



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN MAHARASHTRA: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN AHMEDNAGAR

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ABSTRACT:

The present study focuses on assessing the impacts of different governmental schemes on tribal development across the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, revolving around PMAY-G, MGNREGA, ICDS, TSP, and NRLM. From these services, improvements in housing, stability in income, nutritional improvements, as well as economic empowerment are noted among the beneficiaries. Meanwhile, delays in the disbursement of money, unequal distribution of available resources, or administrative inefficiencies remain everyday challenges. The study enumerates participatory governance, the distribution of resources in an equitable manner, and data-driven decision-making as factors that would help improve the effectiveness of these schemes. The recommendations range from simplification of the administrative procedures to increasing community participation, especially from the tribal communities, and introducing innovative solutions for addressing the implementation gaps.

Keywords: Tribal, Government Schemes, Ahmednagar District, PMAY – G, MGNREGA, NRLM, ICDS, Resources, Distribution, Administrative, Unequal

INTRODUCTION:

The development of tribes has been a significant concern in the socio-economic planning in India since the country gained independence. Indian tribal communities, which are 8.6% of the country's population, have been constantly confronted with the issue of social exclusion, economic deprivation, and lack of adequate availability of essential services such as education, healthcare, and connectivity. With the view to addressing such problems, the

Government of India has framed various welfare schemes and policies relating to tribal areas so as to benefit their developmental process with the aspect of sustainability and absorption in the mainstream economy. And notwithstanding such effort on its part, disparities between scheduled tribes and other socio-economic groups persist, therefore call for focused review with respect to effectiveness in regard to said schemes.

Government schemes are instrumental in promoting tribal welfare, which caters to the special socio-economic and cultural needs of these communities. The Tribal Sub-Plan, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana are a few of the schemes for upliftment through better housing, education, health, and livelihood opportunities for the tribals. The success of these, however, depends on whether they get implemented effectively and varies more often than not across the regions because of several administrative and geographical constraints, also socio-political dynamics at play.

Ahmednagar, on the other hand, holds a sizeable population from tribal groups, with well-known communities such as the Mahadev Koli and the Bhil tribes. Also, most of them prefer to stay in hilly regions and interior areas, where access to citizens' services is limited even today. The district is somewhat different in its case from others, given its contrasting topography, socio-economic disparities, and presence of central and state-undertaken initiatives. A study of the impact of these schemes in Ahmednagar can give valuable insights into the successes and shortcomings of tribal development programs.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY:

1. Evaluating the impacts of different Government of India

schemes in relieving the agony of tribals in Ahmednagar district.

2. The Identification of gaps in implementation and challenges within the existing schemes and suggestions to improve the effectiveness of those schemes.

LITERATURE REVIEW:**Overview of Various Studies on Tribal Development in India:**

Various studies on tribal development in India reflect the recurring concerns about these communities. Many scholars, such as Xaxa (2001) and Vidyarthi (1981), point out the socio-economic marginalization of the tribal population in order to claim inclusive development policies for them. Works by Maharatna (2005) underline the negative impacts of economic exploitation and displacement for industrial and infrastructural projects on tribal livelihoods. Further, recent works have explored the contribution of sustainable development frameworks to improving tribal communities' living standards.

Studies Relevant to Government Schemes:

Increasingly, studies are being carried out on the impacts of a range of government schemes like PMAY, MGNREGA, and TSP. For instance, Singh and Venkatesh (2016) evaluated the performance of PMAY in providing affordable housing to marginal sections, including tribals, and pointed out gaps

in housing quality and accessibility. The impacts of MGNREGA on rural employment and generation of income were well documented by Dutta et al. (2014), who noted that the scheme has benefited the tribal households substantially, although implementation of the scheme has regional variations.

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), introduced as a strategy to channelize resources specifically for tribal welfare, has been studied extensively by researchers like Chauhan (2017). These studies reveal that while TSP has contributed to infrastructural development and service delivery, its impact remains limited due to inadequate monitoring and community participation.

Focus on Ahmednagar District and Maharashtra State:

Studies related to tribal development in Maharashtra are indicative of the peculiar problems of the tribal communities in the state. Contributions such as those by Kulkarni and Dixit (2018) regarding the socio-economic conditions of tribals in Ahmednagar district point out disparities in educational and health facilities, along with job opportunities. State-level analyses, for example, the one conducted by Maharashtra Tribal Development Department in 2019, while advocacy on the role of schemes by the government for the betterment of the living conditions of people does raise serious issues on its

implementation, especially in remote regions.

