

# Tribals and Tribal Welfare Programms with Special Reference to Raichur District of Karnataka: Present Issues and Future Challenges

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## ABSTRACT

The tribal people of India constitute an integral part of Indian population and represent a part of Indian culture. The population of the Scheduled tribes in the country is about 67.8 million. They constitute about 8.6% of the total population. India has the worlds' second largest tribal population next only to the African continent. As per the census of 2001, Scheduled Tribes population constitutes 84.32 million which is about 8.2 percent of India's population. There are 664 tribal communities of which 75 are categorized as primitive Tribal Groups. The tribal communities speak in about 105 native languages. It is estimated that the tribals inhabit in about 15% of the geographical area of the country. India has the largest concentration of tribal people anywhere in the world except perhaps in Africa. The tribal's are children of nature and their lifestyle is conditioned by the eco-system. India with a variety of eco-systems presents a varied tribal population throughout its length and breadth. Moreover, the tribal development schemes have not brought any changes in the life of majority of the tribal people. Inclusive growth is not making the fruits of development available and accessible to the tribal population of India. The present research paper is confined to the origin and theoretical background of Tribal Welfare and to evaluate the tribal development planning, and important eyesight to tribal development in India, particularly in Raichur district of Karnataka. The paper also highlights development of Tribal in India during five-year planning period. The Government of India as provides a greater number of schemes, Welfare facilities and Programmes for the motive to development of Tribal people in India

**Keywords:** Raichur, Tribal Development, Tribal Communities, Tribal Welfare, Government Schemes.

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## INTRODUCTION

The term "tribe" though a regular word in most of the scholastic dimensions of today's world, astonishingly hasn't found a universal definition till date even after years of study and research. The problem is not lack of dedication or interest, but the world is so diverse and dynamic to accommodate dissimilar sets of human populations into one mould.

For the developing and upliftment of tribal communities the tribal development planners and administrators have made efforts by launching the various tribal development schemes/ programme. The problems of communication, government and the communities cooperation have, to a more in number, has been overcome and there is no reason why the all-out efforts could not succeed to upgrade the tribal mass in the overall development of programme of the state. In its endeavor towards ensuring faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth, the Government of Karnataka has committed itself to improving capabilities and productive endowments among the economically disadvantaged and socially marginalized sections of the State.

The tribal people of India are a part of the Indian population and represent a true synthesis of Indian culture (Narayan, 2002).The term 'tribe' is commonly used in social science literature, particularly in anthropology to denote certain categories of pre-literate cultures. In the evolutionary perspective, it referred to a societal form intermediate between the band and the nation. In this sense, it represented a territorially defined ethnic group (Dube,1998). The tribal societies are characterized by traditional values, use of primitive technology and non- rational behaviour patterns which are incongruent with the values, technology and behaviour patterns of the modern world (Kattakayam,2001). The concept of tribe is territorial's it may be defined as a group of people living in a particular place or area from the time immemorial. The tribe

has normally a common territory, a tradition of descent, common language, common culture, a common name, political system, simple economy, religion and belief, primitive law and own educational system (Narayan, 2002). (Beteille, 1977) has aptly observed that the formation of the tribes is a historical process, one needs to have a historical perspective to identify them. It is only by going into the antecedents of a group we can say with any confidence whether or not it should be considered as a tribe (Ahmed, 1999). In nutshell, a tribe is an age old indigenous, by and large, unstratified and egalitarian ethnic group in both appearance and content. The other characteristics of tribes may include speaking a common language, claiming a common descent, living in a particular geographic area, having a primitive economy, technology and lack of scientific temperament, almost preliterate and unaware about the so called modern knowledge and information, and observing social and political customs based on the principle of kinship.

Karnataka state has achieved commendable progress in all walks of life in the post-independence era. The Government of Karnataka has launched series of development programmes for the empowerment of women and weaker sections. Tribal development is a multi-directional process which demands active mobilization of tribes and participation of various stakeholders of tribal development in the process of development. Public-Private Partnership is essential to achieve the goal of tribal development in the new millennium. Karnataka state has witnessed several tribal development initiatives over a period of time.

