

**Research Article****TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IN TELANGANA STATE****Jannu Vijaya Kumar**Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Government Degree College, Mahadevpur,  
TelanganaCorresponding Author: **Jannu Vijaya Kumar****Abstract**

In India, the vast majority of tribal communities still live in isolated hamlets or villages in rural, undeveloped areas. The percentage of tribal people who have moved to cities, towns, or permanent settlements is quite low. Tribal development has remained sluggish and insufficient due to a number of issues, such as sociopolitical marginalization, lack of infrastructure, and geographic isolation. Although various constitutional provisions and laws at both the central and state levels have granted Scheduled Tribes (STs) special rights and concessions, the benefits have not fully reached these communities. This is largely due to the lack of awareness, ineffective implementation, and at times, indifference by enforcement agencies. As a result, tribals continue to face socio-economic deprivation and exclusion. According to the 2011 Census of India, there are 10.43 crore (104.28 million) Scheduled Tribe members across the country, accounting for 8.6% of the total population. The abundant cultural and linguistic diversity of 744 Scheduled Tribe groups, who speak 105 different languages and 225 subsidiary dialects, is recognized by the Indian government. According to the 2011 Census, there are 32.87 lakh (3.29 million) tribal people in the state of Telangana. With the majority of ST communities centered in districts like Adilabad, Khammam, Mahabubabad, Bhadrachalam, and Mulugu, this group makes up a sizeable portion of the state's population. In Telangana, the multi-tiered Tribal Development Administration aims to close socioeconomic divides between tribal and non-tribal communities. The state keeps making progress thanks to robust institutional mechanisms, focused programs, and changing policy support. However, sustained investment and participatory governance are needed to address enduring disparities in livelihoods, education, and health in order to achieve inclusive development.

**Keywords:** Development Programmes, Administration, Telangana.**1. Introduction**

In the world, India has the second-highest number of tribal people after Africa. The number of tribal communities in the nation is 104281034 million, or 8.61 percent of the total population, according to the 2011 Indian Census. With the exception of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and the UTs of Pondicherry and Chandigarh, they can be found in every State and Union Territory (UT). About 225 STs speak subsidiary languages, and 598 STs speak roughly 105 languages. They have traditionally lived in about 15 per cent of the nation's geographical areas, mainly forests, hills, undulating inaccessible terrain in plateau areas, rich in natural resources. They lived as isolated entities for centuries, largely untouched by the mainstream society. This isolation was largely responsible for their politico-socioeconomic backwardness. Indian tribal

communities are relatively isolated and live at various stages of socio-economic and cultural development. The overall development of tribal communities depends largely upon the consideration of their problems and programmes carried out accordingly. Considering the socio-economic conditions of tribals, geographical location of tribal areas (TAs) and keeping in mind socio-political issues of the state, various approaches by religious groups and missionaries, social reformers, anthropologists, and the governments have been evolved to develop the tribal people in India.

Under the fifth and sixth schedules of the Indian Constitution, tribal community development is a fundamental duty for the union and state governments. The government has taken a number of public policy initiatives to mainstream and develop tribal communities in the country since the first five-year plan. Many of these groups remain neglected or unresolved in terms of socio-cultural and politico-administrative concerns. In the past twenty years, globalization has radically changed the human condition, the economy, politics, and society in general to a great extent. There is a great deal of difficulty in deciding if the Indian tribal communities should be modernised or should they preserve their traditional culture.

Socioeconomic situations for indigenous populations are exceedingly varied throughout various areas of the nation, and may even vary radically within the same region. The great range of events makes it hard to define a single formula or guideline to follow in tribal development. Earlier efforts to develop tribal communities in our country greatly erred in this area. Every tribal group has its own distinctive matrix, based on its socio-economic condition, its resources, as well as the quality of its contact with other tribes. The substance and rate of growth and its direction needs to be specified explicitly in each instance by the promoters of State driven development process.

