

## Impact of government development programmes on the livelihood of scheduled tribes: a study of Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh

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### ABSTRACT

Tribal population refers to India's indigenous people who have been living a life based on the natural environment and have cultural patterns that are compatible with their physical and social surroundings. Tribes are the deprived sections of the country struggling hard for their survival and development. Tribes are isolated from other societies with cultural homogeneity and simple life. The central and state governments have implemented several tribal development schemes throughout the country for the welfare of the tribes. But whether the tribes have felt the real benefits of these schemes is a big question. Therefore an attempt has been made in this paper to analyze the impact of different government development programmes on the livelihood of tribal households of Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh. Primary data were collected based on multistage random sampling from 120 households to test the significant impact of different government development programmes. The results of the study showed that among all the government sponsored schemes, the schemes which had significant impact on livelihood of sample households were Watershed Development Programmes (IWDP/IWMP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY). Therefore the tribal people should be made more aware of these schemes in order to accomplish their overall growth.

**Keywords:** Tribal households; livelihood, government programmes

### INTRODUCTION

Tribal populations are spread across the world, in which India is having one of the largest concentrations of tribal people. At present, the tribal population stands at 8.6 per cent of the total population out of which 11.3 per cent live in rural areas whereas 2.8 per cent live in urban areas of the country (<https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/schedule-tribes-in-india-1448689214-1>). India is a country that reflects varied facets of human existence ranging from diversity in culture, religion, language, race, lifestyle and much more. The tribal population has always been an important part of this diverse country, not because of their increasing population percentage, but because these tribal people reflect the rich indigenous colour of the country as well as their enigmatic cultures, dialects

and economic pursuits in various ecological settings (Sripal 1983). The scheduled tribes are one of the backward or depressed classes of the country since independence. They represent the historically disadvantaged section of society that stands at the lowest rung of the social, economical, geographical and political divisions among the members of society. Their social status not only isolates them from the rest of society resulting in permanent alienation and isolation but also exposes them to a variety of problems including social injustice, exploitation, violation of rights and forcible conversion (Swamy 2015). Thus to safeguard the tribal population as well as their heritage which makes India diverse in a true sense, the constitution of India and the central government as the 'guardian of the rights' of the people and the 'prime protector' of the country with the passage of time made efforts to prioritise the needs of

the tribes and aimed to ensure complete inclusion resulting into an equitable and sustainable life for the tribal population.

The tribal population when adopts complex ways of modern civilization and parts with their natural rights and certain eccentric practices, they like every other citizen of the country too deserve to be protected by certain special civil rights, acts, rules and procedures and schemes for their inclusive upliftment and blanket inclusion in the mainstream society (Prajapati et al 2014). Considering the vulnerability of this section of the society, the government has with time introduced various schemes in order to protect their basic irreducible rights that every human being requires to sustain and evolve. Thus keeping the above facts in view, the present study was conducted in Kinnaur district, one of the remote districts of Himachal Pradesh, to analyze the impact of various such schemes of the central government relating to inalienable areas of human life— education, economic welfare and public cooperation.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Kinnaur district of northwestern Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh stretching from N latitude 31°052 503 and 32°052 153 and E longitude from 77°452 003 and 79°002 353 . Multistage random sampling technique was used to draw the sample of respondents. Kinnaur district comprises 3 developmental blocks out of which 2 blocks were selected randomly to conduct the study. A complete list of Panchayats was prepared and three Panchayats were selected randomly from each selected block. After selecting 3 Panchayats, a complete list of villages was prepared with the help of Panchayat secretaries and 2 villages from each Panchayat were selected randomly. Thus in all 12 villages, 6 in each block, were selected for present investigations. A complete list of the households in the selected villages was prepared and 10 households from each village were selected randomly. Thus in all total 120 respondents were selected.

### Analytical tools

**Chi-square test:** To test the significant impact of different government development programmes on tribal livelihood, chi-square test was used. The detail of approximate chi-square test ( $\chi^2$ ) is given as under:

$$\sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \sim \chi^2$$

where O= Observed values, E= Expected values

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

To generate employment, alleviation of poverty, providing higher standard of living and improve the socio-economic life of tribal people as a whole, many tribal development schemes have been launched by the central and state governments with the objective of making self-employment programmes more effective. In order to determine the effectiveness of these schemes/programmes on the tribal livelihood it is important to examine the impact and performance of these programmes so that effective tribal development programmes may be designed for the betterment of the tribal communities. In this section efforts have been made to examine the impact of different schemes and their implementation by different departments. To evaluate the impact of the different tribal development schemes on the livelihood, eleven schemes have been analyzed and results are presented in Table 1 (Fig 1). It is clear that the mean score of the responses related to Watershed Development Programmes (IWDP/IWMP) was found higher and significant than the average standard score (1.68) at three-point scale. There was a positive impact of Watershed Development Programmes on tribal livelihood in Kinnaur district.

