



AN IMPACT OF TRIBAL SUB-PLAN SCHEME ON TRIBAL COMMUNITY: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

Paresh K. Patel*

INTRODUCTION:

The Welfare State is enshrined in the Indian Constitution with a view to ensure social justice to the most deprived society, especially the Scheduled tribes. Tribal administration has gained momentum since the fifth five year plan and to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach for the amelioration of the tribal people, area development approach known as Tribal Sub-plan area approach in Gujarat has been adopted. The present article titled 'An Impact of Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme on Tribal Community: A Sociological Study' is a case study of Gujarat in specially Dang District. Which is an important institution in the Tribal Sub-plan area. It is a pioneer study in the field and the study is based on empirical work some broad conclusions have been drawn and suggestions given, which if acted upon, may go a long way in improving in the administrative, and management for tribal development. The article is likely to interest policy makers, sociologist and social anthropologist, development planning and the intelligent and aware laymen concerned about the developmental issues.

In Gujarat, there are 9 ITDP areas (including the Dang) with 43 blocks, 17 pockets and 4 clusters. The once dispersed tribes too are now covered under TSP. Separate plans for five primitive tribes are also prepared. The TASP and plans for dispersed tribes combined is known as TSP. In the light of this it would be more interesting to study the phenomena of Social Change among Tribal Community through Tribal Sub Plan Schemes. Social Change among Tribal Community through Tribal Sub Plan Schemes raises questions which could be analyzed sociologically, so sociological questions will be; what will be the impact of Tribal Sub Plan Schemes on tribal community? What will be the change in tribal society due to Tribal Sub Plan Schemes? etc., will be important question for social scientists. It is important to inquire An Impact of Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme on Tribal Community from Sociological point of view. In this context a sociological study has been carried out on An Impact of Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme on Tribal Community with special reference to district of Dang, Gujarat state.

Ph.D., Research Scholar, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, Gujarat.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

This section deals with the review of studies conducted on various aspects of tribal development both at the macro level and at the micro level. The studies on implementation and impact of developmental programmes and social change among the Tribals have been reviewed here to understand the different dimensions of the problem. As regards the strategies and programmes for tribal development in India, the studies at macro level include those of B.Singh (1980), RoyBurm (1980), Srivastava (1980), K.P.Singh (1988), Prasad (1988) and Behura (1993). Saibaba and Rajendra Naidu (1992) focused on tribal development strategies in Andhra Pradesh. As regards the implementation of development programmes and their impact on the living condition of tribal people, there are several studies. Khaund (1982) examined the implementation of programmes in North-Eastern region, Sharma (1983) conducted a study on implementation of programmes for dispersed tribals in the country. Mishra et al (1993) studied the implementation of programmes in Orissa. Singh (1997) studied the implementation of programmes in Bihar. Abbasayulu (1978) studied impact of programmes on Rajgonds in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh, Gopala Rao (1981) discussed the impact of programmes in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, Lakshmaiah (1984) assessed the impact of programmes in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh, Gupta (1986) investigated into the impact of programmes in Birhum district of West Bengal, Krishna Reddy and Ramachandra Reddy (1991) evaluated the impact of programmes on Sugali Tribal in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. In view of the large scale diversities among Tribal communities and little empirical evidence, it is difficult to arrive at concrete generalizations on different dimensions of tribal development, which suggests the need for more micro-level studies. Another missing link in tribal research is that most of the studies connected so far concentrated on tribes residing in agency areas and as such there are very few studies on an impact of TSP on tribal community of Gujarat state with reference to Dang District. Thus is a gap in the existing literature on the Impact on Tribal community of Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme. The present study "An Impact of Tribal Sub-Plan Schemes on Tribal Community: A Sociological Study" with special reference to district of Dang is a modest attempt to fill the gap.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To examine the socio-economic background of respondents.



2. To examine about an impact of Tribal Sub Plans Schemes on tribal community and evaluate it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Descriptive research design has been selected in the present study. The district of Dang of Gujarat state was selected for the present study. 311 villages are there in Dang district. Among them 10 villages were selected for the present study. Those villages are Subir, Dhavali, Dod, Hodod, Vaghi, Lavchali, Dhubadiya, Kasadbari, Kanjada, Dhogiyaamba and Kotala. From each village 10 respondents and total 100 respondents were selected for purposive sample method in the study. Only those respondents have been selected who have get the benefit of different Tribal Sub Plan Schemes. Interview Schedule has been prepared in context of the purpose of the present study. And then the data has been collected through 100 respondents under the study by interview schedule. This study was conducted as an empirical research. An empirical study of this type requires procedures that will reduce bias and increase reliability. An interview schedule was prepared. In order to collect information, from the respondents under the study, at least a well constructed pre-tested interview scheduled will be used as a tool. These findings are presented in this article. The source of data for this includes both primary sources and secondary sources. The secondary sources include the reports of planning commission; Different Tribal Development Reports, Thesis, etc were collected. An Interview Schedule was prepared in order to collect the primary data from the respondents under the study. The collected data was confirmed by holding informal interviews with responsible and knowledge local informants like Village Mukhi, school teachers, key person of officers and leaders.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF RESEARCH AREA OF DANG DISTRICT:

The area of the present study is district of Dang in Gujarat state. The district derived its name from 'Dang, its headquarters town. Dang means 'Forest'. Dang is one forest, it is famous in Gujarat. It is located between 20 to 39. North latitude and between 56 to 73 west longitude. It is surrounded by Maharashtra state the northland south by District of Valasad and Nasik. The District extends to an area of 1,768.59 km. There is one Taluka, 311 village and 292 Gram Panchayat. According to 2001 census the total population of the district was 1,86,712 consisting of males 92,712 and 94,001 females. Density of population per 59.km is 99. According to 2001 census to per 1000 men the number of women is 995. The Population



of STs, in Dang district was 93.76. The total population of the district was 17,507,9 among which 87,7,63 are males and 87,316 females. The total literates of this district were 59.09. Of 69.35 are males and 46.81 females. The percentages of main workers were 36.74%, marginal workers were 13.06% and people who didn't do work at all were 50.20%. There were all kind of medical and health facilities in Dang district. And for educational facilities there were primary (378) and 26 secondary schools, 2 collages and 3 Adarsh Nivash schools. The drop- out rate was 6.88%.271 wells Recharged, 191 Sakhi Mandal developed in this district, 40,505 Beneficiary cards provided to the people and 2853 acre land covered under irrigation.

SIGNIFICATION OF THE STUDY:

Social research gives scientific knowledge about the social facts. It scientifically investigates social life and gives scientific explanation of it. This knowledge becomes useful to construct the theory of social life and to solve the problems of practical life.

In this context this research elaborates authentic data of the social-economic background of tribal people and gives scientific insight. Through this, society will get the new knowledge about tribal people and the present knowledge will increase.

This study gives concrete fact about the background of Tribal Sub Plan Schemes, its impact on tribal people and social change came in their life due to it. The conclusions of this present study also offers clues how those problems and challenges can be solved and how the modification can be made in the policies and programmes to make Tribal Sub Plan Schemes more applicable and fruitful.

TRIBAL SITUATION IN GUJARAT:

Gujarat is the home of about 29 major tribal communities who are inhabited in its eleven districts. As per 2001 census, Gujarat has 14.16 per cent tribal population. i.e. 61,61,775. Tribal population occupied 15 per cent of total geographical area of the state. Out of this, 56.86 per cent is the forest area. Entire tribal belt of Gujarat can be divided into three zones, i.e. North Zone, Central Zone and South Zone. While the North Zone comprising of Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts has 8 per cent of total tribal population of the state, the Central Zone comprising of Panchmahal, Dahod and Baroda districts accommodates 36 per cent of the total tribal population of the state and the South Zone comprising of Narmada, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, Valsad and Dang districts houses 53 per cent of total



tribal population. Only 3 per cent of the tribal population is spread out in the rest of districts of Gujarat. Literacy rate amongst tribal is 36.45 per cent as per 1991 census (Satyakam Joshi 2008:160).

MAIN FINDINGS:

36% respondents belong to the Age group of 31-40 years and 30 % are in the age group of 41-50 years, only 29 % are from the age group of 51 to more years. This shows that younger respondents are very less. The classification of the marital status of the respondents shows that majority (96%) are married, while widows/widowers are very less. This finding is clear that majority respondents are married. As far as the 'marital status' is concerned, the majority of respondents were reported to be married and having children.

Some of the respondents (39% and 35%) are from Kunabi and Bhil sub Tribe, and whereas very few respondents (19 %) are accordingly from Kukana Scheduled Tribe. One can notice from the above information that the majority of respondents are from Kokana and Bhil community. The main reason for it is their large populations compared to the population of other schedule tribes. 73.67 % respondents are Hindu and 25.33 % Christian. This finding clears; majority respondents are Hindus. It becomes clear that among the followers of different religions in India, Hindus are in majority so the ratio of Hindu respondents is more in the present study.

The analysis carried out that majority of the respondents (73 %) are from nuclear family whereas 27 % respondents are from joint family so on the basis of this classification, it can be observed that the ratio of joint family is less than that of nuclear family. 52% of respondents belong to either small families and 35 percent of the respondents are from middle families while 13 percent are from large families. The classification clarifies that due to the result of change in the functions and family of the Indian Society, middle and small sized families were found in a notable ratio in the present study.