It was the Constitution's approach to tribal affairs that gave birth to the first attempt to integrate this exceptionally talented but suppressed and exploited community into the vast community of Indians. Governments backed by the popular vote were assigned the task. By providing resources and providing the necessary institutional apparatus, the Constitution ensures that the basic framework of government is adequate. Initially, some tribal safeguards were only to last for ten years. As a consequence of setting this term, the Constitution foresaw an efficient followup plan that obviated the necessity for their continuation. However, this desire did not materialize, and the term for extending the period has been altered. This is not due to any deficiencies contained in the Constitution itself, but to a deficiency in performance.

Through policies focused at solving education, infrastructural, and livelihood shortages for Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has continued to strengthen efforts towards socio-economic development. According to the Government's Allocation of Business Rules (ABR), this Ministry is responsible for managing tribal sub-plan funds (now known as scheduled tribe component funds) of the Central Ministries in line with the structure and method suggested by NITI Aayog. As part of continuing public service improvement, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs constantly reviews various schemes, including rationalization of scholarship schemes and their enrolment on the Direct Benefit Transfer platform and online portal for NGO grants (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Year-End Reviews, 2018). (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Year-End Reviews, 2018). However, there are still challenges with direct benefit transfer in the tribal regions owing to inadequate cellular connection; the operation must be confronted with the use of money from the "universal service obligation".

## **2. Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP):**

The tribal situation was again reviewed on the eve of the Fifth Five Year Plan by a Task Force on "Development of Backward Classes" constituted by the Planning Commission of India. It opined that the deficiencies and short-coming pointed out by the earlier commissions and committees had generally remained unattended. It observed that one of the important factors

for the failure of the development programmes is that the scheduled tribes and tribal areas have been looked upon as a 'welfare' problem as distinguished from 'development' problem. The welfare of scheduled tribes has continued to depend on small outlays under the backward classes sector and not on general sector outlays. The administrative structure in tribal areas lacks simplicity. It is beyond the comprehension of the tribals and therefore it does not evoke any response from them. Such a structure of administration may not therefore be suitable for carrying out integrated development of tribal areas. The Task force recommended that to ensure balanced socio-economic development of the tribal areas a policy of integrated development would be necessary for the fifth and subsequent plans. Therefore a TSP strategy was evolved 1974-75. The areas with 50 per cent or more tribal population are incorporated under TSP. Sixteen TSPs are formulated, covering 63 per cent or more of the tribal population in the States of Andhra Pradesh Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Later on Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman & Diu, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal also came under the scope of TSP. At presently the TSP strategy has been extended to the 21 states and two union territories. The approach was not applied to four tribal majority states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland and two Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli as their entire plans are directed toward the development and welfare of the tribal population.

### **3. Integrated Tribal Development Projects/Agencies (ITDA/ITDP)**

For the implementation of tribal sub-plan strategy, the TSP areas are initially divided into 180 ITDP/ITDAs. At present 194 ITDA/ITDPs are in the country including the States/Union Territories. Each ITDP/ITDA comprises blocks/Taluks/Tahasils or even whole district with 50 per cent or more tribal population. In certain states like West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are concentration of tribal population is not in contiguous belts, a flexible approach was adopted in delineating ITDP/ITDAs areas.

### **4. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)**

The TRIFED was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (MSCS Act, 1984). After the enactment of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 TRIFED is deemed to be registered under the latter Act and is also listed in the Second Schedule to the Act as a National Cooperative Society. The Bye-laws of TRIFED were revised in April 2003 in tune with the new MSCS Act, 2002 read with the MSCS Rules, 2002. As per revised Bye-laws, the main objective of TRIFED is to serve the interest of its members in more than one state for the social and economic betterment of its members by conducting its affairs in a professional, democratic and autonomous manner through self-help and mutual cooperation for undertaking marketing development of tribal products.