### **Scheduled Tribes In India**

There are over 700 Scheduled Tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. The population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country, as per Census 2011 is 10.45 crore. STs constitute 8.6 percent of the country's total population and 11.3 percent of the total rural population. The population of ST males is 5.25 crore and ST females are 5.20 crore. Decadal growth of ST population in 2011 as compared to 2001, ST female population growth rate (25%) is higher than ST male population growth rate (23%). The sex ratio in respect of STs is 990, which is higher than the national average of 943. Also, the ST sex ratio has improved from 978 females per 1000 males in 2001 to 990 in 2011.

As per the 2011 Census, the literacy rate for STs in India improved from 47.1% in 2001 to 59% in 2011. Among ST males, the literacy rate increased from 59.2% to 68.5% and among ST females, the literacy rate increased from 34.8% to 49.4% during the same period. The literacy rate for the total population has increased from 64.8% in 2001 to 73% in 2011. There is a gap of about 14 percentage points in the literacy rate of STs as compared to the all-India literacy rate. Gaps in literacy rates in respect of persons, males and females for the years 1991, 2001 & 2011, States, namely, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala have shown gap of more than 18 percentage points in literacy rate of STs as compared to the total population during 2011. However, all States registered a decline in the literacy rate gap between 2001 and 2011.

### **Tribal Scenario in Karnataka**

Tribal communities constitute a significant segment of Indian society and civilization. The Scheduled Tribe population in the State has increased from 34,63,986 in the 2001 Census to 42,48,987 in 2011, registering a decennial growth rate of 22.66 percent. The proportion of the Scheduled Tribe population to the total population of the State is 6.95 percent. Bellary has the highest population (10.6%) of Scheduled Tribes (ST) as a percentage of the ST population in the State. Raichur (8.6%) has the second highest percentage of ST population followed by Mysuru (7.8%) Chitradurga (7.1%) and Belgaum (6.9%). Bellary (4,51,406), Raichur (3,67,071), Mysuru (3,34,547), and Chitradurga (3,02,554) are also the districts where the maximum number of tribals reside. Raichur has the highest population of the STs as a percentage of the total population of the district (19.03%), followed by Bellary (18.41%) and Chitradurga (18.23%) districts. The ST population of Karnataka is primarily rural (84.7%). Districtwise distribution of ST population shows that the tribal population is present in all 30 districts of the State. (Census of India, 2011). The sex ratio for Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka is 990 females per 1000 males which are higher than the all-India average of 964 for STs as well as the State's overall average of 973 females per 1000 males population. The sex ratios of the ST population in rural and urban areas of Karnataka are 990 and 993 females per 1000 males, respectively which increased from 975 and 960, respectively in 2001. There has been a perceptible improvement in the sex ratio of STs since 1991 when it was only 961 females per 1000 males. The literacy rate of STs in Karnataka is a cause for concern, as it has consistently been lower than that of the total population. The literacy rate among the tribes, which was 36.0 percent in 1991, increased to 48.3 percent in 2001 and further increased to 62.1 percent (male 71.1% and female 53.0) in 2011. The literacy rate among the tribal population in Karnataka is 74.8 percent in urban and 59.0 percent in rural areas.

### **Profile of Raichur District**

Raichur is a district in the state of Karnataka. The Raichur ranks 8th in terms of area and 10th in terms of population. There are 5 subdivisions under the district covering 8442 Km<sup>2</sup> as per census 2011.

According to Census of India 2011, The total population of the “Raichur” is 1928812 and out of this total population, urban population is 490348 (25%) and rural population is 1438464 (75%). Female population in the district is 964301 (50%) and male population is 964511. Hence the sex ratio accounts as 1000 females per 1000 males. The Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 400933 and 367071 respectively.