60.33% of the respondents live interfaced or Terraced houses compared to 27 % living in Tiled house. The type of house is related to the economic conditions of the dwellers. It also tells upon the social status of the residents. It is concluded that the respondents of the current study are availing themselves the facility of televisions more than of the other facilities. Thus the majority of the respondents have a broader base for Development



schemes; the possession of these modern facilities also gives a status to the respondents and hence facilitates the emergence of their community.

The respondents according to their levels of education out of the 100 respondents, 31 % are found as the literate, 26% illiterate, 16% up to the primary level, 12% up to the secondary level and higher educated 7% whereas others 7.67 % education (Diploma, Training Course-P.T.C, and B.P.Ed.) are very few. One can notice from the analysis that majority of the respondents are illiterate and very few of them have primary and secondary education. However, it appears that with regard to basic level of education, respondents are taking an advantageous benefit in comparison to other.

37% respondents engaged in Agriculture, 20% in labour, 14% are job while Animal husbandry and Home industry (07%, 12%) are very few respondents. This finding clears; majority respondents belonging to Agriculture and labour work. It can be noted through the above classification that majority of the respondents covered up under the present study were occupied in farming, farm labour or domestic work.

6.34% of the respondents belonging to the annual income group of less than Rs. 11,000, 8.66% earn between Rs. 11,000 to 21,000, 26.66% earn between Rs. 31,001 to 41,000 and A few respondents (26.66%) earn Rs. 31,000 while 40% earn Rs. 41,000 above. This finding clears, majority respondents belong to the annual income of lower middle class. Their economic condition seems to be an obstacle and it has a negative impact. 49% of the respondents are landless, 30% of the respondents lands are dry, 13% of the respondents a river Irrigated and 8% of the respondents are well irrigated. This finding clears that majority of respondents are landless and lands are dry.

21% respondents have availed residence related schemes, 19% have availed economical development schemes, 18% of them have availed agriculture related schemes, 15.43% of them have enjoyed educational development schemes, 14% have opted for animal husbandry related schemes and 12.57% have gone for health related different schemes. 19% of the respondents availed the economically related schemes which included help for cottage industry, self –employment for women, to do sewing work, and for occupational training just like turning, welding, carpentry, cycle-repairing etc.

Out of the total respondents, all those who availed various schemes to promote their profession – business, found that it increased their income annually from Rs. 1500/- to



2,000/-. The maximum income of Rs. 2000/- was found among the cycle repairers. The minimum income was found animal husbandry among those who depend upon the seasonal business just like loud speakers, building, etc. Those who got the help to buy oil-engines, found a raise of more than Rs. 2000/- in their Income. Those who bought a pair of bullocks became free from the expense of hiring bullocks. The same was those who got the help to buy cow or buffalo found a raise of Rs. 1400/- to 1800/- in their income. It was found that compared to seasonal business, permanent business has more raise of income. It can be said that to bring a change in their social life, it is essential to have a raise in their income.

A vast majority of 92.30 percent of the respondents had spent more money for getting the development scheme sanctioned. As regards the purpose for which money was spent, about 39% of the respondents reported that they did so for gratification of the officials, while 33% of the respondents spent money for expenses of the middlemen and others 28% of the respondents spent money for visits to officials. Thus, one important observation in the pattern of expenditure could be noticed; while a majority of the respondents spent money for gratification of the officials and middlemen. It may also be seen perhaps due to relatively higher illiteracy and poor contacts with the government functionaries.

23% of the respondents believe that the employees behave in an inspiring way, 20% believe that their attitude is with proper guidance, 17 % believe that it is positive 14% believe that it is co-operative, and 20% opined that the behaviour and attitude of the employees is partial. It can be noted that most of the employees have a cooperative, positive and inspirational attitude towards the respondents. It is a good gesture for the effective implementation of the Govt. schemes. But during the personal meeting with the respondents to get additional information about the attitude of the employees towards the respondents it was informed that some employees are lazy and idle in their work, some of them having a desire to get some benefit from those schemes, some of them having no enthusiasm, some of them expecting bribe, some were found very obstinate in the trivial matters. Such an attitude of the employees proved to be a challenge in the effective implementation of various Govt. schemes.

41 percent of the covered beneficiaries face operational difficulties in the execution of their schemes. The respondents indicated the difficulties like sickness death of buffalo, problem of fodder and shelter for the cattle, amount allocated under the schemes was insufficient,



problem in collection of material for house construction, financial loss of time due to frequently running to bank/block etc. Thus, the analysis reveals that the beneficiaries of different benefit oriented schemes faced some serious problems which, if not solved, might have reduced the effectiveness of the schemes in achieving the target of uplifting the tribal families under the study.

