

**RURAL AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT- GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES
AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION**

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Abstract

Rural areas and tribes are the major areas of India in terms of land and population. Being so much important these areas deserves more attention for improvement because the possibilities are there and the need of their development is of utmost importance. The government of India has taken several effective and efficient initiatives for the development of these areas by means of various policies, plans, programs, services and schemes. These steps have been very fruitful for these areas. The implementation of these initiatives is has also been successful by close monitoring and regular checking as a result of which these areas has achieved a high development index in terms of education, employment, infrastructure, health, communication and technology. In spite of these efforts the pace is slow and the proper follow up is missing somewhere. Along with government some private organizations has also taken up the responsibility and has contributed remarkable in the development. This paper aims at studying the Government initiatives and their implementation along with the contribution of private sector and ways of making the implementation more effective by highlighting the loopholes.

Keywords: Rural development, Tribal development, Government and rural development, government and tribal development, private sector and rural development.

Introduction

Rural and tribal comprises the core region of India. A rural can be defined as where the population is less than 5000, density of population is less than 400per square KM and more than 25% of male population is engaged in agricultural activities. According to World Bank report 2014, 68% of Indian population lives in rural areas. Tribal areas are the areas which are unique in terms of their social, cultural and political entity. These groups are generally found in limited states of India like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand and some northern states. Rural and tribal population consists of major population of India but development was not there till 19 century. Government of India has taken several sincere and effective steps for the

development of these areas in various aspects and somehow the Government has succeeded. Along with Government, several non-governments organizations and private organizations has also done remarkable work for the upliftment of these areas. But still the pace is slow. So it is required to speed up these initiatives for making the heart of India developed.

PROBLEM STATEMENT- Government has formulated many strategies for the development of tribal and rural areas and is spending a lot of amount on their effective implementation but still the pace of development is slow. The problem lies somewhere with the techniques of proper implementation. This paper will reveal these problems and their solutions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY- This study is descriptive in nature. Data used is mainly of secondary type which has been taken from Government websites like Ministry of tribal affairs, Ministry of rural development, planning commission and from journals, books and websites.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:

Government of India has initiated the development of tribal and rural areas. Before 1999, the tribal affairs are monitored by different ministries of Government such as Ministry of home affairs named as 'Tribal division' till 1985 then Ministry of welfare from 1985-1998 and after that by Ministry of social justice and empowerment from 1998-1999. After this Government of India decided to establish a separate Ministry for tribal affairs because these areas deserves a much more focused approach and it was only by means of developing a separate Ministry for this. In 1999, Ministry of tribal affairs has been set up for the integrated socio-economic development of the tribes. Along with the foundation of this ministry several policies, plans and programs has been formulated for tribes. Some of these are:

- National commission for Scheduled Tribes – This body had been set up by Government by inserting a new article 338A in the constitution. This body investigates and monitor about the rights and safety of tribal population and also enquire about the complaints. Along with this, it also keeps an eye on proper development of tribes in union and states.
- Vanbandhu kalyan yojna(VKY) – It focus on holistic development of tribal people which includes improving the quality of life, improving the quality of education, qualitative and sustainable employment, bridging infrastructure gap with focus on quality and protecting the culture and heritage of tribes.
- Education- Illiteracy was the most burning issue of tribes. Government enables the basic facilities for primary education and ensured the implementation of the major policies of Ministry of human resource management for spreading the fragrance of education in the tribes. Government tried to increase the retention rate of students at the school level by providing various monitory benefits. Along with this several scholarship schemes has been setup for promoting higher learning. As a result of these efforts the education percentage has been accelerated from 47.10 in 2001 to 58.96 in 2011 according to annexure 2.
- Health and nutrition- Health issues in tribes are of critical nature. The amount of nutrients in the food consumed by tribal population is very low as a result of which children suffer from malnutrition at a very early stage. This leads to several other issues like infant

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mortality, child mortality, poor mental health, high prevalence of anemia, malaria and so on. For dealing with this Government has initiated several health awareness programs in these areas the recent one is spreading awareness among people regarding sickle cell anemia in 2015.

