BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI-620 024
TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Programme: MSW

Course Title : **Tribal Community Development** *(Specialisation Course – II)*

Course Code : CC-12a

UNIT IV
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Dr.N.Rajavel
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work,
Bharathidasan University

Unit – IV

Tribal Development Administration: Administrative stricture at Central, State and District levels; Hill Development Councils; Functions of Tribal Development Blocks/Agencies; Constitutional provisions for the protection of tribes; Research and Training in Tribal Development. Role of Voluntary Agencies in Tribal Development.

Introduction

Definition of Tribal Development

Tribal development focuses on uplifting Scheduled Tribes (STs) socially, economically, and culturally.

Importance

Tribal development is crucial for preserving tribal heritage, ensuring equitable growth, and promoting inclusion.

Central-Level Administration

1 **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

Established in 1999, it develops policies, plans, and coordinates for tribal development, including programs like the Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana.

2 **NITI Aayog**

The NITI Aayog monitors and recommends tribal welfare strategies.

3 **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**

This constitutional body ensures the rights of Scheduled Tribes and provides redressal for grievances.

State-Level Administration

Tribal Development Departments

These departments implement central schemes and state-specific programs, working closely with Gram Sabhas and local self-governments.

Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA)

ITDAs operate in tribal-dominated districts, focusing on health, education, and livelihood development. Examples include Maharashtra's Tribal Sub-Plan and Gujarat's tribal development projects.

District-Level Administration

District Tribal Welfare Office

This office oversees grassroots implementation of schemes and acts as a bridge between the state and village levels.

Role of District Collectors

District Collectors coordinate welfare schemes and manage resources allocated for tribal development.

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

This plan outlines district-level resource allocation for tribal development, ensuring focused investments in tribal areas.

Grassroots Administration

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

PRIs are empowered through the Panchayati Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, giving them a significant role in decision-making at the village level.

NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

These organizations play a complementary role, providing support and expertise in remote areas, especially where government resources are limited.

Hill Development Councils:

What are Hill Development Councils?

Bodies established for governance and development in hill areas of India. They address unique challenges like remoteness, harsh climates, and ethnic diversity.

Purpose of the Councils

To decentralize governance, promote sustainable development, and preserve local culture in hill regions.

Historical Background

1 —— Origins

First established in the 20th century for specific regions, like the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

2 —— Government Initiatives

Focused on providing autonomy and better administration for hill areas.

3 —— Examples

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) and Gorkhaland Territorial Administration.

Key Features

Autonomy

Hill councils have powers over education, health, agriculture, tourism, and other local matters.

Inclusive Governance

Representation from local ethnic communities ensures diverse voices are heard.

Development Focus

Emphasis on infrastructure, eco-friendly tourism, and cultural preservation.

Objectives

Decentralization

Empowering local governance and decision-making.

Sustainable Development

Protecting the environment and managing resources for future generations.

Cultural Preservation

Safeguarding local heritage and traditions, fostering cultural diversity.

Economic Growth

Promoting tourism, agriculture, and local industries for economic prosperity.

Challenges

Geographical Barriers

Difficult terrain and poor connectivity hinder development.

Economic Constraints

Limited funding and reliance on subsidies create financial challenges.

Ethnic Tensions

Balancing diverse community interests requires careful and inclusive governance.

Climate Change Impact

Hill regions are increasingly vulnerable to global warming and its effects.

Understanding Tribal Development Blocks/Agencies

Specialized Units

These are administrative units created to implement tribal development programs in India. They are tasked with addressing the unique socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities.

Bridging Disparities

Tribal Development Blocks/Agencies aim to bridge the gap between tribal and non-tribal areas by promoting inclusive development and safeguarding tribal rights and culture.

Core Functions of Tribal Development Blocks/Agencies

1 **Planning & Implementation**

Developing and executing schemes for tribal communities in key areas like education, healthcare, and livelihoods.

2 **Infrastructure Development**

Building essential infrastructure like schools, healthcare centers, roads, and clean water sources.

3 **Livelihood Promotion**

Encouraging sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, and traditional crafts for economic empowerment.

4 **Education Initiatives**

Expanding access to quality education for tribal students through schools, hostels, and scholarships.

Social and Economic Welfare Functions

Economic Empowerment

Providing subsidies for farming equipment, seeds, and microfinance to support economic activities.

Social Inclusion

Addressing critical social issues like malnutrition, healthcare access, sanitation, and protection for vulnerable groups.

Cultural Preservation and Promotion

Preserving Heritage

Documenting and safeguarding tribal languages, arts, traditions, and historical artifacts.

Celebrating Culture

Organizing cultural fairs, exhibitions, and events to promote tribal arts and crafts.

Advocacy and Legal Support

Legal Rights

Ensuring the effective implementation of laws protecting tribal rights, including the Forest Rights Act.

Addressing Exploitation

Fighting against land alienation, exploitation, and other injustices affecting tribal communities.