### Objectives of the Study

The present study aims to analyze the following objectives

- To study the development initiatives introduced for the welfare of the Indian tribal communities.
- To examine the tribal developmental efforts by the Government of Karnataka for Raichur tribal community
- To collect information regarding various initiatives taken by Central Government
- To explore the issues and challenges among Raichur tribal community.

### Data Collection

The present study is based on secondary data. The secondary information relating to different development programmes aimed at socio-economic development of scheduled tribes in Karnataka have been collected from both online and offline sources. And researcher himself visited the maximum areas of Raichur district to find out issues and challenges among Raichur tribal community.

### Tribal Development Initiatives

The total population of the Scheduled tribes in the country constituted about 8.08 per cent of the total population (Census of India 2011). In terms of development, the tribal communities are at various stages. According to census 2011 in Raichur there are 367071 population are tribal out of total population of 1928812 tribals. Some are still in the food gathering stage, some practice settled agriculture, while others are indeed developed and almost at par with the mainstream. Taking these stages of development into account, Indian tribes have been classified into plain tribes, hill tribes, island tribes, primitive tribes and advanced tribes (Mohanty, 2002). The development of tribal communities has been one of the important ingredients of the policy of development in India. The socio-economic situation of these communities is somewhat different from the general socio-economic situation in the country (Sree-kumar, 2001). The formulation of policy and executing programs for the upliftment of these downtrodden communities at par with the general mass of the country is the process of tribal development (Kohli et al, 1999). The chronology of process of tribal development can be better understood with reference to plan and policies implemented for the region specially.

### Efforts of Development in Raichur District

- **Plant Protection:** It is continuous scheme envisaged to save crops from pests and diseases. Under this scheme, the farmers are to be provided with plant protection equipment and chemicals at Subsidy.
- **Agricultural Machinery:** The funds proposed under the scheme are for meeting expenditure on distribution of agriculture implements suitable to local conditions on frozen subsidy from Non Plan and good subsidy on its transportation from procurement point to distribution point will be met out from Plan sector.
- **Expenditure on Agriculture:** The funds proposed are for meeting expenditure on organizing Agriculture Exhibitions in Tribal areas and also in non-tribal areas.
- **Lift Irrigation and Bore-Well Scheme:** In most parts of the Raichur, water has to be lifted for irrigation purpose. As an incentive to the farmers, Government has decided to grant subsidy for construction of Lift Irrigation Schemes and installation of Bore-Wells by individual or group of farmers for irrigation purposes. The budget provision will be increased as per the actual demand from the farmers.
- **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):** Sustainable agriculture productivity depends upon quality and availability of natural resources like soil and water. Agricultural growth can be sustained by promoting conservation and sustainable use of these scarce natural resources through appropriate location specific measures. Towards this end, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has been formulated for enhancing agricultural productivity especially in rain fed areas. Main deliverable under this mission are Developing rain fed agriculture, natural resources management, enhancing water use efficiency, improving soil health, promoting conservation agriculture.

**District Tribal Welfare Department Raichur Activities**

Department Schemes/ Importance at State level / National Level along with the Website

**State Level Programmes**

- Running Pre-Metric Hostels, Post Metric Hostels & Ashrama Residential Schools
- Pre-Metric and Post-Metric Scholarship
- ST Post-Matric Scholarship for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>
- SSLC and Post Metric Prize Money
- Running Prestigious schools
- Providing Training GNM Nursing & BSC Nursing & Paramedical
- Providing Training in Judicial Department to Law Graduates
- Providing Financial Assistance to Mass Marriage, Intercaste Marriage & Widow Remarriage Programme
- Providing Infrastructures to ST Colonies
- Construction of Valmiki Bhavan and Community hall in ST Colonies
- UPSC, Bank/RRB SSC, Etc

**National Level Programmes**

- SCA & 275(1)-Providing Financial Assistance means self employment for ST people
- GOI-Government of India Scholarship