- Research and media- several programs have been organized by Government with the help of media to provide respect to the culture and tradition of tribal people which gave them some confidence that they are not separated. Research regarding these areas highlighting their social, economical and psychological problems has been encouraged by the Government.
- Direct benefit transfer- The monetary benefits provided by Government for the tribal population has been directly linked to their bank account by means of their Aadhar Card, so that there should be no scope of the misplacement of that money.
- Coordination committee- A committee has been set up by the Government for the effective coordination of all the departments which are directly or indirectly linked with all the programs or policies for the tribes for the smooth functioning of all the activities so that the people will have the benefits at the right time.

These are some of the efforts which have been done by the Government for the development of the tribes.

Planning commission has also played a significant role in the development of tribes through special measures in the five year plans which mainly aims at

- Education and training programs.
- Raising the productivity levels in agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry etc.
- Rehabilitation of the bonded labour.
- Special development programs for women and children.

Separate funds have been allocated in every five year plan for the tribes which can be concluded from the following table:

TABLE 1:

Plan period	Percentage of funds allocated for tribal development programs
1 st plan (1951-1956)	0.06
2 nd plan(1956-1961)	1.08
3 rd plan(1961-1966)	0.60
4 th plan(1969-1974)	0.5
5 th plan(1974-1979)	3.0
6 th plan(1980-1985)	3.7
7 th plan(1985-1990)	3.8
8 th plan(1992-1997)	5.2

9 th plan(1997-2002)	3.7
10 th plan(2002-2007)	0.09
11 th plan(2007-2012)	0.09

Source – documents of planning commission, GOI

India’s major population lives in rural areas. Development in rural areas was very important after independence. Government set up an organization community project administration in 1952 for planning effective measures for rural development. Department of rural development came into existence in 1974 as a part of ministry of food and agriculture. Then after a series of changes finally in 1999 Ministry of rural development came into existence. The concerned areas for this ministry were poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, social security and so on. These objectives have been achieved through formulation and implementation of several programs. The critical issues which have been taken care of are health, education, drinking water, housing and roads. Some of the initiatives of Government are:

- National rural employment guarantee act – This act came into force in 2006 with the aim of providing livelihood to rural people by providing them at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year. This scheme has benefited more than 300 crore households in India. For the proper implementation of this scheme Government has set up a task force to think upon the at the possibility of convergence of programmes like National Horticulture Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Bharat Nirman, Watershed Development with NREGA.
- Sampurna grameen rozgar yojna – This yojna was launched in 2001 for providing additional wage employment and food security. This program was launched for emphasizing specially for women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and children drawn from hazardous occupation. The annual financial assistance for this program is 10,000 crore which is shared between central and state in the ratio 75:25.
- Swarna jayanti gram swarozgar yojna – It was launched in 1999. The objective of this program is to bring poor people together to form self help groups and then providing monetary assistance to these groups by the joint efforts of the Government and credit facilities of the bank. The aim is to develop micro-enterprises in rural areas to provide a means of sustainable employment to rural people.
- Bharat Nirman – This scheme has been launched for the upgradation of rural infrastructure in terms of fields and irrigation, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. For this first of all the road construction was planned to connect the rural areas to nearby cities or metros. For dealing with the problem of rural housing, Indira awas yojna has been initiated. Irrigation potential is also planned by way of repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies and extension, renovation and modernization of minor irrigation schemes. Availability of

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pure water was a major issue in rural areas because the water contains several hazardous nutrients and steps have been taken up by the Government for providing pure water by the effective treatment and use of rainwater, surface water and ground water. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojan has been launched in 2005 by the ministry of power to enlighten all the rural houses within four years.

