



e-ISSN:2582 - 7219



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Volume 4, Issue 7, July 2021



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

Impact Factor: 5.928



9710 583 466



9710 583 466



ijmrset@gmail.com



www.ijmrset.com



A Study of Particular Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India

Dr. Nasreen

Associate Professor, Ganpath Sahai P.G. College, Sultanpur, UP, India

ABSTRACT: In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. **PVTGs (Particular Vulnerable Tribal Groups)** are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development. In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes. PVTGs have some basic characteristics - they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc. Among the 75 listed **PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha**. There are seventy five groups who have been given the status of particularly vulnerable tribal groups and have little access to resource besides low rate of literacy, small population, and some of the groups are at the verge of extinction. They are distributed in various ecological zones beyond the state boundaries with immense variation in subsistence pattern and worldviews. Lots of problem are faced by them and in most of the areas they are unable to cope the situations. Primitive, geographically isolated, shy and socially, educationally & economically backwardness these are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribes of our country from other communities. Tribal communities live in about 15% of the country's areas in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains to forests, hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life at one end of the spectrum, there are 75 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), at the other, who are characterized by (a) a pre-agriculture level of technology, (b) a stagnant or declining population (c) extremely low literacy and (d) a subsistence level of economy. There are over 500 tribes (with many overlapping communities in more than one State) as notified under article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country, the largest number of tribal communities being in the State of Orissa. **The main concentration of tribal population is in central India and in the North- eastern States**. However, they have their presence in all States and Union Territories except Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh. **Baigas are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), categorised as the most vulnerable amongst indigenous communities in India**. The Baiga suffer poor nutritional status and poverty, out of proportion with district and state averages. Of the women interviewed, 61.3% have had four or more pregnancies and 61.3% have experienced the loss of child at least once during pregnancy or later. Baiga women's forehead tattoo, a marker of their identity, is used to deny them contraceptive services. Baiga women either have to travel to the neighbouring state to avail themselves of services, or lie about their identity. They are usually unable to access even the temporary methods. This coercive policy has led to their further impoverishment. Baigas have been demanding the right to contraceptive services. Denying contraceptive services is a violation of reproductive and human rights and the right to self-determination and bodily autonomy.

I. INTRODUCTION

The tribal groups are the most disadvantaged among the tribals. They live in small, scattered habitats in remote, inaccessible areas. Their livelihoods are especially vulnerable because over the years, the more dominant tribal and non-tribal groups have encroached upon the resources which they originally controlled and accessed for their survival. Despite numerous government schemes to mainstream these groups the results have fallen short of expectations. Since the 5th Five Year Plan when the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) approach was adopted in the Country, they have been initially identified on the basis of certain criteria prescribed and designated as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) and recently re-designated as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) by Government of India for the purpose of receiving special attention for their all-round development. **The recognized PVTGs in Odisha are: Birhor, Bondo, Chuktia,**



Bhunja, Didayi, Juang, Kharia, Dongria Khond, Kutia Khond, Lanjia Saora, Lodha, Mankidia, Paudi Bhuyan, Saora

The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the most underprivileged and deprived tribal communities in India. PVTGs are scheduled tribes characterized by: (i) Pre-agriculture level of technology (ii) Stagnant or declining population (iii) Extremely low literacy and (iv) Subsistence level of economy. The Government of India had started identification of PVTGs in 1975. As per 2001 census, there are 75 tribes identified as PVTGs with a total population of 32.6 lakh and residing in 18 states & 1 Union Territory. PVTGs live in remote and scattered geographical locations. More than 80% population of PVTGs inhabits MP, Orissa, AP, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Chhattisgarh. Under Universal Health Coverage, provision of health services for all is the mandate of both state and central government. As the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) are the most marginalized social category in India, many health & nutrition related programmes by state & central government are intended for them. But the uptake of these programmes by them is very low due to various factors. All the stakeholders working for PVTGs play crucial role in increasing the uptake of these programme by these communities. In this study, technical support and capacity building was provided to most of the stakeholders working in the tribal districts of Odisha where most of the PVTGs are residing. Significant increment in knowledge was observed for almost all domains and among all categories of stakeholders following trainings. As these master trainers would train the frontline workers in their respective areas, it is suggested that, there should be refresher trainings for these stakeholders at regular intervals to maintain the knowledge level.[1]