Government Liaison

Acting as a bridge between tribal communities and government agencies to facilitate communication and collaboration.

Understanding Tribal Rights in India

Key Constitutional Provisions

Fundamental Rights

Guarantee equality before the law, special provisions for advancement, and reservation in public employment.

Directive Principles

Promote the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Tribes through state policies.

Special Protections for Scheduled Tribes

1 **Article 244**

Governance of Scheduled Areas and Tribes through the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.

2 **Article 275**

Provides financial assistance to states for tribal welfare initiatives.

3 **Articles 330 & 332**

Reserve seats for Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and State Legislatures.

Cultural and Educational Safeguards

Article 29

Protects tribal culture, language, and script.

Article 350A

Provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary level.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Initiates educational programs for tribal students.

Tribal Welfare Mechanisms

1 — NCST

Monitors and redresses grievances related to tribal rights.

2 — PESA

Empowers tribal communities in governance of their areas.

3 — Forest Rights Act

Recognizes and protects the rights of
tribal communities over forest resources.

Research and Training in Tribal Development

Need for Research in Tribal Development

Challenges

Understanding the specific challenges faced by tribal communities, including poverty, health disparities, and cultural preservation is critical.

Effective Interventions

Research helps design effective interventions and programs that address the unique needs of tribal communities.

Informing Policy

It informs policy decisions and ensures that tribal voices are heard in national development plans.

Inclusivity

Research promotes inclusivity by ensuring that tribal communities are actively involved in development processes.

Key Areas of Research

Health & Well-being

Research explores nutrition, maternal health, and communicable diseases in tribal communities.

Education

It focuses on literacy rates, dropout rates, and incorporating cultural education into tribal schools.

Livelihood

Research explores sustainable income-generation activities for tribal communities, promoting economic self-sufficiency.

Cultural Preservation

It documents traditional knowledge systems, languages, and cultural practices, fostering intergenerational transmission.

Challenges in Tribal Research

Geographic Isolation

Reaching remote tribal communities poses logistical challenges, often hindering data collection and participant recruitment.

Language Barriers

Language differences can create communication barriers, requiring skilled interpreters and culturally appropriate research methods.

Data Availability

Limited data availability about tribal communities can impede the development of accurate assessments and effective strategies.

Ethical Concerns

Ensuring ethical research practices, respecting tribal sovereignty, and obtaining informed consent are crucial considerations.

Role of Training in Tribal Development

Capacity Building

Training programs empower tribal individuals and leaders with knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Skill Development

Livelihood-oriented training programs equip individuals with skills for income-generating activities.

Awareness Programs

Training programs raise awareness about rights, government schemes, and health education, promoting access and participation.

Leadership Training

It fosters leadership skills, enabling community-driven development and self-governance initiatives.

Strategies for Effective Training

1 — **Participatory**

Training should be participatory, involving tribal communities in the design and delivery of programs.

2 — **Culturally Sensitive**

Training methods should be culturally sensitive, respecting traditions and values, and incorporating traditional knowledge.

3 — **Collaboration**

It is crucial to collaborate with local leaders, NGOs, and other organizations to tailor training programs to specific needs.

4 — **Vernacular Languages**

Using vernacular languages and incorporating traditional knowledge systems enhances understanding and engagement.

Government and NGO Initiatives

Government Programs

1

Government initiatives provide financial support, scholarships, and skill development programs for tribal communities.

NGO Contributions

2

NGOs play a vital role in providing grassroots-level training, research support, and advocacy for tribal rights.

The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Tribal Development

Voluntary Agencies: A Powerful Force

1 **Advocacy for Tribal Rights**

Voluntary agencies champion the rights and interests of tribal communities, ensuring their voices are heard in policy discussions.

2 **Capacity Building and Skill Training**

They provide training and skills development programs to empower tribal communities and improve their economic prospects.

3 **Education and Healthcare Services**

They play a vital role in establishing educational institutions and providing healthcare services to underserved tribal communities.

4 **Promoting Self-Reliance and Entrepreneurship**

They foster self-reliance by encouraging entrepreneurship through microfinance initiatives and business development programs.

Areas of Impact

Education

They establish schools, implement literacy campaigns, and offer scholarships for higher education.

Healthcare

They operate mobile health clinics, address malnutrition, and promote disease prevention programs.

Economic Development

They provide microfinance loans, support agricultural practices, and promote sustainable livelihood options.

Cultural Preservation

They document tribal languages and traditions, and organize cultural festivals to preserve cultural heritage.

Challenges and Opportunities

Funding Constraints

Limited funding and resources often hinder their ability to expand their programs and reach more communities.

Community Resistance

Sometimes, traditional practices and beliefs can lead to resistance from local communities toward new ideas and approaches.

Bureaucratic Hurdles

Navigating complex bureaucracies and policy gaps can slow down program implementation and impact effectiveness.

Personnel Challenges

Finding skilled personnel who understand the unique needs of tribal communities and can work effectively in remote areas remains a challenge.