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna – It was a fully funded, centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2000. The primary objective of this scheme is to connect all the villages which are having population more than 500 to highways by means of good quality roads.
- National rural livelihood mission – This mission was initiated by the Ministry of rural development in 2011 with the aid of World Bank for increasing the income of rural poor by creating efficient platforms which will simplify their access to financial services.
- Online services- Central Government of India has provided a list of online services through which rural population are able to get connected to the Government at any point of time. These services are:
 - [Keep Track of Your Complaint Status on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana \(PMGSY\) website.](#)
 - [Check Inspection Report Online for Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana \(PMGSY\)](#)
 - [Monitor rural development programmes.](#)
 - [Find Job Card Holders Details under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act \(MNREGA\).](#)
 - [Send Your Valuable Comments/ Queries/ Feedback to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.](#)
- PURA(Provision of urban amenities in rural areas) – It is a public-private partnership scheme. The objective of PURA scheme is to bring together the public fund, private capital and management expertise for maintenance and creation of rural infrastructure.
- Training Schemes – Ministry of rural development started several schemes for the training of the rural development functionaries and elected representatives of the Panchayat Raj institutions. This is done by establishment and strengthening of states institutes of rural development and Extension Training centres. Several seminars, workshops and programs has been organized under this.
- National social assistance program – This program has been started for both the rural as well as the urban areas. This program comprises of various schemes and these are National old age pension scheme(NOAPS), National family benefit scheme(NFBS), National maternity benefit scheme, Annapurna scheme, Indira Gandhi National pension widow scheme(IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National disability pension scheme(IGNDPS), Indira Gandhi National Old age pension scheme(IGNOAPS). The allocation of resources

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and number of beneficiaries has also increased substantially per year according to annexure 1.

- Council for advancement of people's action and rural technology (CAPART) – This agency was formed in 1986 for bringing together the Government and some voluntary organizations for the sustainable development of rural areas.
- National institute of rural development – This institute is established with an aim of socio-economic improvement of rural people through research and consultancy services. This institute has also motivated the officials who are working for rural development by improving their skills, knowledge and attitude through organizing training, workshops and seminars.

NGOs (Non-profit organizations) have remarkably contributed in the field of rural and tribal development. They have done serious efforts for the welfare of the rural areas. They focused on the socio-economic development of these areas by bridging the gap between their present condition and development. There are about 25000-30000 actively working NGOs contributing their services by various means. They regularly organize educational programs like formal education, non-formal education and adult education programs for increasing the literacy rate and building potential human resource. They constantly encourage the rural people to involve in the cultural activities, arts, sports and science activities for improvement of their confidence and social status. They create employment opportunities for these people and provide necessary training for that so as to enable them earn for their family and this will ultimately help in eradicating poverty. Health programs are regularly organized by them for spreading the awareness about deadly diseases and sanitation issues which has contributed to a great extent in decreasing the rate of infant and child death. Awareness in pregnant women has also been spread by them regarding food, regular checkups, medicines and several precautions. Empowering the self help groups by making financial assistance available for them and advising them in terms of business, entrepreneurship, law and order and so on. During natural disasters these organizations work from their heart for helping the needy rural people there are several NGOs which are working in these directions and the majorly contributed NGOs are-

- SAMMAN FOUNDATION
- GOONJ
- SMILE FOUNDATION
- PRATHAM
- AKSHAYA TRUST
- UDAAN WELFARE FOUNDATION
- LEPRASOCIETY
- HELPAGE INDIA
- DEEPALAYA
- UDAY FOUNDATION

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- PRIDE

IMPLEMENTATION:

Government is not only active in making plan and strategies but also active in their implementation in rural and tribal areas. Many schemes of Government have achieved true success in these areas and played effective role in their development.

Indira awas Yojna – This scheme of rural development has attained a high conversion rate. It enabled the rural population to get their own shelter with all necessary facilities. The conversion rate can be evaluated from the following table.

TABLE 2:

Five year plan	Years	Fund available (in crore)	Utilization	% of utilization	Physical Target (in lakh)	Physical achievement (in lakh)	% achievement
11 th five Year plan	2007-08	6527.17	5464.54	83.72	21.27	19.92	93.65
	2008-09	14460.35	8348.34	57.73	21.27	21.34	100.32
	2009-10	15852.34	13292.46	83.85	40.52	33.86	83.55
	2010-11	17956.54	13465.73	74.99	29.09	27.15	93.36
	2011-12	19159.30	12926.33	67.47	27.27	24.71	90.64
12 th Five Year plan	2012-13	16172.34	12177.25	75.30	30.10	21.85	72.62
	2012-13	16951.94	10278.87	60.64	24.80	15.62	62.99

Source: Brief book June 2014-GOI

Ministry of tribal affairs has achieved tremendous success in making the tribal people literate. This success can be seen in the following table:

TABLE 3:

	1991	2001	2011
Literacy rate in %	29.6	47.1	58.96
Enrolment in Primary education (in	8033000	10995000	14852000

numbers)			
Enrolment in upper primary(in numbers)	1794000	3360000	5422000
Enrolment in senior secondary(in numbers)	843000	1701000	3267000
Gross enrolment ratio for elementary stage	80.4	88.9	119.7

Source: Registrar General of India, census 2011

Along with improving the literacy rate Ministry of tribal affairs has also succeeded in upliftment of a noticeable percentage of tribal population above the poverty line. This became possible through creation and implementation of several employment programs in these areas which enabled the tribal population to earn effectively.