### **5. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes**

The Scheme of Girls Hostels, which started in the Third Five Year Plan, is a useful instrument of spreading education among scheduled tribe girls, whose literacy still stands at 18.19 per cent as per 1991 Census as against the general female literacy of 29.23 per cent. Under the scheme, central assistance is given to States/Union Territories for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostels. This is a centrally sponsored Scheme where the cost of the construction of the hostel building is equally shared between the Centre and the State in ratio of 50:50. In case of Union Territories the Central Government bears the entire cost of the building.

### **6. National Overseas Scholarship scheme for Scheduled tribes**

The scheme provides for financial assistance to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields of Master level courses, PhD and Post-Doctoral research programmes, in the field of Engineering, Science and technology for scheduled tribes, denotified,

Nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes. The selected candidates are provided the cost of tuition and other education fees charged by the foreign university, etc., maintenance and other grants along with travel expenses. In addition, passage grants are also available to candidates belonging to scheduled tribes who are in receipt of merit scholarship for postgraduate studies, research or training abroad from foreign government/organizations or under any other scheme where cost of passage is not provided.

## **7. Tribal Development Administration in Telangana State**

One of the most economically disadvantaged and marginalized communities in Telangana state and throughout India is the Scheduled Tribe population. Telangana is one of the Indian states with a sizable tribal population, numbering 32.87 lakh. According to the 2011 Census of India, they make up 9.3% of the state's total population. The Telangana State's tribal population is divided into a number of sub-tribal groups. They are Koyas (4,86,391), Gonds (2,97,846), Yerukalas (1,44,128), and Lambada (20,46,117). The state is home to 32 different tribal groups, including four PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, formerly known as the Primitive Tribal Group): the Thoties, Kondareddies, Chenchus, and Kolams, who reside in the districts of Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, and Adilabad. The government has given accelerated tribal development top priority by implementing socio-economic and educational development programs in recognition of their historical social and economic disadvantages. Compared to the state literacy rate of 66.46, the ST literacy rate is still extremely low at 49.51. Higher education among tribal communities and the state's overall population is the main focus of the current study. Accordingly, there are 11779 stand-alone institutions, 42343 colleges, and 1043 universities; 60.56% of the colleges are situated in rural areas. 10.75% of colleges are only for women. 35.04% of colleges offer postgraduate level programs, while only 2.7% offer Ph.D. programs. Private management makes up 78.6% of colleges, with 13.4% being private-aided and 65.2% being private-unaided. It is an action, a sequence of actions, or a procedure that can either enhance the quality of life now or raise the possibility of living in the future.

Tribal development in Telangana is a critical area of governance aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes (STs), preserving their cultural identity, and ensuring their rights over land, forest, and resources. Telangana, with a significant tribal population (approximately 9.3% as per the 2011 Census), has developed a structured tribal development administration system.

The Tribal Welfare Department is the primary administrative body responsible for the development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Telangana. It functions through a network of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) and a dedicated Special Development Fund to implement a range of welfare and development schemes.

## **8. Administrative structure**

### **8.1. Department of Tribal Welfare:**

The apex body in the state responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs for the holistic development of STs.

### **8.2. Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs):**

Established to focus on areas with a high concentration of tribal populations. In addition to ITDAs for designated regions, Telangana has a specific ITDA for the development of STs in plain areas, headquartered in Hyderabad.

### **8.3. Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute (TCR&TI):**

Located in Hyderabad, this institute was established to conduct studies on tribal communities and their issues, and to train personnel involved in tribal development.

### **8.4. District-level administration:**

A dedicated District Tribal Development Officer (DTDO) works within each district to coordinate and monitor the implementation of schemes.

The government has launched several schemes and allocated a significant budget for the welfare of tribal communities in the 2025–26 financial year.

## **9. Education and skills development**

### **9.1. Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TTWREIS):**

Manages 158 residential schools and institutions across the state to provide quality education to ST, SC, and BC students from the 5th grade to degree level.

### **9.2. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):**

A centrally funded scheme to provide quality education to tribal children in remote areas, with Telangana benefiting from these initiatives.

