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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Social Policies and Programmes for Tribal Development in Theni District.

S. Gandhimathi.

Research scholar, Department of Political Science and Development Administration, Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, Gandhigram-624302.

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Abstract

The total literacy rate of the tribal in India is 47.1 per cent whereas it is 64.8 per cent at the national level. And on the basis of male – female percentage, the male accounts 59.2 percent (73.3 National) and female34.8 percent (53.7 National) For the development of a society there is need for equitable and balanced progress of all these sections of human communities and for this perspective, it is imperative to bring the weaker, deprived and discriminated sections such as Scheduled Tribes (STs) it India to the forefront of educational revolution and mainstream of National Development. Education imparts knowledge, and knowledge of self identity and human environment will infuse a sense of confidence, courage and ability among the weaker sections of the society to know and overcome their problems associated with exploitation and deprivation, and avail socio - economic and political opportunities extended to them. Although there is a significant increase in the literacy of population of all categories in India, the tribal's are far behind form the national increase. Despite special initiatives on tribal education by the government, since independence, the achievement in not as per expectations and the problem of tribal education is still a matter of concern. Tribal education, being a district discipline with different socio - cultural fabrics and hardships, needs to be analyzed to focus on the problems associated with it.

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Introduction:-

Tribal peoples constitute roughly eight percent of the total population in India. Article 46 of the Indian constitution directs that. The state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in a particular, of the scheduled castes and Schedules Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. There are about 573 scheduled tribes as notified under Article 342 (1) of the Indian constitution. Awareness is a basic factor for tribal development in India.

Tribal setting in India:-

Tamil Nadu is the southernmost state of India. In Tamil Nadu 36 Scheduled Tribes are identified by the Government of India. According to the 2001 census data the total tribal population in Tamil Nadu is 6, 51, 321 with constitutes 1.4 per cent of the total population. Out of the 6.51 lakhs tribals 51.03 per cent of the tribes are males and the

Corresponding Author:- S. Gandhimathi.

Address:- Research scholar, Department of Political Science and Development Administration, Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, Gandhigram-624302.

remaining 48.97 per cent are females the main tribes in Tamil Nadu are Malayli, Toda, Kurumba, Paniya, Irular, Kattunayakan, Kanikar, Paliyan, Sholagar, Kadar, Vedar, Kotas etc. Of with Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Kattunayakan, Paniya and Irular have been designated as 'Primitive tribes. Their district is bounded by Dindigul district to the north, Madurai district the east Virudhunagar district to the south west, and idukki district of the kerala state to the west. The district is home to Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakanur, Cumbum, Uthamaplaaiyam, Kombai, Gudalur, Chinnamanur, Andipatti, Meenathpuam, Melasindalaichery, Kottur, patti, It is diversified by several ranges and hills. A range of hills which runs parallel to Western Ghats from north to south separate It from the neighboring state of Kerala.

According to 2011 census, out of the total population of 721. 47 lakshs in Tamil Nadu the population of Adi Dravidars is 144. 38 lakshs and Tribal Population is 7.95 lakshs. Therefore the Adi Dravidars constitute 20.01 % and Tribals constitute 1.10% of the total population in Tamil Nadu. The majority of the Adi Dravidars/ Tribal Population are economically backward and socially marginalized. Most of the education, employment and other income- earning opportunities are limited the literacy level of the Adi Dravidars is only 73. 26 % and that of Tribal is 54. 34% which is much lower, compared to the state's overall literacy level of 80. 09%. The directorate of Adi Dravidar welfare with the support of government of India and the state government implement's various welfare schemes for the benefit of the Adi Dravidars, whereas the directorate of Tribal welfare is looking after the schemes implemented for the benefit of the tribal people in the state.

Concept:-

The "tribe" means a group of human beings have a defined of life with definite rules, customs, morality, tradition, language way and worships. They traditionally live in forest and mountains. They derived their food and fodder from animal an plants.

Present Study:-

The awareness of the tribals about the development programmes has also been ascertained. The study is conducted in Mudhuvakkudi and Naripatti villages of Theni District.

Statement of the Problem:-

The study has been undertaken in tribals from two villages in Theni district. Theni district has tribals living in the forest and hilly regions about one fourth of the population belongs tribal groups. Tribes live in remote areas. There are no proper housing facilities, educational institutions and hostel for tribal students. The present study analyses the tribal development t programmes launched in Theni district. The awareness of tribal in people and their participation in development programmes have been recorded and the socio economic conditions of tribals have been examined.

Objective:-

- ❖ To examine the Socio − economic conditions of tribals in Theni district.
- Level of awareness and participation of tribal people in development programmes is also increasing.

Socio - Economic:-

Social Economic conditions of Theni district Theni is one of the south western districts of Tamil Nadu. It is bounded on the north portions of Dindigul on the east by Madurai district. The south virudhunagar district and Idukki district of Kerala state and on the west by Idukki (Kerala). The district administrative.