Majority of the people in tribal areas are of the opinion that the tribal development schemes have contributed a lot in the development of their area. The mean value of the opinion of the respondents supports the above view regarding DDP (Desert Development Programme). In the opinion of respondents, MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), SGRY (Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana), Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana, TSC (Total Sanitation Campaign), Matri Shakati Bima Yojna and CDP (Community Development Programme) have not contributed much in the overall development of the tribal region.

## CONCLUSION

From the study, it can be concluded that the government sponsored community managed schemes like Watershed Development Programmes,

Table 1. Impact of tribal development programmes on livelihood

Scheme/programme	Response					Chi-square
	SA	PA	NA	Total	Mean	
MNREGA	12	11	97	120	1.29	50.23
SGRY	20	35	65	120	1.63	13.13
Indira Awaas Yojana	24	36	60	120	1.70	7.82
Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana	17	28	75	120	1.52	21.20
Desert Development Programme	22	46	52	120	1.75	10.64
Total Sanitation Campaign	17	35	68	120	1.58	18.22
Matri Shakati Bima Yojna	15	41	64	120	1.59	21.75
Watershed Development Programme (IWDP/IWMP)	88	21	11	120	2.64	149.57
National Family Benefit Scheme	33	22	65	120	1.73	9.36
Community Development Programme	13	20	87	120	1.38	36.53
Integrated Rural Development Programme	27	28	65	120	1.68	8.27

SA= Strongly agree, PA= Partially agree, NA= Not agree

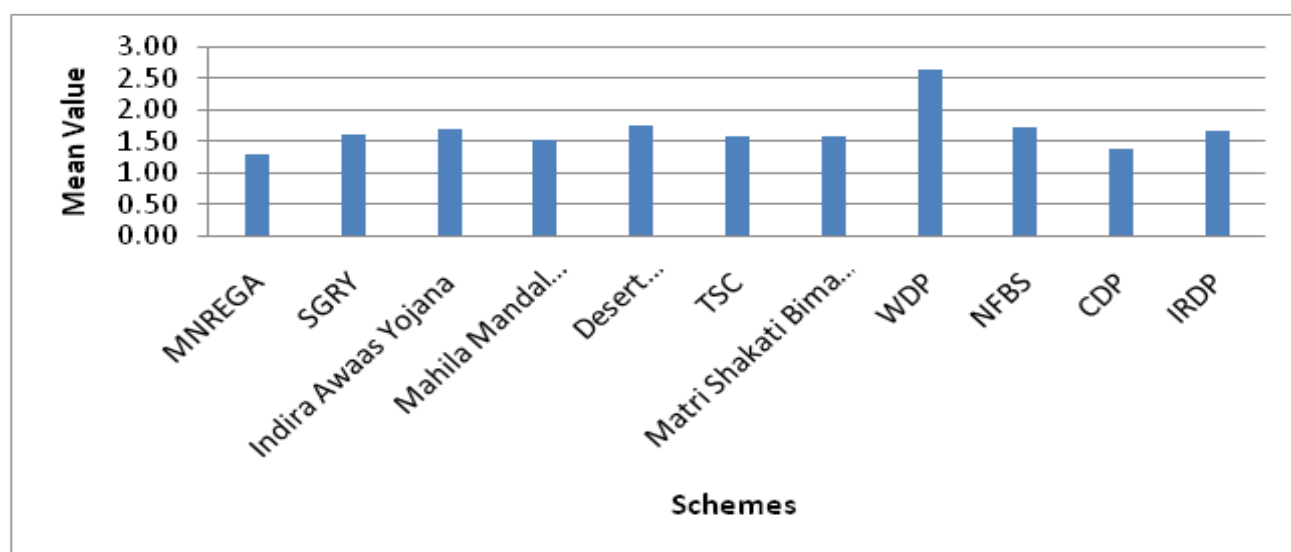


Fig 1. Impact of tribal development programmes on livelihood

Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) had good impact on the assets/capitals and improved the resilience of livelihood opportunities of sample households. So the tribal people should be made more aware about these schemes. Also these government interventions/development initiatives taken up, have enhanced the physical, financial and human capital of the respondents in the study area.

Finally it can be said that in order to accomplish overall growth of tribal households, additional contributions are required from the government as well as other voluntary organizations and like-minded NGOs for efficient programme execution and raising awareness among them.

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