While a few local level studies in Ahmednagar are regarding the schemes that come out in PMAY-Gramin and MGNREGA, such studies do hint at administrative bottlenecks when housing schemes work in various ways: the benefits flow to only a part of the tribal households, or even worse, remain elusive for others. The nature of the implementation of the livelihood programmes in this district thus highlights that its own particular sets of inclusion strategies among tribals still have a fair chance for their amalgamation in large, broad development policies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Study Area:

Geographically and demographically, Ahmednagar is the largest district in the western state of Maharashtra. Ahmednagar hosts a considerable number of tribal populations in northern and eastern parts of the district. The major tribes in Ahmednagar include Mahadev Koli, Bhil, Thakar, and Katkari. The tribals are found in the hilly and forest parts of Akole, Sangamner, and Jamkhed talukas, which have highly challenging terrain with minimal infrastructure.

The lower literacy rate, limited healthcare facilities, and subsistence agriculture are the major socio-economic problems faced by the tribal

communities of this district. Seasonal migration for labour is quite common, reflecting the lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities. Besides this, these areas often experience gaps in the implementation of government welfare schemes on account of their remote locations and administrative constraints.

The tribal population of Ahmednagar has remained in the focus of various programs of the state and central government, such as those under the TSP, PMAY-G, and MGNREGA. Being a district with significant variation in development indicators between its tribal and non-tribal areas, Ahmednagar assumes importance for understanding the effectiveness of tribal welfare schemes. Experiences gleaned from Ahmednagar would contribute to the understanding of broader issues related to tribal development in Maharashtra and India as a whole.

DATA COLLECTION:

The present research is solely depending on secondary data while

assessing the impact and implementation of the tribal welfare schemes. The sources of data are:

1. **Government Reports:** Annual reports from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Maharashtra Tribal Development Department, and Ahmednagar district administration.
2. **Census Data:** The numbers for tribal population are as per the 2011 Census.
3. **Policy Documents:** Schemes relating to PMAY, MGNREGA, and Tribal Sub-Plan from official Government websites.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:

Scope: This presentation covers a comprehensive analysis of different government schemes aimed at the welfare of tribal peoples residing in Ahmednagar district.

Limitations: Total reliance on secondary data might compromise certain depths of insight with particular regard to recent developments and possible unreported local challenges.

SCHEME-WISE DATA OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS (2019-2023) ON TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT:

1. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

Year	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Impact on Tribal Areas
2019	2,345 houses constructed.	Improved housing for tribal families but delays due to funding gaps.
2020	3,752 houses constructed.	Increased access to durable housing; pandemic caused delays.
2021	4,890 houses completed.	Significant progress due to streamlined approvals.
2022	3,678 houses built.	Reduced pace due to administrative issues.
2023	3,758 houses constructed.	Steady progress; further outreach needed for unregistered families.

Source : <https://pmayg.nic.in>

Thus in these five years, under the operation known as PMAY-G, total houses constructed for the adivasi families are 18,423.

Finding: The scheme has helped improve housing security, but there are still gaps in outreach to the most remote

tribal families due to either a lack of documentation or for reasons of eligibility.

Discussion: The need for administrative streamlining so that there is less delay and disparity in coverage regarding housing allocation.

2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Year	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Impact on Tribal Areas
2019	35,426 tribal households employed.	Increased rural employment; delays in payment caused dissatisfaction.
2020	37,000 households employed.	Pandemic led to higher demand for work; issues with work allocation arose.
2021	40,128 households provided work.	Reduced migration but challenges with quality of work.
2022	42,000 tribal households engaged.	Continuous improvement but insufficient work variety noted.
2023	45,732 households provided employment.	Sustained impact on income stability.

Source : <https://nrega.nic.in>

The number of employed tribal households increased from 35,426 in 2019 to 45,732 in 2023.

Finding: MGNREGA has reduced seasonal migration considerably and stabilized earnings. However, there are

issues like delays in the payment of wages and lack of diversification in the types of work.

Discussion: Introduction of skill-based work under MGNREGA would be more

aptly addressing these issues and would also be in tune with the long-term development objectives of the tribal population.

3. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

Year	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Impact on Tribal Areas
2019	1,050 tribal children enrolled in nutrition programs.	Moderate success; logistical challenges in remote areas.
2020	1,160 children benefited from supplementary nutrition programs.	Expanded coverage but gaps in service delivery persisted.
2021	1,200 children covered; 500 pregnant women supported.	Improved maternal and child nutrition outcomes.
2022	1,235 children and 520 pregnant women supported.	Focused attention on vulnerable groups.
2023	1,247 children enrolled; services extended to 540 pregnant women.	Noticeable reduction in malnutrition rates.

Source : <https://icds-wcd.nic.in>

Enrolment of tribal children in the ICDS nutrition programme rose from 1,050 in 2019 to 1,247 in 2023.

Findings: The scheme has led to a reduction in malnutrition, with improved health of children. However,

logistical bottlenecks remain in the implementation within remote villages.