Literacy rate among the PVTGs has gone up significantly over the past. From a single digit literacy rate, the figures have increased to 30 to 40 % in many of the PVTGs. However, as is the case with entire India, female literacy rate is still considerably lower compared to male counterpart. There is a considerable increase in the age of marriage among PVTGs. The incidence of girl child being married while still being a minor, among these tribes has been decreasing. Over time, original forest and hill dwelling tribal communities have faced increased marginalisation. Once self-sufficient communities securing their basic means of livelihood and food from forest resources, they were deprived of these capabilities when industrialization forced them to leave their forest. Today, 42% of PVTG are unskilled labourers without job security. Only a minority is still involved in forest-linked occupational activities: 11.4% in firewood collection, 9.2% in forest product collection, 8.5% in rope making. Income from these occupations is not sufficient to sustain their livelihood. In August 2013, the **National Food Security Act** was passed covering maternity entitlements, supplementary nutrition in *Anganwadi* centres, schools and TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System).[2]

II. DISCUSSION

Jharkhand is also a land of diverse cultures where a large number of tribal groups coexist. The tribal groups have varied culture, ethnicity, language, tradition, religious beliefs and occupational practices but share the common auspices of drawing their livelihood, belief and culture and tradition from Mother Nature. The tribals have their own set of legislation, religious and livelihood practices which makes them all the more vulnerable. Further among the tribal communities there are groups which are all the more isolated both geographically as well as socially, economically backward, archaic and vulnerable. These have witnessed declining population, economic deprivation, low levels of literacy, poor health and living conditions and have practiced primitive agriculture.[3]

They have been identified as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). These communities have not achieved any social and economic development and remain in isolated hamlets with little or no infrastructure and administrative support. The first step in the direction of addressing the issues of PTGs involves a legal recognition and this step was taken in 1961 by Dhebar Commission which outlined the PTGs earlier known as PTGs as extremely backward occupying the lowest strata of tribal society. Further the Shilu Ao team in 1969 voiced the need for separate central schemes for the upliftment of the PTGs. In order to identify the PTGs it was also required to outline certain guidelines for the same. These guidelines came upon after the recommendations of the workshops on Primitive Tribal Communities, 1975 and Conference of Tribal Commissioners. Ever since the **5th Five Year Plan the centre has been assisting for their planned development.** The main guidelines for identifying the PVTGs has been (i) Pre-agricultural level of activity (ii) very low level of literacy (iii) stagnant or declining population. The issue of identification assumes importance in the light of the fact that development issues of these tribal groups need to be addressed from all perspectives and has thus become an important piece of discussion across wide spectrum of policy makers. It must be pointed out here that Primitive Tribal Groups are now known as Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) ever since 2006.[4]

