



TRIBAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES OF THE UNION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA – AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

Dr. O. Mohammad Rafee,

Faculty of Commerce, Dept. of Commerce, Yogi Vemana University.

P. Rajasekhar*

(Corresponding Author)

Faculty of Business Management, Dept. of Business Management, Yogi Vemana University

ABSTRACT

Research paper examines the various welfare and development schemes initiated by the Union Government of India for the upliftment of tribal communities. Despite the substantial progress made over the years, tribal populations in India continue to face socio-economic challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of access to healthcare, and exclusion from mainstream development. Through an empirical study, this paper evaluates the effectiveness, impact, and challenges of these schemes, drawing upon both secondary data and primary field-based research. The paper concludes by proposing recommendations for enhancing the implementation and outcomes of these initiatives for the empowerment of tribal communities.

Key words: Tribal Welfare, Development Schemes, Union Government of India, Empowerment, Tribal Communities, Socio-economic Development, Indigenous Rights.

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1. Introduction

India has a significant tribal population, estimated at over 104 million, constituting approximately 8.6% of the country's total population (Census 2011). Tribal communities are predominantly concentrated in forested and remote areas, where they face deep-rooted socio-economic marginalization. In response, the Government of India has designed several welfare schemes aimed at improving their living standards, providing better education, health services, and employment opportunities, and protecting their rights.

This paper seeks to evaluate these schemes from a developmental and welfare perspective, with an empirical focus on their outcomes and challenges in implementation. By analyzing schemes like the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Forest Rights Act, and various educational and financial support programs, this paper offers insights into the practical effectiveness of these government interventions in improving the socio-economic conditions of the tribal population.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To analyse the tribal welfare and development schemes of the Union Government of India.
- ❖ To evaluate the impact of Govt. schemes on the socio-economic status of tribal communities.
- ❖ To identify the challenges faced during the implementation of the schemes.
- ❖ To provide recommendations for improving the effectiveness of tribal welfare and development initiatives.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on tribal development in India underscores the persistent inequalities faced by tribal communities. **Sundar (2007)** analyzes the government's development policies as insufficiently tailored to the needs of the tribal population, often overlooking the nuances of tribal cultures and traditional livelihoods. Key studies on specific welfare schemes, such as the **Forest Rights Act (FRA)**, have shown that while the Act provides important protections, its implementation has been slow, and many tribal communities are still denied their legal rights to forestland (**Baviskar, 2010**). Similarly, **Patnaik (2011)** highlights that while schemes like the Tribal Sub-Plan have allocated substantial funds; corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency have hindered their success. **Mahendra (2014)** notes that while government schemes have led to improvements in education and health, the marginalization of tribal communities remains a significant challenge.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a **mixed-methods approach** to evaluate the impact of tribal welfare schemes:

1. **Secondary Data Analysis:** Review of government reports, academic papers, and official statistics on the outcomes of tribal welfare schemes.
2. **Primary Data Collection:** Conducting surveys and interviews with tribal beneficiaries in selected states (e.g., Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh) to assess their experience with the implementation of schemes.
3. **Case Studies:** In-depth examination of successful case studies where government schemes have made significant improvements in tribal welfare, alongside areas where challenges persist.

5. DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS BASED ON REVENUE VILLAGE

The table provided represents the distribution of sample respondents from various villages across three revenue mandals in a given region. Below is a detailed breakdown of the population and the sample respondents for each village.

Table-1: Revenue Mandals and Villages

Sl. No.	Revenue Mandal	Villages	population	Sample size
1	Talupula Revenue Mandal	Mangivandla Palli Thanda	280	28
		Jyothivandla Palli Thanda	140	14
2	Mudigubba Revenue Mandal:	NP Kottalu	60	6
		Reddi Palli Thanda	80	8
3	Kadiri Revenue Mandal	GP Thanda	320	32
		Machireddy Palli Thanda	120	12

Analysis and Insights: Talupula Revenue Mandal has the highest number of respondents (42%), contributing significantly to the overall sample size. This could be due to the larger population of the selected villages (Mangivandla Palli Thanda and Jyothivandla Palli Thanda).

Kadiri Revenue Mandal follows with 44% of the sample respondents. It has two villages, GP Thanda and Machireddy Palli Thanda, both of which have a larger total population compared to other mandals. This likely accounts for the higher number of sample respondents in this mandal. Mudigubba Revenue Mandal has the smallest representation in the sample (14%). This could be due to the relatively smaller populations in the selected villages (NP Kottalu and Reddi Palli Thanda) within this mandal.

