

Strategies for the implementation of vocational program for tribal people in Jharkhand

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ABSTRACT

Jharkhand state is situated in the eastern part of India and its beauty is diversified forest and tribal culture. The name Jharkhand is derived from Sanskrit word 'Jharikhanda' which means dense forest. Tribals of Jharkhand are educationally economically, socially and politically are in backward position. They are not aware about social change and sustainable development. Tribal population traditionally have their habitation in or around the forest mosaic landscape and there has been a symbiotic relationship between the tribal community and their surrounding natural ecosystems. Scheduled tribe are the group of indigenous people who are marginalized community of the country on the basis of their livelihood. A tribe is a group that depend on their land for livelihood and are isolated from the national society. The Indian constitution has provided social, economical and political protection to the schedule tribes (ST) but the fact is that they are not getting proper education. NEP 2020 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education and higher education including access to education. Further, it aims to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It proposes special emphasis to be given on socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups. It is important to understand the country's geography and climate for the implementation of the vocational programme.

Keywords- Schedule tribes, marginalized community, social progress, harmony

INTRODUCTION

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the World"- Nelson Mandela Literacy and Educational execution are one of the important indicators of the development of any country. Education is essential for all and should be irrespective of gender, caste, class, color and creed; (Mohapatra J., 2020) and it's one of the important factors for economic growth and to maintain the sustainable development. Since the early days of independence India has always been attentive on enlightening the literacy rate in our country. Even today the government runs many programs to promote primary and higher education in India. Human resource development should necessarily be assigned a key role in any developmental strategy, particularly in a country with a large population. The vision of Indian government is to ensure that education in India is of the highest quality and available to the whole population without discrimination.

Schedule tribe is the group of indigenous people who are the marginalized community of the country on the basis of their livelihood. A tribe is a group that depend on their land for livelihood and are isolated from the national society. The Indian constitution has provided social, economical and political protections to the schedule tribes (ST) (Singh S.K., 2018) but the fact is that they are not getting proper education yet. Since the independence of India, the central and state governments have initiated several schemes and programmes to educate the country's tribal population; which include the establishment of Ashram Schools, Ekalavya Model Residential Schools, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, pre-matric scholarships and vocational training centres (Mohanty A., 2020). It is true that every person has his/her own vocational interest due to the heterogeneity of the perception and community, culture and background (Jain shelly 2020) and the prime aspect of Indian government is to fulfill this requirement. With the emergence of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, vocational education has gained vital attention by the Indian government. NEP 2020 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education and higher education including access to education. Further, it aims to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It proposes that

special emphasis should be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) (Ministry of education, 2021).

Jharkhand state is situated in the eastern part of India and its beauty includes the diversified forests and tribal culture. The name Jharkhand is derived from Sanskrit word 'Jharikhanda' which means 'dense forest'. It is a leading producer of minerals like iron ore, coal, copper, uranium, mica, graphite and limestone. The tribes of this state are living here from thousands of years and have not attained much change in their lifestyle and culture over the ages during the last few decades. Many researchers now believe that the language used by tribes in the state of Jharkhand is identical to the one used by Harappan people. There are 32 tribal groups in Jharkhand. The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of Jharkhand State; as per 2001 census is 7,087,068 constituting 26.3 per cent of the total population (26,945,829) of the State (Official website of Jharkhand). The dominant population of tribals are main conservator of forests and lands. Now, the literacy rate of Jharkhand was 66.41% (as per the 2011 census of India). In 2011, the state adopted 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' to encourage the education among children up to the age of 14 years. The schools are affiliated to ICSE or Indian Certificate of Secondary Education, CBSE or Central Board of Secondary Education, or the Jharkhand State Board (K. Gautam 2022). As per MHRD survey report the gross enrollment rate of the students of senior secondary education in Jharkhand for boys and girls are 47.75% and 48.98% respectively. Total 48.32% children are enrolled in senior secondary education in different boards. The school education and literacy department of Jharkhand government's commitment is to implement central government's vision and mission in elementary and secondary education.