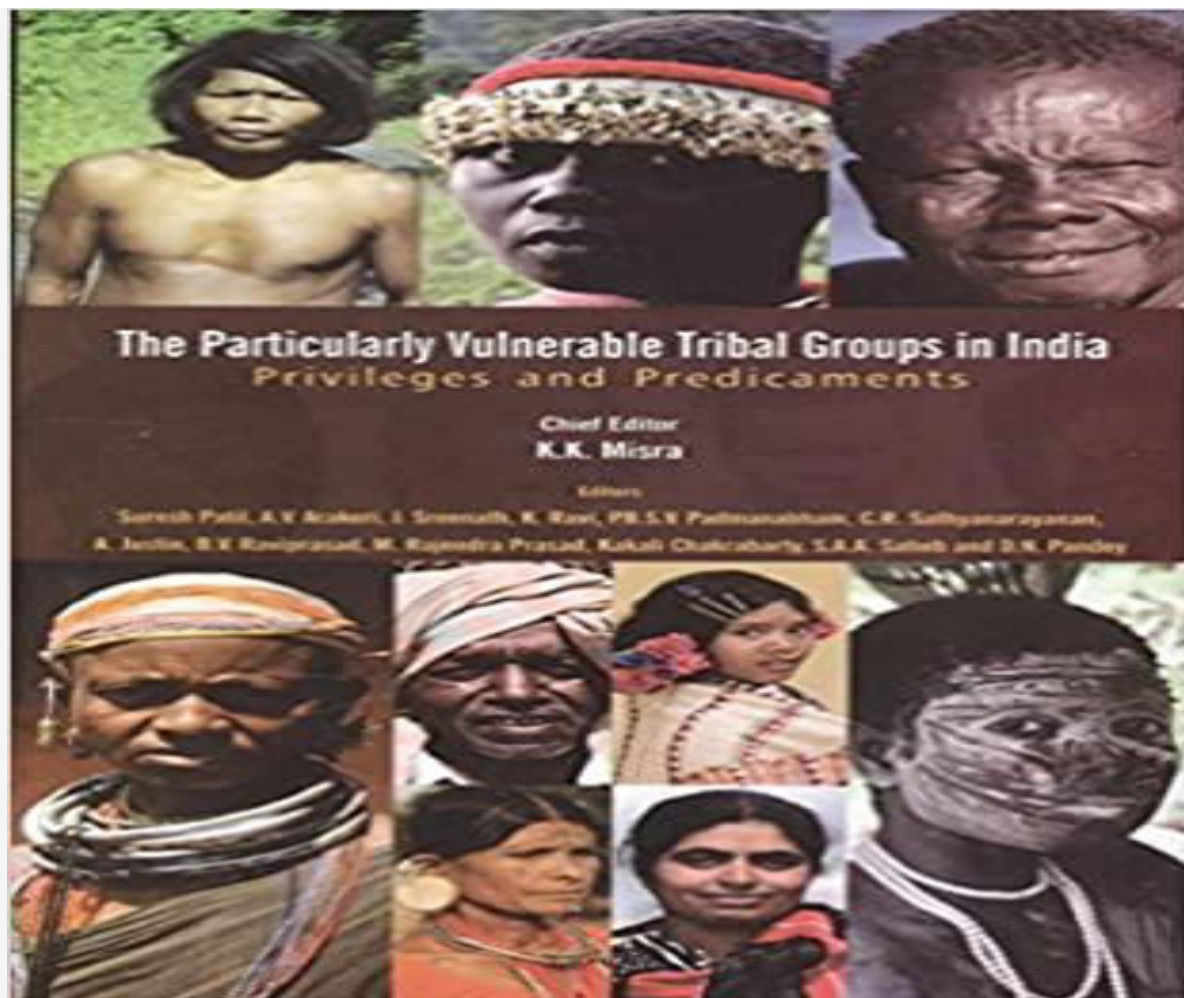


Photo: showing particular vulnerable tribal groups in different places of India

Scheme for development of PVTGs:

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.

- Under the scheme, **Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans** are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry.
- Priority is also assigned to PVTGs under the schemes of **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** to Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS), Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Schedule Tribes and Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts.[5]

The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology.
2. A stagnant or declining population.
3. Extremely low literacy.
4. A subsistence level of economy.