TABLE 4:

YEAR	% of tribal population below poverty line(Rural)	% of tribal population below poverty line(Urban)
1993-94	51.94	41.14
1999-2000	45.86	34.75
2009-10	33.8	20.9

Source: Planning commission

Health schemes of Ministry of tribal development has done a fair job but in spite of so much of efforts a gap has been found in the required number of health care centers in tribal areas because of which each and every corner of this population had not got the benefit of these health programs. This gap can be seen in the table given below:

TABLE 5:

	Required	In position	Shortage
Sub-centers	29147	27912	1235
PHCs	4350	4001	349
CHCs	1082	948	134

Source: RHS 2012

The employment schemes of Ministry of tribal affairs have also achieved success to a good extent that more than half of the tribal population is involved in some work. On the other hand, still 42 % tribal population is unemployed which is a major concern that in spite of so many efforts a large number of this population is not involved in any kind of work. This can be inferred from this information that a lot of work needs to be done for the improvement of this situation.

TABLE 6:

	Total	Main work	Cultivators	Agricultural labour	Household industry	Others
% of Working population	58.0	37.6	34.5	44.5	1.8	19.2
% of Non-working population	42.0					

Source: RGI, census of India 2011

PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:

There are many hurdles in the implementation of the schemes or programs for the welfare of the rural and tribal population and these are

- The resources provided by Government whether financial or human resources are inadequate and even if adequate resources are provided the complete use of these resources for the designated assignment is just not in the picture. This can be concluded from Table 1.
- People who working under these schemes or programs require sufficient pay, efficient training and proper motivation. Since these people are working under really tough condition, so this much support can be expected by them for doing their work with efficiency. But none of these has been providing to them to the extent they deserve.
- Government is running many programs for rural and tribal areas for their development in different fields but sometime the scope of these programs are not well define. These objectives and execution of these programs usually intersect with each other circle of freedom and because of this their implementation becomes difficult and ultimately either the objective of one of them or both of them cannot be achieved.
- Tribal and rural areas are sensitive areas which are devoid of various basic facilities. Levels of many programs sometimes match with the platform of these areas and because of the execution rate came out to be poor.
- Work in tribal and rural areas requires dedication. So, professionals working in these areas need to be devoted for their work. But this devotion is missing in the professionals who work in our countries for these areas.
- There are many other factors which block the success of tribal and rural development like existence of caste system, strictly following the rituals, illiteracy, lack of rational decision making power especially in case of rational decision making because these people spend a lot on marriage, birth and death ceremony and other celebrations.
- Political party in power has the complete control on the formulation and implementation of the programs and schemes. Their efforts decide the future of these areas but in spite of thinking of the welfare of these areas these parties focuses on their personal interests.
- NGOs which are working for the upliftment of these areas also suffer from lots of problems. Their major problem is their dependency on Government funds and external donations.

INTERPRETATION: Based on the above study it can be interpreted that the Government has put a lot of efforts for making tribal and rural areas, a better place to live in and has also achieved success in it. But in spite of achieving this success, the beneficiaries are less in numbers. The impact is not seen in every corner of the country.

SUGGESTIONS: Some suggestions are here for improving the implementation of the Government programs:

- Interpretation should be proper: Once the programs or policies are formulated, it is required to describe all the essential details of these to those who have to work for these programs. This will made them familiar with the actions to be taken and way of taking them. Thus, the implementation can be better.
- Coordination should be proper: Any program or scheme is related with two or more departments of the Government. Some miscommunication or communication between the concerned authorities either delays the implementation process or affect it adversely. So, proper coordination leads to proper implementation.
- Resource utilization: The resources which are supplied by the Government for its schemes should be properly utilized for proper implementation.
- Political interference should be minimum: Sometimes the implementation suffers from political pressures which can be result of different parties ruling in the central and state. So, this sort of interference needs to be minimize.

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