Headquarters of this district is located at TheniAinagram town. The district lies between 90 53' and 100 22' north latitude and 770 17' and 770 67 east. The general 'geographical information of the district is hill area. The total geographical area of the district is 3076. 30 sq k.m Theni district is divided into 8 blocks.

The district is home to Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakanur, Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Kombai, Gudalur, Chinnaamanur, Andipatti, Thevaram, Lakshmipuram, Melasindalaicherry, Kottur, Pallavarayanpatti, and it is diverfied by several ranges and hills which runs parallel to western Ghats from north to south separate it from the neighboring state of kerala.

The present study has been undertaken in two villages of Muthuvakkudi and Naripatti. The tribal Mudhuvars, Iravalars, Kaaders and Pulaiyars are the tribal communities living in these two villages. Economy is mostly

agricultural and the utilization of land area for cultivation in Theni district is 40. 33%. The principle crops sugarcane, cotton, rice, millets and cereals, pulses, groundanut and gingelly, silk, banana, conconut, tea, coffee, cardamom, graps and mangoes are other main produce of the district. In Andipattitaluk handloom weaking and power looms are practiced as small scale industries in uthamapalayamtaluk.

The forest area in Theni district is about 33. 70%. There are 27 forest areas in Theni district constituting a total area of 795.81 km 2.19 areas fall under the "Reserve Forest" category with 255. 44km², 8 under reserve land category with 540. 37 km². Total area of forest under green cover classification was 806. 86km2 dense forest and sparse forest are 292.81 km2 and 22.43km² respectively. Cultivated in the district wattle, softwood, fuel wood, cashew, neem, tamarined is the main forest plantation species in Theni district. There has been no conservation of biological resources in the district.

It population growth rate over the decade 2001 - 2011 was 13.69 per cent. 990 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 77.62 per cent. This district is comprised of five taluks and eitht community development blocks. Important festivals of this district are pongal, deepavali, adikirthigai, kanda, sashti and chithirai. During the harvest or pongal festival season in the month of January, the conduct of bullfights (Jallikattu) unique rural sports of Tamil Nadu.

Sample:-

60 household's respondents were randomly selected from two villages. Multi- stage random sampling design was adopted for the survey. In the first stage of sampling Theni district was selected. Within Theni district, two villages (GramaPanchayats) were selected. Finally, 30 households (respondents) each from the two villages were selected randomly.

Major Schemes for Tribal Development:-

- Anganwadi Scheme
- ZillaParishad Schools
- ➤ Ashram School
- ➤ Benefit from electic/oil Engines
- > Tribal Hostels
- Scholarship
- Consumption Finance Scheme
- Scheme under 275 (1) of constitution of India
- > Monopoly Procurement Scheme
- Bullock Cart
- > Ration Shops
- Adult Education
- Chicken Rearing Scheme
- Coverage of Immunization
- ➤ Co operative Department Schemes
- ➤ Housing Scheme
- ➤ Mid day Meal Scheme
- Examination Fee
- Kanyadan Yojana
- Economic Assistance to landless
- Scholarship for Vth Grader Students
- Agriculture Department Scheme
- Dairy Development
- > Animal Husbandry

Schemes Implemented for Tribal Welfare:-

- ➤ Housing Scheme
- > Installation of Hand pump
- Distribution of Goats
- ➤ Bullock cart
- Basketry Training programme under Nucleus Budget for Women

- SamajMandir
- > Tree Plantation
- Distribution of Threshing Machines
- Primary School
- Veterinary School
- Distribution of Buffaloes
- Distribution of High Yielding Variety Seeds
- ► Immunization Camps
- ➢ Blood donation Camps

Programmes for Tribal Development:-

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ➤ Villagers Talk AIDS
- ➤ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ➤ Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme
- Family Health Awareness Campaign
- Schools AIDS Education Programme
- > Campaign for Youth
- University Talk AIDS Project

Economic Development Scheme:-

- ➤ KenderavartiArthsandalpeYojan (Nucleus Budget)
- > Schemes to Start Driving Schools
- > Scheme for Prior training for Police and military services
- ➤ KhavtiKarkaYojana (Consumption Finance Scheme)
- DhanyakoshYojana (NavsanjeevanYojaneantarget)
- Tribal Handicraft Exhibition
- ManavGarimaYojana
- Tailoring Classes for Scheduled Tribe Women
- Financial assistance for Competitive Examination
- ➤ Pre- exam Training centre and short hand typing classes

Special Scheme for Tribals:-

- > ShasakiyaAsbramshalaSamushYojana
- AdivasiMula / MulincheShasakiyaVasaatigruhe
- (Government Hostels for the Tribal Boys/ Girls)
- > Scholarship for the Scheduled Tribes Students after the Board Exam (Government of India Scholarship)
- Reimbursement of the Exam and the tution fees to the scheduled tribe students.
- > Vidyavetan scheme for the students of Vocational Training Institution
- ► Encouragement allowance to check to drop out ratio amongst the tribal girls
- SangrahaAnudaanYojana (In case of Sudden death of a tribal student).

