

Tribal Development Strategies in Tanjore District of Tamilnadu

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Abstract: - Integration has been on the terms of the mainstream society and it is also accused of benefitting the mainstream society only. The government monopoly over forests continued. The exploitation of forests accelerated as most of the mineral resources fall in forest and tribal areas. The policy of capital intensive industrialization adopted by the Indian government required mineral resources and power generation capacities that were concentrated in the tribal areas. Tribal lands were rapidly acquired for new mining and infrastructure projects. In the process tribals were displaced without any appropriate compensation or rehabilitation justified in the name of economic growth. These policies were often seen subjugating tribals and causing the degradation of the resources upon which they depended.

Key Words: Government Policy, Traditional poverty, Land alienation, Education Facilities, Tribal Basic Problems and Health Issues.

I. INTRODUCTION

The variety of NGOs worries any simple definition. They include many groups and institutions that are entirely varied one or largely independent organisation of government and that have interest primarily with humanitarian or cooperative tendency rather than commercial objectives and interest. They are private based agencies in industrial countries that support for international development; indigenous groups organized regionally or nationally; and member-groups in villages. NGOs include charitable and religious associations that mobilize private funds for development, distribute food and family planning services and promote community organised growth. They also included in independent cooperatives society, community associations, water-user societies, women's groups and pastoral associations with pastoral rules. Citizen Groups that raise awareness and influence policy are also done by the NGOs in tanjore district.

The nature and mode of volunteerism has changed in the pre-independence India, conventional volunteerism was aimed primarily at charitable works, ushering in social reforms, providing relief and rehabilitation for the people who became the victims of natural calamities like drought, flood, cyclones, etc. However, in post-independence India modern volunteerism has become an issue-based approach, an ideology which aimed at income generating programmes, welfare services (like providing education and health service for the underprivileged community), protecting human rights (advocacy for women empowerment and the marginalised

sections are primary duty of the NGO), creating awareness about environmental protection, AIDS, launching crusade against child labour, assisting the displaced who are the products of development-induced programmes, etc.

Apart from Voluntary Sector alternative terms like Non-governmental organisations, Independent Sector, Civil Society, Grassroots Organisation, Self Help Groups and Non-State Actors are used as well. The NGOs that are often known as the "harbingers of change and modernisation" can boast of playing multifarious roles like that of advocates, educators, catalysts, lobbyists, conscientisers, and protectors of human rights and mass mobilisers who work incessantly for development. They have come forward with a human face to serve a human cause. This sector which has emerged as the universal "Third Force" strives for empowerment as well as social transformation.

The activities of the NGOs can be broadly summed up as:

- To supplement the effort of the Government in such fields where the government is unable to reach the outreach; To launch a crusade against the policies and actions of the Government which result in injustice and exploitation; In the age of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation where the state is withdrawing its authority from many of the development sectors and market is not much willing to share the burden of development, this sector has appeared on the scene as a liberator to protect the society from the onslaught and challenges of consumerism coupled with an urge for an equitable distribution of the fruits of development. The NGOs are known for their virtues of human development and touch, dedication in social development, great initiatives for the full change in underdeveloped area, flexibility, positive orientation, bonding with the society to reach the masses in a very effective manner. They are often regarded as the partners of social development. They make an honest endeavour to empower the marginalised people with promised work in such a way so that they can stand on their own feet with self-reliance and depend less on charity and concessions provided by others.

II. ISSUES OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

At the other end of the spectrum is the issue of tribal development. The concern for the indigenous people had

received high and huge attention on the international agenda for tribal development. The concern for “Vanavasi” or “Anusuchit Janajati” as the tribals are called in India finds its echo in the UN Charter as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the post-independence India, welfare of the tribal communities has been the national doctrine and special focused responsibility of the both Centre and the various State Governments. On this ideologies of the UNO, the central and state Government took commendable initiative for the upliftment of the tribals in entire India as they are required to take part in the nation-building process for the good governance along with the general populace of the country and participate in the decision-making process of Indian governance.