The data indicates that the sample respondents are relatively evenly distributed across the three revenue mandals, with Kadiri Mandal and Talupula Mandal contributing most significantly to the sample, reflecting the larger populations of these areas. The sample size for Mudigubba Mandal is proportionally smaller, which may be due to the smaller population in the villages selected. This distribution ensures that each mandal is represented, with a focus on balancing the sample in line with the population sizes.

Demographic Status of Sample Respondents: The data provided represents the demographic profile of 100 sample respondents, categorized across various variables such as gender, age, marital status, family size, education, occupation, and monthly income. Below is a detailed description based on each demographic variable.

Gender-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Male : 69 respondents (69.00%)

Female : 31 respondents (31.00%)

The gender distribution indicates that a higher proportion of respondents are male (69%) compared to female respondents (31%). This gender imbalance might reflect either the sampling methodology or a socio-cultural characteristic of the region from which the sample was drawn.

Table-2: Age-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Age Group	No of Respondents	Percentage
20-30	30	30
30-40	32	32
40-50	12	12
50-60	09	9
60-70	08	8
Total	100	100

The highest proportion of respondents belong to the 30-40 age group (32%), followed by the 20-30 age group (30%). A smaller percentage of respondents are in the 40-50 (12%), 50-60 (9%), and 60-70 (8%) age groups, indicating that the sample is predominantly composed of younger individuals (under 40 years).

Table-3: Marital Status-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Married	63	63%
Unmarried	37	37%
Total	100	100%

A majority of the respondents are married (63%), while unmarried respondents constitute 37%. This indicates a relatively higher proportion of respondents are in settled family life, which may reflect the socio-cultural structure of the area.

Table-4: Family Size-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

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Family Size	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 4	25	25%
4-6	43	43%
Above 6	32	32%
Total	100	100%

A significant proportion of respondents belong to families with a family size of 4-6 members (43%). 32% of the respondents report having families with more than 6 members, and 25% have smaller families with less than 4 members. This suggests that larger family sizes are relatively common among the sample population.

Table-5: Education-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Education Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Primary Education	44	44%
SSC	28	28%
Inter	19	19%
Degree	09	9%
Total	100	100%

A significant number of respondents (44%) have primary education. 28% of respondents have completed their SSC (Secondary School Certificate), while 19% have attained an Intermediate level of education. Only 9% have a Degree, indicating that higher education levels are less common in this sample. This suggests that education levels are generally low, with a substantial proportion having only basic education.

Table-6: Occupation-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	47	47%
Dairy Farming	25	25%
Business	18	18%
Employees	10	10%

Total	100	100%
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The largest proportion of respondents are engaged in agriculture (47%), followed by those involved in dairy farming (25%). 18% are involved in business, and 10% are employed in other jobs or sectors. This suggests that a large proportion of the sample is primarily dependent on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood, which is typical in rural settings.

Table-7: Monthly Income-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Income Range	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below ₹10,000	78	78%
10,000-₹20,000	13	13%
₹20,000- ₹30,000	03	3%
₹30,000- ₹40,000	04	4%
Above ₹40,000	02	2%
Total	100	100%

A large majority of respondents (78%) report a monthly income of below ₹10,000, indicating a significant portion of the sample population lives in low-income conditions. 13% have a monthly income between ₹10,000 and ₹20,000, while only a small fraction earns more than ₹20,000. The relatively low-income levels suggest that the sample population may face economic challenges and that a substantial portion falls within lower income brackets.

Overall Demographic Summary

1. Gender : The sample has a higher proportion of male respondents (69%) than female respondents (31%) .
2. Age : Respondents are mostly in the 20-40 age group , with a significant 62% in this range.
3. Marital Status : A majority of respondents are married (63%) , indicating a predominantly family-oriented population.
4. Family Size : Most respondents belong to families of 4-6 members (43%) , with a notable portion having families with more than 6 members (32%).
5. Education : A large proportion has only primary education (44%) , with a smaller percentage having higher secondary or degree-level education.

6. Occupation : The primary occupation for most respondents is agriculture (47%) , followed by dairy farming (25%) . A smaller portion is involved in business (18%) or employed in other sectors (10%).
7. Monthly Income : The majority of respondents earn below ₹10,000 per month (78%) , indicating a low-income, rural setting.