**Social Development Scheme**

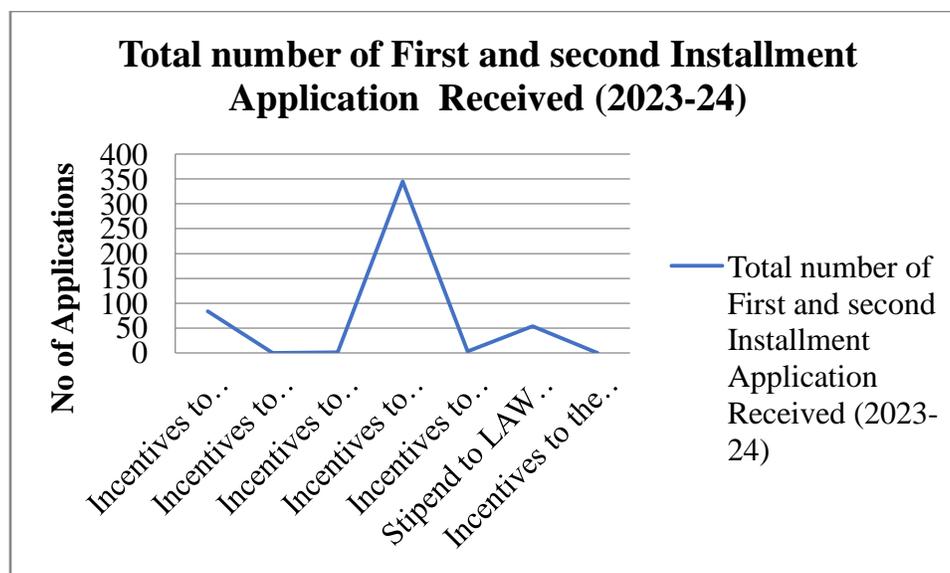
- Incentives to Inter Caste Marriage
- Incentives to Intra Caste Marriage
- Incentives to Widow Re-Marriage
- Incentives to Simple Marriage
- Incentives to Simple Marriage Organizer
- Stipend to LAW Graduates
- Incentives to the Devidasi children’s marriage

**Economic development Programmes**

- Interest subsidy scheme to Entrepreneurs
- Collateral security to Entrepreneurs

**Table 1. Showing the number of application received in 2023-24**

Sl. No	Programme	Total number of First and second Installment Application Received (2023-24)
1	Incentives to Inter Caste Marriage	84
2	Incentives to Intra Caste Marriage	0
3	Incentives to Widow Re-Marriage	1
4	Incentives to Simple Marriage	345
5	Incentives to Simple Marriage Organizer	3
6	Stipend to LAW Graduates	54
7	Incentives to the Devidasi children’s marriage	0



### SUGGESTIONS

The following are the major secondary suggestions to emphasis Tribal Development

- The Tribal rights in land forest should be respected; transportation and connecting should be unprovoked. Hence, Participation of voluntary agencies and NGO tribal development should be encouraged and there is a need to organized and strengthen the women self-help group can play.
- Tribal peoples are not aware with the Rural Development Schemes (RDS) and there is no proper system to educate the rural people about various schemes and their importance. Meeting and Seminars may also be organized with rural people at village level.
- The schemes were made by the government and implemented, but there was no participation of the rural people in it. Hence, it should be given on the formulation of participation of the rural people in it.
- Working Committees and vigilance Committees may be formed at village level for the monitoring of Rural Development Schemes. The Government should take an initiative the transparency in the implementation of Rural Development Schemes.
- The efforts should be made to simplify the procedure, Time period for implementation and actual disbursement of the scheme should be minimized

### CONCLUSION

The study reveals that a number of development efforts have been made by both the central government and state government during last 5-6 decades for improving the socio-economic conditions of the tribal people, including Raichur. Since independence, , concern for tribal development has always been high on the government’s agenda However, the issue of tribal development is still alive. It clearly indicates that we have achieved too less in this regard. There is need to further strengthen and consolidate the efforts aimed at bringing the tribals in mainstream of the society.

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