The development of the tribals in each country and states have been indispensable provisions of the constitutional obligation of the Government. Coupled with the provisions spelt out in the Indian Constitution and intervention packages, the Government had instituted numerous Commissions and Committees from time to time to analyse and assess the tribal situation in the country with specialised committee. But it was very unfortunate that despite of these thoughtful efforts and initiatives, the Government could not make any fundamental change in the socio-economic development of these marginalised community, especially in tanjore district tribal life improvement is very less comparing to other areas in Tamilnadu reasons is the people where living more the welfare scheme is distributed and subsequently they were pushed to the periphery due to the partial welfare policy.

It was soon realised that all the activities and programmes relating to the tribal development cannot be done and executed single agency or by the Government. The failure and carelessness of the Government gives a fertile ground to the NGOs to work upon and extend a helping hand to their tribal development. What is required in the context of Indian tribal situation is the conscientisation of the tribals about their hidden and latent capabilities and to motivate them for acquiring a better life in the secular India. Constant assistance in the form of spoon-feeding would not help them in the long run. Attempts should be made permanently to motivate them to help themselves. NGOs has contributed in a positive note to the development of tribal health and in the protection of their indigenous knowledge in tanjore base which is thoroughly helped lot to improve their life. We all know that the tribals are dwelling in the key component of the biological diversity. They have a solicitous knowledge of the flora and fauna, the appropriate plant species with medical importance, their location, and the parts to be used, time of collection, preparation and administration of the same in tanjore district. Their knowledge of the ethno-medicine is very important for their existence with safety life with strong herbal knowledge.

Moreover, there is a growing proclivity in inclination all over the world for herbal drugs, nature based products instead of synthetic ones. But, there are certain threats to this indigenous asset of the tribals. Deforestation, environmental

degradation, and lack of initiative of the younger generation to learn and adopt the medical practices of the tribal medicine men are led to causes severe problems in their life, lack of proper dissemination and transmission of the knowledge, piracy of the knowledge are part of today existing problem. The healing procedures are taught to young generation orally in the tribal areas because of existence of the poor level of literacy in those areas since origin of their tradition. Hence, most of the time they are found in nomadic life ways and scattered life structure, form some extent all the welfare measures of the government it may be forgotten for good.

Against this backdrop, the NGOs have played a very important role in tanjore tribal issues to. The NGOs have created awareness among the tribals in this area through demonstrating the conservation and preservation of the medical plants, forest, self-protection and revenue making. They have used the audio-visual aids for creating a lasting impression and campaign for ensuring the promotion of herbal plants in kitchen-garden and nurseries for treat their unknowing arising pain and disease. Sharing of knowledge in workshops is also recommended where both NGO professionals and tribal counterparts have participated about their innate problems and needs.

The NGOs in tanjore have encouraged the Irular tribal youths to take up the tradition of practitioners of tribal medicine as livelihood option in there would be prime needs and importance of the tribal youth career. It encouraged them to develop their career in research and development of tribal community. There is a global needs and shown attentions on tribal drug making habits with aim to multifaceted their medicinal discovering activities. This problem International agencies and multinationals often buccaneer the age old knowledge of the tribals for preparing drugs. Documentation of tribal knowledge in ancient and present days becomes an urgent necessity in this case of their life and livelihood development. The NGOs is joined with the Gram Panchayat has played a significant role in tanjore district. They have prepared a community register where such knowledge can be documented in the local language as per their future needs.

They have become legally aware of their traditional rights and movement toward preserving their knowledge under the auspices of Intellectual Property Right. However, there are made very vital changes in discovering and documenting of tribals medicinal plant preserving and diagnosing attitudes as part of NGO activities and social service in tanjore district. The concept of expansion in tribal situations poses complication. Tribal growth is well-defined as social, economic and political development of the tribal people through numerous phased manner and time-bound combined area development and other programmes suiting the genius and the economic situation of the people, ensuring progressive elimination of all forms of corruption and guaranteeing a move towards the goal of equality in all domain and social justice in India.