The distribution of PVTGs are given in the table below:

STATE	TRIBES FOUND
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	Bodo Gadaba, Bondo Poroja, Chenchu, Dongria Khond, Gutob Gadaba, Khond Poroja, Kolam, Kondareddis, Konda Savaras, Kutia Khond, Parengi Poroja, thoti
Bihar and Jharkhand	Asurs, Birhor, Birjia, Hill Kharia, Konvas, Mal Paharia, Parhaiyas, Sauda Paharia, Savar
Gujarat	Kathodi, Kohvalia, Padhar, Siddi, Kolgha
Karnataka	Jenu Kuruba, Koraga
Kerala	Cholanaikayan (a section of Kattunaickans), Kadar, Kattunayakan, Kurumbas, Koraga
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	Abujh Macias, Baigas, Bharias, Hill Korbas, Kamars, Saharias, Birhor
Maharashtra	Katkaria (Kathodia), Kolam, Maria Gond
Manipur	Marram Nagas
Odisha	Birhor, Bondo, Didayi, Dongria-Khond, Juangs, Kharias, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Sauras, Lodhas, Mankidias, Paudi Bhuyans, Soura, Chuktia Bhunjia
Rajasthan	Seharias
Tamil Nadu	Kattu Nayakans, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyans, Todas
Tripura	Reangs
Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	Buxas, Rajis
West Bengal	Birhor, Lodhas, Totos
Andaman and nicobar islands	Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese, Shorn Pens

Important case studies:

1. The decades-long movement by **Dongria Kondh** against bauxite mining in Niyamgiri hills was rewarded when the Supreme Court in 2013, decreed that the Dongria Kondh would have a decisive say in giving the go-ahead to Vedanta's mining project. The court recognized that the Dongria Kondh's right to worship their sacred mountain must be 'protected and preserved' and that those with religious and cultural rights must be heard in the decision-making process. Finally, the gram sabhas unanimously decided to prohibit the mining in their sacred hills and Vedanta Aluminum Ltd had to wind up its operations.



2. **Mankedia**, one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha, were denied habitat rights in the Similipal Tiger Reserve under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

3. In the recent pandemic, **Covid-19** has spread to the Great Andamanese tribals.

Some more examples:

Right from the colonial period researchers have tried to gain insight into the cultural and social life of these indigenous communities subsisting in some of the most hostile and inaccessible locations of the country. One of the initial studies on PVTGs was the ethnographic study titled “The Kharia” by Roy and & roy (1937), discussed in detail the culture and society of the present day PVTG, the Hill Kharias. **The Kharia tribe is primarily found in Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts of Odisha**, apart from a few other locations of the country Vidyarthi (1980). The tribe is located in different geographical locations with different nomenclatures like ‘Hill Kharia’ in the east, ‘Dudh Kharia’ in the central region and ‘Dhelki Kharia’ in the western region. Among the three classifications, the Hill Kharias keep themselves away from outsiders and are one among the PVTGs Basu and Kshatriya (1999). The literacy rate of Kharia tribe that includes all the above-mentioned tribes is 58.5%, with female literacy rate being 50.8%, as per Census 2011. No separate figures though are available for the Hill Kharia tribe. Some scholars have elucidated about the nutrition of these PVTGs e.g., due to lack of information about nutritional foods, **the prevalence of thinness is higher among the Lodha girls in comparison to boys**. Even though there has been much improvement in educational infrastructure in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, the level of primary education among the tribal children was low. The literacy rate of the STs in the district is only 39% as per Census 2011. A high level of incongruity between their social and cultural environment and school curriculum is observed to be posing a major obstacle in their access to education. [6]