There is a relationship between social progress, democracy and harmony (Singh M., Pandey S. and Kumari A., 2022). The NEP 2020 is a policy document that has versatility and widely discusses the makeover of vocational education (Shubhangi Raman, 2020). The five building blocks of this policy, namely being access, equity, affordability, accountability, and quality have been considered to build the new education system in India so as to create a perfect harmony with the principles of United Nations' (UN) 2030 agenda for sustainable development (Kumar K., Prakash A. & Singh K. 2020). NEP 2020 is trying its best to introduce vocational education in a newer and more efficient way so that it can help in the economic growth, increasing employment and self-dependency and also help to maintain the peace and harmony even after the increasing population in India (Singh M., Pandey S. and Kumari A., 2022). We know that skill development is linked to economic productivity and social well-being (International Labor Organization. 2006). It is expected that National Education Policy 2020 will play an important role in creating new India. Considering the tribals of Jharkhand, it is clearly observed that they are in an educationally, economically, socially and politically backward position. They are not aware about social changes and sustainable development. Tribal population traditionally have their habitation in or around the forest mosaic landscape and there has been a symbiotic relationship between the tribal community and their surrounding natural ecosystems. The geographical and climatic condition of Jharkhand support agriculture. As the education system is not properly framed with the climatic condition and geographical view, hence people are continuously migrating to other states for either educational purposes or employment.

Employment area according to the climatic condition and geographical view of Jharkhand

1. **Organic farming in vacant land**- It is an agricultural system in which biodegradable fertilizers, manure practices and techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting are used. All these methods are environmentally friendly. They reduce the use of chemicals and consume less energy and facilitate healthy soil formation. Nowadays these practices are frequently and largely used all over the world and organic foods have a large market. Therefore tribals can move and have good opportunity of employment in this field.
2. **Forest diversity management**- Biodiversity is a widely ranged field where scientists are engaged to protect the ecosystem through biodiversity management programme and sustainable development. The tribal people have indigenous ability to protect it as they are much more aware of the local forests and land patterns.
3. **Preservation of natural resources especially seeds**- Tribals have much knowledge about medicinal plants and preservation methods of natural resources (IBRAD Report). They inherit the ancestral knowledge to pass it to their children or society as a part of their cultural practices. Training of entrepreneurship and skill development of preservation management of seeds and medicinal plants mobilize the community at the local level and can generate employment. Women can play an important role in this field which will eventually lead to their empowerment.
4. **Art and craft**- Sohrai painting is an art of people of Jharkhand and it is world famous. These are the traditional wall paintings based on marriages and harvest seasons. The tribal women decorate their mud houses, with designs of flowers, fruits, birds like sparrows, peacocks, animals like squirrels, cows, and various other nature-inspired designs. The Sohrai art painted on the mud wall is a matriarchal tradition handed down from mother to daughter. This art has a rising popularity and state government can initiate to connect it with employment.

5. **Tourism** –Tourism contributes in tremendous growth of Indian which and it can be an important field in the growth of employment generation (Venkateswari K V & Anumol P T, 2018). Jharkhand is full of forests, hills, falls, minings and food preparation which add to its beauty. People can experience a glimpse of real Indian culture here in Jharkhand. With these characteristics, Jharkhand can prove to be a wonderful tourist place. Betla national park, Hazaribag sanctuary and falls in Ranchi district and many more places have been attracting people since many years. There is an opportunity of entrepreneurship and employment generation with the help of tourism. It can financially benefit the people living in and around tourist centers.
6. **Languages**- In the teachers' recruitment and other government jobs, the government of Jharkhand includes local languages in the examination pattern. Candidate can choose one language of Jharkhand and can qualify the examination. This can also help in increasing employment and preventing language based discriminations.

DISCUSSION

A Constitutional Body is set up under Article 338A of Constitution of India to investigate and monitor all the matters related to safeguards provided to the Scheduled Tribes (NCST report, 2021). In NCST reports, effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes are recommended to the state. The development of infrastructure in rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of destination development. Ecotourism entails the sustainable preservation of a naturally endowed area or region. This is becoming more and more significant for the ecological development of all regions that have tourist values (Venkateswari K V & Anumol P T, 2018). In crop-based agriculture, there is possibility of increasing employment by substitution of crops as the demand for vegetables would continue to rise in the country for many years. Some emerging options in agricultural practices are precision farming, organic farming, integrated crop and nutrient management system. Poultry, another important allied activity has peaked in the last one decade owing to its phenomenal growth in certain pockets of the country. Joint-forest management (JFM), which recognizes role of local people in management of forest, was started in the late 80s. Increase of employment in this sector to some extent would depend on the spread of JFM. (Jha B., 2006). Alternate social forestry development models based on state, corporate, NGOs and co-operatives have emerged over the years. Ideally, the government should make its wastelands available to tree-growers-cooperative societies (TGCS) on long-term lease for tree plantations (Singh K., 2000).

CONCLUSION

It is important to understand the country's geography and climate for the implementation of the vocational programmes. Government should take initiatives all over India to observe the opportunities according to states' need for employment. Asemployment generation is directly involved in nations' development and growth. In the state of Jharkhand, abundant tribal population have skills in different fields and if government becomes aware of their skills and utilize them efficiently, they can generate right opportunities for the tribal people.

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