

The effectiveness of tribal developmental programme based on socio economic , cultural and health status in Attappady ,Kerala

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INTRODUCTION

A year ago, we have seen a huge noise being made over the dreadful human development situation in Attapady. Attapady is a block lying on the Kerala—Tamil Nadu border, a predominantly tribal belt. The essential characteristic of these communities are primitive traits, geographical isolation, and distinctive culture.

After the independence, from the First Five Year Plan onwards, the Govt. of India gave more emphasis to the overall growth and sustainable development of tribal communities by providing constitutional and legal rights and through the implementation of various administrative strategies. In this stream, under the recommendation from S.C Dube Committee in 1972, the Central Government implemented “Tribal Sub Plan” (TSP) programme in 1974. Socio-economic development of Scheduled tribes and protecting them from all kinds of exploitations are the major objectives of TSP. According to Planning Commission guidelines, the government should channelize the flow of fund and benefits from general development sectors at least in the proportion of tribal population of the country. The Planning Commission and concerned central government authorities have been associated with tribal development activities and they have been formulating new ideas and making changes in the existing policies in each period based on the socio-economic changes in the country (ISS, 2003). The main purpose of this programme is to implement the tribal development projects and programmes at right time by integrating the whole departments of the Central and State governments.

In the modern era, the contradictory terms “Development” and “Deprivation” have very vital role in the developmental discourse. The major objective of the execution of developmental activities is to reduce the deprivation rate and to ensure the well-being of the people in a country. Scheduled tribes are the most vulnerable group among the marginalized communities in India. They have been facing highest level of deprivation and marginalization even from the pre- independent period because of the socio-economic backwardness, lack of various forms of capital and geographical isolation.

Nearly a decade ago, I spent two months in a village in Attapady for collecting the data for my project. During my project I tried to find ***out the impact and effectiveness of tribal development programmes related to socio-economic, cultural and health status of tribes in Attapady.*** A major barrier to development in Attapady is the poverty resulting from severe depletion of natural resources due to oscillation between eco-restoration and social interventions. Second, government interventions in Attapady did not succeed in ensuring that the benefits were spread equitably. Third, tribal groups were

under-represented in local politics and having limited political awareness, tribal groups were ignored by political parties in Kerala. Also, tribal groups lacked the local leadership that could have represented their causes to the government.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study Personal profile of the respondents.
2. To study the Educational, Social, Economical, Cultural & Health status of the respondents.
3. To study the effectiveness of tribal developmental programmes implemented in Attappady area.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The universe of population study was 187 hamlets. The 187 hamlets were divided in to three, by using Proportionate Stratified Random sampling method

SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

The researcher took two sources of data collection secondary and primary.

Primary Data:

The researcher visited the three tribal communities and conducted the interview scheduled of 120 respondents.

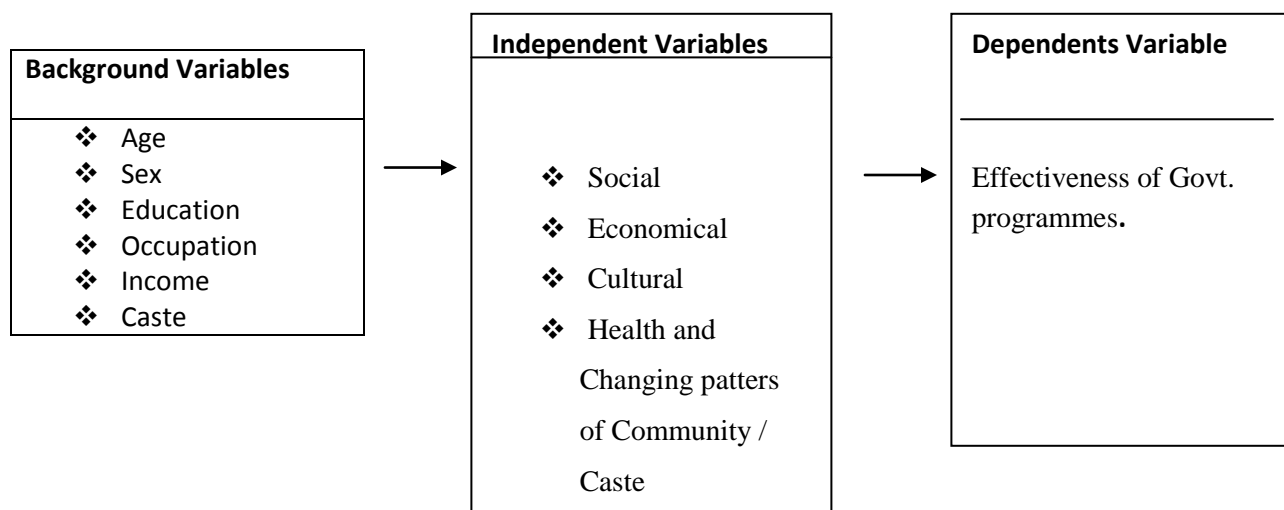
Secondary data:

The secondary sources of data were journals, magazines, record of social welfare departments, panchayath records, libraries, key persons of the village etc.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

The tool used by the researcher for the particular study was interview schedule

PROPOSED MODEL OF THE STUDY



Major findings on observation and through interview were :

- ❖ Most of the tribal people are addicted to alcohol and other things. This creates more problems in their family.
- ❖ Most of the tribal clans are in poverty in the winter seasons.
- ❖ Tribal peoples are not interested to work in agricultural farms, so that, they are keeping most of the fertile land without farming.
- ❖ The tribal development activities are not reached yet in the deep forest areas especially the places which are lived by Kurumba caste people because of the lack of transportation facilities. So the officials are not interested in the deep forest areas.
- ❖ The government offices and health centers are very far from the tribal areas. In the time of necessary they have to reach Agali and Attappady, their places are 30 Kms far from the tribal areas.
- ❖ For the trade purposes the tribal peoples are traveling to Gulikadavy, this place is 25Km from tribal areas.
- ❖ Primary education centers are very less in numbers and the tribal peoples are not interested to utilize these facilities to get primary education.
- ❖ Almost all the children are leaving their homes to graze the Cattle and they are also interested to wandering from place to place.
- ❖ Several women especially the woman belongs to Kurumba community were exploited by non tribal people.
- ❖ Females are kept in isolation in separate huts at a considerable distance from the tribal habitation during menstrual periods.
- ❖ The major part of the tribal people is facing different health problems. Sickle less anemia is the most drastic disease among the tribes.
- ❖ The tribal peoples are not aware about even the names of Govt. Welfare Programmes and its function.
- ❖ Most of the tribal traditional treatment modes Folk art forms and the traditional tribal cultures are also decaying from them.
- ❖ The governmental activities for the welfare of the tribal peoples are satisfactory, But it is not according to the actual fund.
- ❖ There is a lack of correct and accurate informatory records about the history, culture, art customs and tradition of the tribal people.
- ❖ There are a lot of NGOs are working over there for the welfare of tribal people but they are not working efficiently.
- ❖ By the activities of government, NGOs., migrated non tribal people, religions, other organizations political leaders, teachers etc. Attappady Tribal areas witnessed 40% of developments.

CONCLUSION:

The solutions to the tribal problems in the all mentioned above, have their own merits and demerits. Tribal problems are simple but very delicate to handle. No solution can be experimented with before winning the confidence of the tribals. The modern culture must not be imposed on them. It is essential to establish a harmonious compatibility between the tribal mode of living and the material advancement of culture. Only those elements of new culture which may vitalize them for material advancement must be infused in them. Pandit Nehru observes that, " Tribal people possess a variety of

culture and they are in many ways certainly not backward. There is no point in trying to make them a second rate copy of ourselves”.

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