The sample population is predominantly young, with a significant proportion involved in agriculture and dairy farming. Education levels are relatively low, with most respondents having primary education. A majority of the respondents have low monthly incomes, suggesting the need for policies aimed at economic development and education in the area. The high percentage of married individuals and the larger family sizes point towards a relatively traditional and family-centred demographic. These insights can help inform targeted welfare, educational, and economic programs aimed at improving the living standards of this population.

Description of Government Schemes for Tribal Welfare

The table provided presents the responses of a sample population regarding their awareness and participation in various government schemes targeted at the welfare and development of tribal communities in India. The response categories are: Yes, No , and Can't say , which are presented along with the corresponding percentages for each scheme.

Below is the detailed description of each government scheme based on the responses:

Table-8: The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	39	19.33
No	54	74.67
Can't Say	09	6
Total	100	100

74.67% of the respondents are not aware of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan , indicating a low level of awareness about this particular scheme. 19.33% have some awareness or involvement in the scheme. A small fraction, 6% , are unsure about the scheme, suggesting limited information or knowledge about its purpose and benefits.

Table-9: Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana or Van Dhan Vikas Yojana

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	22	22
No	78	78
Can't Say	00	0

Total	100	100
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A very high percentage, 78%, of the respondents have no knowledge or participation in the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana. Only 22% are aware or involved in the scheme, which promotes sustainable livelihood generation for tribals through forest-based products and value-added processing. 0% expressed uncertainty, indicating that those who have heard of it either support or reject it.

Table-10: Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	47	47
No	40	40
Can't Say	13	13
Total	100	100

47% of the respondents are aware or involved in the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission, a scheme aimed at holistic development of tribal communities through various welfare measures. 40% are unaware, while 13% are uncertain, indicating a fair level of awareness but stillroom for improvement in reaching out to more tribal communities.

Table-11: Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products from the North Eastern Region

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	69	69
No	26	26
Can't Say	05	5
Total	100	100

69% of respondents are aware of or involved in the Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products, a scheme designed to enhance the marketability of tribal products from the North Eastern states. 26% of respondents are not aware of the scheme, and 5% are uncertain. This high level of awareness reflects successful outreach efforts, particularly in areas where tribal products are produced.

Table-12: Equity Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
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Yes	67	67
No	30	30
Can't Say	03	3
Total	100	100

67% of respondents are aware of or have benefited from the Equity Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, a scheme offering financial assistance to tribal communities for entrepreneurship and development. A significant 30% are not aware, while 3% are unsure, highlighting that the scheme has had relatively good outreach, but there is still a gap in awareness among certain segments.

Table-13

Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	34	34%
No	60	60%
Can't Say	06	6%
Total	100	100

57.33% of respondents are unaware of the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes, which is meant to provide financial support for tribal entrepreneurs. 22.67% are aware of the scheme, and 6% are unsure. This suggests that the scheme is not widely recognized, and its outreach may need to be improved.

Table-14: National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	63	63%
No	26	26%
Can't Say	11	11%
Total	100	100

63% of the respondents are aware of or involved in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), which guarantees 100 days of wage employment in rural areas.

26% are unaware, and 11% are unsure. The scheme has substantial awareness and participation, likely due to its extensive coverage and long-standing implementation.

Table-15: Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme
(Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana)

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	69	69%
No	24	24%
Can't Say	07	7%
Total	100	100

69% of respondents are aware of or have benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, which aims at providing holistic development and welfare to tribals. 24% are unaware, and 7% are uncertain. This indicates a relatively high level of awareness and participation.

Table-16: Schemes for Economic Development Through NSTFDC

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	44	44%
No	48	48%
Can't Say	08	8%
Total	100	100%

48% of respondents are unaware of the Schemes for Economic Development Through NSTFDC, which supports the economic empowerment of Scheduled Tribes. 44% are aware of the scheme, and 8% are unsure. This indicates that the scheme has moderate recognition but could benefit from further outreach efforts.

6. Conclusion

High Awareness : Schemes such as the Marketing and Logistics Development for Promoting Tribal Products, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme, and Equity Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation have relatively higher levels of awareness (above 60%).

Low Awareness : Schemes like the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes, Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan have lower levels of awareness (below 30%), indicating that these programs require more focused

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outreach and communication efforts to ensure tribal communities are aware of the available support.

Uncertainty: In most schemes, a small portion of respondents (ranging from 5% to 13%) indicated that they were unsure about the scheme, which further highlights the need for better information dissemination.

This analysis suggests that while several government schemes have achieved good reach, efforts to increase awareness, particularly for those with low participation, should be prioritized for better tribal welfare.

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editor@iaeme.com