The Mankidia tribe, which has a major presence in Mayurbhanj district, is one of the most marginalized and undeveloped of the PVTGs with a ‘critically low’ population. They still rely upon the primitive hunter-gatherer method for their subsistence, majorly concentrating on their hunting skills and collection of minor forest produce. Census 2011 shows their literacy rate to be only 21.14%, which is, of course, an improvement on the 5.56% recorded in 2001. Their female literacy rate is recorded to be 16.1% as per Census 2011. The Mankidia tribe in Odisha have to face numerous difficulties in their day-to-day existence. They speak the Mundari dialect and are thinly spread across different districts of the state with varied names such as **Birhor, Mankidi, Mankiria, Mankidia, and Mankirdia**. The Mankidias are divided into two groups as per their habitation, i.e. the ‘Uthals’ and the ‘Jagis’. The former is nomadic in nature, while the latter is a sedentary settler. **Lodha community** inhabits the hilly tracts of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. They are mainly concentrated in Suliapada and Moroda blocks of Mayurbhanj district. They were labeled as a ‘**criminal tribe**’ during the colonial rule. There is an acute chronic energy deficiency among the men of Lodha community in Mayurbhanj district. Till date, the Lodhas have no linguistic identity of their own. They speak a mixture of Odia, Hindi and Bengali, Bengali because of the district’s proximity to West Bengal. Due to the lack of codification and restoration of tribal literature, identification and improvement of tribal language have been hampered. In addition, they also have a very low literacy rate. The Lodha community is not only socially and economically backward but also their language is at risk. The total literacy rate of Lodha tribe is 43.1%, with female literacy rate being 35.1%, as per Census. **Paudi Bhuiyans** inhabit the ‘hilly terrains’ of Sundargarh district of Odisha. The name ‘Paudi bhuyan’ comes from the Sanskrit word bhoomi, which means earth. There is a continuous and sincere effort for tribal upliftment by the government through its various schemes and policies, but the problems persist due to improper implementation and monitoring, which creates barriers in advancement. In addition, there is a high prevalence of malnourishment among the Paudi Bhuiyans. The literacy rate of Bhuiyan tribe is 63.1%, with female literacy rate being 51.6%, as per Census 2011. No separate figures are available for the Paudi Bhuiyan tribe also. [2]

The PVTGs in India has survived against all odds but their marginalized situation has hindered their access to an essential need like education. Within the segments of assimilation, the existing anomalies in our education system have chained their educational integration. Hence, it has led to appalling consequences such as poor health, poverty, loss of identity, and high level of illiteracy, among others. Among the state initiatives, the Right to Education (RTE) Act, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shikshya Abhiyaan (RMSA) scheme, availability of Residential Schools and other state facilities and benefits have certainly encouraged their access to education, but a lot remains to be done to monitor the barriers to education. Ashrams and educational complexes provide residential and free facilities but have their own weaknesses.



The class differences observed between tribal students and teachers, a generalized school timetable and holidays prompt certain unseen bias. Similarly, absenteeism due to agricultural necessities, sibling care, participating in tribal festivals, going to weekly markets, and helping their family to collect minor produce. There has been results in obstacles for girls to pursue education. The school calendar assisting urban lifestyle has brought them to crossroads . A need thus exists to strengthen their education through their indigenous systems and values. The education system must thus synchronize subjectively with intended recipients so to attain the objective of quality education.

III. RESULTS

The overall goal of the programme is to achieve better living conditions and to reduce poverty for the most vulnerable in Odisha's heavily forested Eastern Ghats and Northern Plateau regions. Tribal populations living in the target area derive their livelihood from shifting cultivation, rainfed agriculture and from **gathering non-timber forest products (NTFPs)**. Farming practices are basic, and mostly include growing rainfed rice and millet. Many tribal people are landless. [3]

The programme objectives are to:

- Build the capacity of target households
- Secure entitlements to land and forest
- Improve agricultural practices
- Promote income-generating microenterprises
- Ensure access to services such as education and health
- Improve community infrastructure

Acknowledgment of the sociocultural identity of the tribes, gaining their trust, proactive efforts from the government machinery, innovative context-specific programs, strategic partnerships and a departure from the “**blame the victim**” philosophy are key in the effort to provide services that meet the health-care needs of the tribes. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is likely to make a Social Security Scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). It is also administering the scheme of ‘**Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP**’ under which it is ensured that the gatherers of Minor Forest Produce, most of whom belong to Scheduled Tribes, get fair returns for their efforts in collection of the notified forest produce. Further, Government has introduced the Van Dhan Vikas **Karyakram** under this scheme to improve the skills of the MFP gatherers in sustainable cultivation of MFPs, their Value Addition, providing necessary tools and facilities, etc. which will further improve the returns to the beneficiaries. [5]