In India, the government's primary concern which formed on tribal progress policy was safe guarding the welfare and socio-economic improvement of the tribal people in Overall India. The policy instilled with a high sense of admiration for the ancestral cultures and civilizations, is solidly opposed to any kind of intrusion by outside agencies which are likely to contribute to the destruction of the tribal art, culture and in their good atmosphere

Many commissions and study teams have frequently accentuated the importance of the philosophies of tribal development. The Dhebar Commission (1961) opined the objective of development among the tribes as, "The problem of problems is not to disturb the harmony of tribal life and simultaneously work for their advancement". Shilu Ao Team on Tribal Development (1969) pointed out the aim of the policy on tribal development and suggested it as, socio-economic and progressive advancement of the tribes have to be done by all the agencies with a view to their examination with the rest of the community on a footing of equality within a reasonable distance of time. The basic issues and problems on tribal development is not only touch economic development of tribes, but also exist that preservation of their ethnic identity, ecology, language, living habits, gregariousness, culture, style of living, traditional practices, political ideas are found to be deteriorated owing to increasing technology, modernisation and globalisation.

III. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY

The government mainly needs focus to defence tribal people and geography areas and attempts preserve tribal culture and social customs from erosion, safeguard traditional occupations, forest based living style, protect them from exploitation and corruptions by the more sophisticated groups, and promote their economic and social development in all the tribal areas from which tanjore is focused specially. Protection is rendered to the tribal communities through various methods of laws, regulations and government orders based on the provisions of the constitution with a ultimate concern on tribal upliftment

The problem of expansion of tribal areas in the tanjore is mainly linked with the backwardness of these areas, paucity of tribal people and the concept of incorporation of tribes with the rest of the population. For promoting the welfare of scheduled tribes and raising the level of supervision of the tribal areas to the state level, Article 275 of the Constitution paved way to provides for grants-in-aid from consolidated fund of India to states for implementation of development programmes in all tribal areas. Elwin reinforced the formation of a sort of "National Park" of the tribes and advised that their contact with the outside world should be condensed to the minimum. Elwin supported the idea of "seclusion" to a great extent this park policy will promote their traditional togetherness to conduct festivals and cultural programmes.

In the Post-independence period, the Government of India also implemented numerous welfare policy to be tribal development which has helped them largely to equipped and steady their loose life so tight with their old culture, civilisation and customs, in a slightly modified form. The partial exclusion of large tribal areas was followed by different welfare measures.

IV. THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL VIEW POINTS ON TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Both government and NGO needs to Understand of tribal organizations and values through sustained scientific studies.
2. Identifying the problem strongly of tribes at different levels of technological, political economic and cultural development.
3. Identifying the areas of minimum and maximum opposition to innovations in their culture and custom.
4. Identifying the integrative forces in tribal life.
5. Identifying vital connections in their cultural fabric.
6. Orienting the administrators to tribal life and culture in all aspects considered above and giving them special training for the tasks they have to undertake among the tribes for sustain their culture and forest based life style.
7. Cautious preparation of welfare plans with a view to house tribal needs with regional and national interests of all the classified tribal community.
8. Careful watch on the trends set in motion by these measures, with a view to eliminate elements that abolish the social commonality of the tribes and kill their zest for life

V. THE LIMITATION OF THE TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS

The Shilu Committee referred the following aspects as the major limitations in the process of tribal development:-

1. Fragmented approach in development of tribal life needs to be done with good planning.
2. Application of large number of standardized schemes in tribal areas necessarily should be arranged.
3. Promote the employment programme with substantial development.
4. Resolving the land disputes in the pre-extension stage.
5. Investment of as much as 20 percent in productive schemes in agriculture, animal husbandry etc

Vidyarthi and Rai refer to the following deficiencies in the earlier plans for tribal development.

1. Negligence and lack of special attention on tribal and scheduled areas development in spite of constitutional provisions in India.

2. Poor and insufficient allocation of moneys in both general and special sectors to cover all aspects of development of the tribal areas.
3. Inadequate administrative machinery still prevails.
4. Tribal development blocks are too small and a unit of development have to cover overall development.
5. Lack of effective tribal personnel policy.
6. Lack of confidence on the part of the government to develop the anthropology of the folk, and styles of tribal life
7. Excess lobbying of the tribal issue in parliament without standard law

Tribal development and tribal problems are themes of in-depth discussion among the scholars of different social sciences area. Though various theories on these issues originated one after another, the tribal problem and their backwardness are interesting and needs to be addressed still despite more agency emerged to solve.

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