Schemes for Tribal Development:-

The tribal majority areas in the country are broadly divided into the categories viz.,

- I. Predominantly tribal states/ Union territories
- II. Scheduled area and
- III. Non Scheduled areas in the States

All the tribal majority states and union territories and placed in a special category for availing funds. The development and administration of tribal areas is accepted as a special responsibility of the central government even though they are integral parts of the concerned states. Financial provisions for their development were considered in detail by the constituent assembly itself.

The schemes have been divided into two categories:-

- > Central sector programme which are fully financed by the central government
- The centrally sponsored programmes which are partly financed by the central government and reset of the expenditure out bythe concerned state government.

According to Dr. B. D. Sharma financial resources for developmental programmes in a state may comprise the following elements.

- > Investments in the central and centrally sponsored schemes
- > States revenues
- > Share from certain central revenue
- ➤ Plan assistance from the central governments
- > Grants under Article 275 (1) on the basis of the recommendations of the financial commission.

The utilization of state funds is broadly classified under two categories. Plan and non-plan. The plan includes expenditure on general administration as also on the maintenance of development schemes. The special central Assistance (SCA) for tribal sub – plan is allocated between different states on the basis of three criteria as under.

- ➤ The tribal population of sub plan area
- ➤ The geographical area of the sub plan; and
- ➤ The per capita gross output of the state

The weightage for these three elements has been fixed in a certain proportion while the first two criteria are simple, the quantum of assistance on the basis of the third criteria is determined with reference to the difference between the inverse of the state's per capita gross product and the inverse of the per capita gross national product. The financing, agencies rendering their services in the tribal areas are central government, state government, and institution viz. Commercial banks, co – operative banks, NADARD and voluntary organizations

Levels of Awareness and Participation of Tribal people in development programme:

A number employment oriented and developmental programmes for tribals have been introduced by the government of India. The major programmes are integrated rural development programme (IRDP). JawaharRosgarYojana (PMRY) and Training for self employment for rural youth (TRYSEM). IRDP scheme is absolutely for rural people those belong to below poverty line and others are for both rural as well as urban youth. All these schemes are implemented in the state by district rural development agencies (DRDA'S) in collaboration with commercial and co – operative PMRY was initiated in October 1993 to tackle the burning problems of educated unemployment. PMRY relates to setting up of self – employment ventures through industries and services. The scheme envisages 22. 5% reservation for scheduled caste/ scheduled tribe and 27% for OBC preference is given to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe (50%) women (40%) and physically handicapped 3 %.

The main tribes in Tamil Nadu are Malayali, Toda, Kurumba, Paniya, Irular, Kattunayakkan, Kanikar, Paliyan, Sholagar, Kader, Vedar, Kotas etc., Which Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Kattunayakkan, Paniya and Irular have been designated as 'Primitive tribes'. All these six PTGs live in the Nigiris District. The other two PTGs Irulars and Kattunayakas line in the Nigiris district as well as other districts of Tamil Nadu.

Theni district has considerable number of tribal settlements is divided into two natural divisions the hilly areas constituted by parts of the three Taluks Periyakulam, Uthamapalayam, and Andipatti with thick vegetation and perennial streams from the hills on the western side and cumbamvally which lies in Uthamapalayamtaluktribals such as Muthuvars, Iravalars, Kaasers, Pulaiyars in habits Theni district. The present study is undertaken Mudhuvakkudi and Naripatti villages.

Findings:-

- > Total population of Muduvars, Iravalars, Kaaders, Pulaiyars tribal settlement is to they lived in 30 households. The female literacy is lower compared to male literacy.
- Living in poor social economic background so, government should take a steps to improve their by implement in developmental programmes for them.
- > Total population of Pulaiyars communities tribal settlement is lived in caste 50%
- Most of the Infrastructure facilities are satisfactory among the Pulaiyars tribes.
- > The medical facilities are not available to tribals
- The main occupation of agriculture. Out of tribal 94 per cent were involved in agriculture work like collecting coffee seeds, Picking, Orange, Collecting of honey etc. Come of the tribes are unemployed.
- Accessibility of medical facility is poor in tribes the tribes are suffering from diseases like fever, skin disease, Malnutrition. The children and women are badly affected by lack of hemoglobin due to poor food.
- ➤ Nuclear family is the main type of family system among them.

Suggestion:-

- > Tribal rights in land forest should be respected
- Transportation and connecting should be unprovoked
- > Participation of voluntary agencies and NGO tribal development should be promoted
- There is a need to organized and strengthen the women self help group can play.

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