Handicrafts hold potential for employment for a large population of India. Development programs by Tribal Cultural Society and Government of Jharkhand regarding training in handicraft aims at providing sustainable livelihood options for **Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)**. The training programmes aims to create marketable handicrafts based on inherent art and culture of tribal people which have huge demand in the market. In spite of low cost of the raw materials and abundance of labour supply the handicrafts trade faces problems in terms of sustainability, marketing and supply chain issues. The case study highlights issues of sustainable livelihood through training in handicrafts for two particularly vulnerable tribal groups, Birhor and Sabars. The case study highlights the lifestyle of Birhors and Sabars, their uniqueness and the problems faced by them. This is supplemented by a documentary called **Aarohan** which shows the lifestyle and inherent art of **rope-making and handicrafts**. [4]

IV. CONCLUSION

The government's "inability" to implement the Food Security Act among the 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups' in India has resulted in a drop in their population, **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** head Rameshwar Oraon has said. The former union minister of state for tribal affairs, who took over as chairperson of NCST in 2013, has also questioned the existence of many such PVGT communities if the government does not consider the seriousness of the issue.



"Food security is not at all available to the tribals. It is a major problem as far as the question of their existence is concerned. The government is not understanding that the PVTGs are very vulnerable community and there is a big question on their existence if the food security programme continues to elude them," Oraon said.

Recounting that when he was on a recent official visit to Garhwa district of Jharkhand, he was told that community members of Korwas and Parhaiyas were buying rice at Rs.20-30 per kg, a steep price for the poor communities. Health improvement for the tribal and their delivery system cannot be the same because of cultural pattern, lifestyle and health seeking behavior of tribal population. **Maternal and child health care practices observed to be poor** among particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) in India. women have many wrong perceptions about safe delivery and abortions. Due to lack of transport facilities and poverty they felt seeking health care was difficult and costly.[2]

The Centre has sanctioned more than Rs 82,000 crore in the last three years for the socio-economic development of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) in the country, according to data shared in Parliament. Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh Saruta told Lok Sabha that her ministry administers a scheme — Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups — that covers the 75 identified PVTGs in 18 states and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Over Rs 82,000 crore sanctioned for development of particularly vulnerable tribal groups in 3 years.

The Centre has sanctioned more than Rs 82,000 crore in the last three years for the socio-economic development of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) in the country, according to data shared in Parliament. Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh Saruta told Lok Sabha that her ministry administers a scheme — Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups — that covers the 75 identified PVTGs in 18 states and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.[1]

The scheme aims at planning socio-economic development of PVTGs in a comprehensive manner while retaining the culture and heritage of the communities by adopting a habitat-level development approach. Under the scheme, the ministry sanctioned Rs 25,000 crore in the financial year 2018-19 and Rs 23,946 crore in 2017-18. It had set aside Rs 33,799 crore under the scheme in 2016-17.

REFERENCES

1. Basu, A.R. (1985): Tribal Development Programmes and Administration in India", New Delhi, National Book Organisation.
2. Census of India from 1951 to 2011, Government of India.
3. Chaudhury, Mamata (1977) Tribes of Ancient India, Calcutta, Indian museum
4. The Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of forest rights) Act 2006 and amendment Rules 2012 and guidelines, Vasundhara, Bhubaneswar Micro Project profile SCSTRTI Bhubaneswar
5. Upadhyaya, C. and Pancholi, R. 2010 Primitive Tribal Groups of Gujarat: A base line survey, TRTI Gujarat Vidyapeeth India
6. Savyasaachi 1998 Tribal Forest Dwellers and Self rule; The Constituent Assembly Debates on the fifth and sixth schedules, Indian Social Institute New Delhi



INNO SPACE
SJIF Scientific Journal Impact Factor
Impact Factor:
5.928

ISSN

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY



9710 583 466



9710 583 466



ijmrset@gmail.com

www.ijmrset.com