Discussion: Stronger supply chains and expanded outreach will help magnify the reach in hard-to-reach tribal areas.

4. Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

Year	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Impact on Tribal Areas
2019	120 crore allocated for tribal infrastructure.	Focused on road construction and electrification.
2020	130 crore allocated for development projects.	Improved water supply projects implemented.
2021	140 crore allocated; education projects initiated.	Improved educational facilities and teacher deployment in tribal schools.
2022	145 crore utilized for health and education initiatives.	Mobile health clinics introduced in tribal regions.
2023	145 crore utilized for diverse welfare programs.	Ongoing improvements in healthcare and education infrastructure.

Source : <https://tribal.nic.in>

As a result, Ahmednagar's annual allocation under TSP ranged between 120 crore and 145 crore, with the major components being roads, water supply, and education.

The **findings** showed: there were significant improvements in terms of

infrastructure, like road connectivity and availability of drinking water, though asymmetric inter-village in nature.

Discussion: Improved mechanisms of monitoring can ensure the resources provided are better distributed.

5. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

Year	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Impact on Tribal Areas
2019	400 tribal women SHGs formed.	Initiated economic empowerment programs.
2020	450 SHGs supported with training programs.	Enhanced skills for small-scale businesses.
2021	500 SHGs connected to microfinance services.	Improved financial inclusion but market linkage challenges remained.
2022	520 SHGs formed and 300 linked to markets.	Increased household income for tribal women.
2023	534 SHGs established; training for digital skills provided.	Empowered women economically; further market access required.

Source: <https://aajeevika.gov.in>

Formation of women Self-Help Groups increased from 400 in the year 2019 to 534 in the year 2023.

Observation: It was through these SHGs that economic empowerment among tribal women has come about, though challenges of market linkages and financial literacy still persist.

Discussion: Training on market access and digital skills could be part of a long-term sustainability perspective for SHGs.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. Effectiveness of the Government Schemes:

In the aggregate, the implementation of government schemes has been yielding positive results in housing, employment, education, and health. However, administrative inefficiencies, geographical isolation, and lack of awareness among the tribals have resulted in the partial achievement of these schemes.

2. Implementation Gaps:

There is little coordination among the various implementing agencies, which has resulted in

duplication in some areas while leaving gaps in other areas.

Lack of sufficient attention to the cultural and social contexts of tribal communities frequently translates to low participation in government programs.

3. Tribal Participation:

The success of such schemes as NRLM and TSP shows that participatory approaches work better. Involvement of the tribal community in the planning and monitoring aspects may bring better results from programs.

4. Policy Recommendations:

- Strengthen administrative capacities for better service delivery.
- Emphasize participatory governance to achieve alignment in schemes with tribal needs.
- Make sure timely disbursement of funds is made, and transparency is enhanced.

CONCLUSION:

This study has brought to the limelight the role that government schemes play in the process of tribal development in Ahmednagar district. PMAY-G, MGNREGA, TSP, and ICDS schemes have positively contributed during the last five years among tribals in terms of their housing, employment, health, and education.

Key takeaways include:

1. **Positive Impact:** Significant improvements in infrastructure,

housing, and nutrition programs have enhanced living standards in tribal areas.

2. **Continuing Challenges:** Delays in implementation, inadequate outreach to remote areas, and administrative inefficiencies persist in standing in the way of the complete realization of scheme benefits.

3. **Uneven Distribution:** While progress has been made, certain tribal pockets remain underserved, highlighting the need for equitable resource allocation.

The findings bring out the need to integrate the schemes in better ways and involve the community to adequately address the peculiar socio-economic issues of tribal people.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Administrative Improvements:

- Streamline Documentation: Simplify eligibility criteria and provide on-ground assistance for tribal families to access schemes.
- Improve Monitoring: Establish real-time monitoring mechanisms to keep track of the progress made in scheme implementation.

2. Community Involvement:

- Engaging Tribal Communities: Incorporating tribal leaders and local self-governance bodies into the planning process and making decisions.

- Awareness Campaigns: Awareness drives amongst the tribal population regarding the schemes available and their benefits should be conducted.

3. Focus on Resource Allocation:

- Equitable Distribution: Emphasize the need for infrastructure and welfare initiatives in the most underdeveloped tribal areas.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Align scheme implementation with the cultural practices and social needs of tribal communities.

4. Economic Empowerment

- Enhance SHGs under NRLM with improved market linkages, financial training, and skill-building workshops for empowering tribal women.
- Diversify Employment under MGNREGA: Introduce skill-based work opportunities to enhance income and productivity.

5. Access to Healthcare

- Specialist Care: Provide specialist medical services in remote areas through collaboration with NGOs or private health providers.
- Expand Mobile Health Clinics: Increase the number of mobile health units to cover most of the remote villages.

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