It may be noted from present study that 58 percent of the respondents changed from their father's occupation of agricultural labour to agriculture. Further, only 3 percent of the respondents changed from their father's occupation agriculture to business. There was also a change in the occupation from agriculture to service and from agricultural labour to business. Thus there was a considerable change in the occupation from father to respondents. Pande (1991:226) also reported intergeneration occupational change in the case of Tharu Community in Bihar. It may be mentioned here that the occupational change has occurred in the case of the respondents due to various programmes for tribal development, which facilitate this process.

It is clear from that the no major variations in the cropping pattern of the agricultural households across the sample villages. Pulses was the major crop grown by the respondents accounting for 40.33 percent of the gross cropped area, followed by Bajaro and Juwar (13.34 percent) vegetables (33 percent) and fruits (13.33%).that about 86.66 percent of the agricultural respondents were applying HYV seeds, of those who adopted the HYN seeds, as many as 76.22 percent did so during the last five years, and the rest during the last 5-10 years. With regard to the crop for which the HYN seeds are used, as many as 47.54 percent cultivators reported that they used these seeds for crop and others for vegetable and fruits. As regards the source of persuasion for using HYV seeds, a vast majority of 79.24 percent cultivators reported that they were influenced by their neighboring farmers and rest stated that they were persuaded by the agricultural officers.

Majority (62%) of respondents reported improvement. The proportion of respondents who reported improvement in their family life was found to be higher among females, illiterates and agricultural laborers that their counter parts. However, the improvement in family life was not significantly associated any background and characteristics of respondents. Regarding the nature of improvement in family life, provision of house was most frequently stated to family to family adequate income, permanent employment and educating the



children were found to be the other improvement varied across different categories of background characteristics of respondents.

The inter-generation occupational change was very slow in the case of grandfather to father (7.33 per cent), which increased as a faster rate from father to respondent (34.33 per cent) in the sample households. The occupational change indicated a shift from wage dependence to independent income earning, i.e., from agricultural labour to owner cultivation, business and service

SUGGESTIONS:

The institutional framework for the implementation of the tribal development programmes at the grassroots level needs to be strengthened suitably equipped in terms of wider responsibilities, accountability to people and transparency in functioning. This framework must consist of the Panchayati Raj institutions, institutional credit agencies and non-governmental development agencies.

In addition to the present strategies, there is a need for adopting a holistic approach to tribal development aimed at comprehensive development of the area as a whole with a focus on the development of infrastructural facilities.

The administrative machinery for implementing tribal welfare programmes needs to be decentralized below the district level to increase the accessibility and accountability of these programmes.

Project officials should adequately involve local educational institutions, panchayats and the voluntary agencies in undertaking awareness drives in tribal villages regarding the family benefit schemes under which the tribal households may be benefitted. This will help in abolishing the middle men and brokers in the assistance giving operations.

In every village, a panel list of beneficiaries should be created on the basis of their actual economic status and poverty, (not on the basis of favors, recommendations or ability to pay bride) and the beneficiaries, as per their choice of the schemes, should be selected from this list in an objective manner.

Open Panchayat meetings should be held for the selection of beneficiaries under different schemes, where the voice of the common man should be heard and given due weight age.

Such impartial machinery should be created where the tribals could challenge the unfair selection of beneficiaries under different schemes.



Package of stringent punishment and action should be decided and published which may be given to the corrupt Gram Savak/VDOs, block officials and functionaries, Bank Officials and other government functionaries who indulge in corrupt practices.

Elected village representatives like, Pradhans, Panchs and Sarpanch etc. Hob-nabbing with corrupt officials/functionaries should also be punished.

Accountability of different functionaries/officials in the execution and administration of TSP benefit schemes must be fixed ensured.

Project offices should be established at the panchayat level to ensure proper on the spot supervision of the tribal beneficiaries in the implementation of the schemes.

Efforts should be made to identify and plug the loopholes and lacuna existing at different levels of administration.

REFERENCES:

1. Bhatt, Vasudev (1982), Tribal Sub Plan for Korgas, Yojna, Volume XXVI, No.23.
2. Bose, Ashish (1990), Demography of Tribal Development. B.R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi.
3. Das, S.T.(1993) Tribal Development and Socio-Cultural Matrix. Kaniksha Publishers, Delhi
4. Dubey S.N. and Ratna Murdia.(1976) Administration of Policy and Programmes for Backward Classes in India, Somaiya, Bombay
5. Enthoven, R.E,(1980)The Tribes and Castes of Bombay. (Vols. III). Delhi : Cosmo Publications,
6. Government of India (1981), Tribal Development in the Fifth Plan: Some Basic Policy Papers, Vol. 1, Ministry of Home Affairs.
7. Gopalkrishnan, N.S. (1985), Impact of Welfare Schemes on Kannikars: An Empirical Study, Cochin University Law Review, Volume DC pp 237-258.