Provide subsidy to the tribes in agriculture and horticulture seeds.
- It must be made compulsory for the administrative offices as well as the representatives such as MLA, MP to adopt one tribal village to make it a model village.
- All the tribal development work must be made free from clutches of Art. 370 which is alone responsible for moribund condition of tribe in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Extend Panchayati Raj Extension to Scheduled Area (PESA) to tribes of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Make special development policies for every Panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir having 70 % or more scheduled tribe population.

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