### **9.3. Scholarships and financial aid:**

The state offers pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, as well as the Ambedkar Overseas Vidya Nidhi, to support students pursuing education in India and abroad.

### **9.4. Coaching:**

The department provides coaching to prepare students for entrance exams for institutions like IIT, NEET, and other competitive examinations.

## **10. Economic and livelihood support**

### **10.1. Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (STSDF):**

With a budget of over ₹17,000 crore for 2025–26, this fund supports schemes that provide direct benefits to tribal individuals, households, and communities.

### **10.2. Indira Saura Giri Jala Vikasam scheme (2025):**

This new scheme provides 100% grant funding for solar pump sets to tribal farmers holding Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) titles.

### **10.3. Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme (2025):**

Provides financial assistance and subsidies to youth from SC, ST, BC, and minority communities for self-employment ventures.

### **10.4. Girijan Co-operative Finance Development Corporation:**

Promotes economic development through schemes that offer concessional loans for income-generating activities.

### **10.5. Driver Empowerment Scheme:**

Provides financial assistance for STs to become drivers.

## **11. Social welfare and infrastructure**

### **11.1. Kalyana Lakshmi Pathakam:**

A scheme that provides financial assistance to ST girls at the time of their marriage.

### **11.2. Housing:**

The government has announced plans to provide houses for tribals under a special quota.

### **11.3. Infrastructure:**

The STSDF supports projects to bridge gaps in basic infrastructure, including road connectivity, telecom, schools, and health centres, especially in Scheduled Areas.

### **11.4. Addressing water scarcity:**

Initiatives are underway to address water scarcity, including a study on the feasibility of borewells under the Indira Jala Prabha scheme.

### **11.5. Kalyana Lakshmi:**

With a view to alleviate financial distress in the families of Scheduled Tribes, Kalyana Lakshmi scheme under which financial assistance of Rs.51,000 shall be paid to every ST unmarried girl of 18 years and above or at the time of marriage parental income shall not exceed 2 lakhs per annum.

### **11.6. Komaram Bheem memorial:**

In memory of the brave Gond tribal leader who fought against the Nizams under the slogan –Jal, Jameen, Jungal the Government sanctioned construction of Komram Bheem Smriti

Chihanam and also development of Jodeghat village as Tribal Cultural Hub and Tourism Center, at an outlay of 50 Crores

## **12. Conclusion:**

Development has become a primary thrust of modern governments. Development of marginalized communities has gained impetus over the years. The tribal development administration started in the pre-independence era in India but the development of tribals in India had not taken place adequately and effectively. The tribal development administration was shaped after the independence especially after the framing of the Constitution. Tribal development administration has been shaped with a focus on allowing tribals to maintain control and have access to natural resources and assuring socio-economic development. In certain regions of the nation, tribal societies are now gradually advancing to cultivate their culture without facing any danger. since they are now conscious of the defense and advancement of their cultural rights. Their limited vision can only be transformed into a great vision through education. In order to empower tribal communities and integrate them into the mainstream economy while maintaining their cultural identity, the government has implemented policies like reservations, financial aid, infrastructure development, agricultural support, and skill training programs. However, the effectiveness of these schemes varies, often contingent on the execution, local participation, and the extent to which these initiatives align with the unique socio-economic and cultural needs of the tribal populations. Telangana is the only South Indian state where 9.34% of the population is tribal, according to the 2011 Census. The tribal communities (TCs), which are found in and around Telangana's river valleys and forests, are divided into four regions based on their socio cultural circumstances: the Gond-Kolam Region, Koya-Konda Reddi Region, Chenchu Region, and Yerkal and Lambada Region, also known as Plain Areas. The process of developing a tribe is comprehensive. Thus, a program that strikes a balance between ethnic values and modern needs ought to be initiated. There are no predetermined standards for classifying scheduled tribes because tribal culture is so varied and intricate. In the buying of small forest products and the selling of necessities, tribes are exploited by middlemen and traders; this includes debt bondage, excessive interest rates on loans, and land alienation

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