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Tribal Development Programmes in Korba District of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract: The establishment of Chhattisgarh as a separate state in November 2000 marked a new phase in regional planning, particularly for tribal-dominated districts like Korba. This study examines the implementation and impact of tribal development programmes in Korba district during the early phase of state formation, with special reference to the year 2001. These programmes were primarily executed under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), along with complementary schemes such as the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). The research adopts a descriptive and analytical framework based on secondary data, including Census 2001 and government reports. The findings indicate that tribal development programmes contributed to improvements in education, healthcare, and rural infrastructure, but their effectiveness was limited by administrative inefficiencies, geographical isolation, and socio-cultural barriers. The study concludes that while these programmes laid the foundation for tribal upliftment, their impact remained partial and uneven, necessitating more inclusive and participatory development strategies.
Keywords: Development program, implementation,participatory.

Introduction - Tribal communities constitute a significant proportion of the population in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Historically, these communities have lived in forested and remote areas, maintaining distinct socio-cultural identities and traditional livelihoods. However, due to geographical isolation, lack of infrastructure, and limited access to institutional support, they have remained economically and socially marginalized.

The formation of Chhattisgarh state in 2000 created new opportunities for targeted tribal development. Korba district, with a high concentration of Scheduled Tribes such as Gond, Korwa, and Binjwar, became a focal area for implementing development policies aimed at reducing disparities and improving living conditions.

In 2001, the government initiated several **tribal development programmes** focusing on:

1. Socio-economic upliftment
2. Education and literacy
3. Health and nutrition
4. Infrastructure development
5. Livelihood enhancement

These programmes were designed to address the fundamental needs of tribal populations and integrate them into the broader development process while preserving their cultural identity.

Review of Literature

The discourse on tribal development in India highlights persistent challenges related to poverty, exclusion, and uneven development. Various scholars and policy studies have examined the effectiveness of tribal development programmes, particularly in central Indian states.

Research indicates that:

1. Tribal areas often lag behind due to inadequate infrastructure and institutional neglect.
2. Development programmes tend to focus on welfare rather than empowerment.

Major Themes in Literature

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP): The TSP strategy emphasizes earmarked funds for tribal areas to ensure focused development. While it improved financial allocation, its implementation has often been criticized for lack of proper monitoring and evaluation.

Socio-Economic Backwardness: Studies reveal that tribal communities face:

1. Low income levels
2. Limited access to education
3. Poor healthcare facilities

Livelihood Patterns: Most tribal households depend on:

1. Forest resources
2. Subsistence agriculture

3. Wage labour

Development Constraints: Scholars highlight that geographical isolation and cultural factors often hinder the success of development programmes.

Overall, the literature suggests that tribal development requires a **holistic and participatory approach** rather than isolated interventions.

Objectives of the Study: The study aims to:

1. To examine the structure and scope of tribal development programmes in Korba district in 2001
2. To analyze their impact on the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities
3. To assess improvements in education, health, and infrastructure
4. To identify major challenges in programme implementation
5. To evaluate the overall effectiveness of tribal development strategies

Methodology: The study is based on **secondary data analysis**.

Sources of Data

1. Census of India (2001)
2. District Statistical Handbook, Korba
3. Reports of Tribal Welfare Department
4. Planning Commission publications
5. Academic research and policy documents

Methods of Analysis

1. Descriptive analysis of development indicators
2. Comparative assessment of programme outcomes
3. Thematic interpretation of socio-economic changes

Limitations

1. Absence of primary survey data
2. Limited block-level statistics
3. Dependence on official records

Tribal Development Programmes in Korba (2001)

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP): The Tribal Sub-Plan served as the core framework for tribal development in Korba district. It ensured that a significant portion of funds was allocated specifically for tribal welfare.

Key Areas Covered:

1. Education and hostels for tribal students
2. Health services in tribal regions
3. Economic support programmes

Education Development: Education was a primary focus area of tribal development programmes.

Key Initiatives:

1. Establishment of primary schools in tribal villages
2. Ashram schools for residential education
3. Scholarships and incentives for tribal students

These measures helped improve literacy levels and reduce educational disparities.

Health and Nutrition Programmes: Health programmes aimed at improving the well-being of tribal populations.

Major Components:

1. Primary Health Centres and sub-centres
2. Immunization drives
3. Maternal and child healthcare services

Despite these efforts, accessibility remained a major challenge in remote areas.

Livelihood and Economic Development: Economic programmes were designed to reduce poverty and improve income levels.

Key Measures:

1. Self-employment schemes under IRDP
2. Financial assistance and subsidies
3. Promotion of minor forest produce activities

Infrastructure Development: Infrastructure development played a crucial role in tribal upliftment.

Major Interventions:

1. Rural road construction
2. Electrification of villages
3. Drinking water facilities

These developments helped reduce isolation and improve access to services.

Discussion and Analysis

Impact on Tribal Livelihoods: The programmes contributed to:

1. Increased employment opportunities
2. Improved access to economic resources
3. Gradual diversification of livelihoods

However, traditional dependence on forests continued.

Educational Progress:

1. Rise in enrollment rates
2. Expansion of school infrastructure
3. Improved awareness about education

Yet, dropout rates remained high, especially among girls.

Health Improvements:

1. Better immunization coverage
2. Increased awareness about healthcare
3. Reduction in disease prevalence (limited)

Still, lack of medical staff and facilities restricted effectiveness.

Infrastructure and Accessibility: Infrastructure development reduced geographical isolation, enabling:

1. Better market access
2. Improved communication
3. Enhanced service delivery

Challenges in Tribal Development:

1. Difficult terrain and remoteness
2. Lack of administrative efficiency
3. Socio-cultural resistance to change
4. Inadequate monitoring of programmes
5. Persistent poverty and illiterac

The tribal development programmes of 2001 achieved **partial success**. While they improved basic living conditions, they were insufficient to bring about comprehensive socio-economic transformation.

Conclusion: The tribal development programmes implemented in Korba district in 2001 marked an important step toward addressing historical inequalities and

marginalization. These programmes improved access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure, thereby contributing to the gradual upliftment of tribal communities. However, the study concludes that:

1. Development outcomes were uneven across regions
2. Structural challenges limited programme effectiveness
3. Long-term sustainability was lacking

For meaningful tribal development, future policies must emphasize:

1. Community participation
2. Strengthening of local institutions
3. Integrated and area-specific planning

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