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Role Of LAMPS And WBTDCS For Development Of The Santal Tribe In Bankura District

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Abstract

Tribals, also known as cave dwellers, primitives, and a variety of other names, are the original inhabitants of the land. They are the people who converted a forest land or a waste field into a rice field because they are capable of doing hard work for survival, and among them is the Santal tribe, one of the largest tribes in India as well as West Bengal. Those who have worked hard for their survival by nature are peace lovers. But by circumstance, they were tortured by the land lords and Britishers and wanted to escape from this pathetic situation. Changes occurred following the "Hul" rebellion because, following this revolt, the British government recognised the Santal's power and decided not to take them lightly; henceforth, the government took steps for their development by creating markets where they could easily sell forest products and earn a living. Later, in 1975, the West Bengal government took steps for the upliftment of the tribals, and for this, an organisation called the West Bengal Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd. (WBTDCS. Ltd.) was formed and under this, a Large Multi-Purpose Society (LAMPS) was formed, and many schemes were implemented for the economic development of the tribals because the government recognised that they were the majority of society, far from development, and they required assistance.

Key words: LAMPS, WBTDCS, Schemes.

Introduction

A development program's goal is to provide more facilities to people while also earning a living wage that allows them to live their lives with dignity and as human beings in society. The process of development contains the improvement of the quality of life of the poor and downtrodden people, but it is a matter of fact that most of the tribal groups, including the Santals, were not aware of this and did not get the opportunity to receive the provision of development. To help the tribes of West Bengal, the government formed an organisation named West Bengal Tribal Co-operative Corporation Ltd. (WBTDCS. Ltd.). WBTDCS, Ltd. has established LAMPS in each tribally dominant area for socioeconomic development. WBTDCS, Ltd. was started in 1975 under the patronage of the backward class welfare department of the Government of West Bengal, and its main objective is to work for the upliftment of the tribals and bring growth to their socio-economic conditions through this cooperation. These LAMPS are set up in every block of 16 districts and serve as the primary co-operative society to implement different schemes for development except in Kolkata, Howrah, Nadia, and Coochbeher. ¹ In LAMPS, different kinds of work have been implemented in tribal villages, such as providing credit loans for business purposes, providing facilities to use forest products, creating markets to sell forest products, providing training in tailoring and cycle repair for earning a livelihood, providing education loans to the students, and providing consumer service. In West Bengal, various kinds of tribes exist, but among them, the Santal tribe is dominant in Bankura district.

Role of LAMPS (Large size multipurpose co-operative society) for the developments of the Santal people:

Following the Hul rebellion, the East India Company took the initiative to solve the Santals' problems, and then the East India Company announced some developmental work by establishing Santal Paragana as a non-regulated district and passing the Santal Paragana Tenancy Act, which prohibits tribal land from being transferred to non-tribal people. This is the only development achieved by the East India Company. Tribal people were always exploited by the Mahajans because of the rent for the land, and to protect Santals from the Mahajans, the government has taken steps. Following independence, a plan was devised to protect tribal people from the exploitation of Zamidars and Mahajans, which was reflected in the First Five-Year Plan and the Fifth Five-Year Plan, in which tribally dominated areas established Grain Gola and co-operative societies to provide loans for agriculture and keep Mahajans away from the tribal, but this scheme did not last long due to a lack of leadership.

Before the Fifth Five-Year Plan, another step was planned for the economic and social development of the tribe, and for this, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of S.K. Baba. This committee had put their demands before the government on January 24, 1973, and their demand was to form LAMPS in tribal areas, and their demand was granted. Following that, LAMPS were established throughout India to protect and develop tribals. In 1975, West Bengal agreed to the Tribal Sub-Plan. The West Bengal Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd. manages LAMPS in the state.

LAMPS are primarily formed by the government to assist tribal people; their primary goal is to assist tribal people in becoming self-sufficient through various schemes. Its primary scheme is to collect *Kendu* and *Sal* leaves because tribals live in forest land where the collection of *Kendu* leaves is the easiest work for them to do to earn money. Later, the government expanded it with various new schemes. LAMPS is governed by a nine-member governing body known as the Board of Directors.

Welfare Schemes

Procurement of non- timber forest land:

This is an activity to assist tribal member in collecting *Kendu* and *Sal* leaves, which LAMPS purchases from them in order to financially support them and help them earn money. This collection is mostly done in forest areas because there is no scheme for collecting forest products on non-forest land. WBTDC has fixed its price to buy these leaves.

Provision for AMSY: (Adivasi Mahila Sasaktikaran Yojana)

This provision is made to empower poor tribal women with employment by forming self-help groups in which they receive money in a group and use it in their own way, thereby making her financially independent and increasing her confidence in her ability to support herself and her family. Tribal women mostly invest this money in piggeries, goateries, and vegetable and dairy farming by creating a self-help group where they start to work for the making of *sal* leaf plates. They also receive training from LAMPS on how to properly use the projects, such as tailoring training or farming vegetables for increased production. LAMPS also recommended piggeries and goateries because they can make more money in less time.

Tribal sub- plan: Disha

The WBTDC, Ltd. implements this scheme under the tribal sub-plan, in which beneficiaries receive an amount of Rs. 10,000 at a time and are not required to pay it. It is a full grant provision from the tribal development scheme, which is a great help for poor tribal members who invest money in any work and keep all profits, which is really a good scheme for their economic growth. Before he can take advantage of this scheme, he must be a member of the LAMPS and have an account in the self-help group, as well as take a microcredit loan and repay the loan amount within a certain time frame.

Micro credit loan:

This scheme is launched by the WBTDC, Ltd. where Self- Help-Group take loan for their work that is rupees 1,00,000/- where rupees 10,000/- for each member and they have to pay this loan amount within 4 year at the rate of 4% of interest.

Village Grain Bank:

This scheme is launched by the WBTDC Ltd. to help the poor tribal people, where grain bank is formed for 40 families in a village and they can borrow grain when they need it and then pay it back when they start to earn grain after cultivation. One quintal grain is allotted as a grant to each family which meant a lot of help for them.

Mini bank:

WBTDC Ltd has launched a scheme for money mobilisation known as the "Mini Bank" in LAMPS in order to keep the habit of saving among the tribals for their financial stability because they do not have the habit of saving money; what they earn, they spend it without worry about future saving for any emergency situation, and to see this habit among the tribals, LAMPS has launched this bank where they can save their money during their emergencies, like in education for their children, medical purposes, or business purposes.

ASRY: Adivasi Siksha Rin Yojana

This scheme is meant for the poor, talented tribal students who have the will to study but do not have money. This ASRY scheme is regulated by the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation. This scheme also provides coaching facilities under WBTDC Ltd. In this provision, they conduct an exam, and students have to pass it to get the loan facility. They have to pay off the loan after getting a job at a rate of 6% interest.² Mostly they provide loan for financial courses like MBBS, B.ed, PH.D, B.Sc (nursing) and Engineering courses where they consider more chance to get the loan amount back.

Cycle loan:

This scheme is started in the year 2013 -14 for the women of Self- help Group at the rate of 3% interest for the instalment of 24 months.³

Distribution of saplings:

LAMPS tried to help them through the food processing and horticulture departments of West Bengal, and it has provided these saplings of different fruits like mango, guava, and drumstick, which they can grow easily and sell to earn profit.

Forest scheme:

This scheme is launched by the LAMPS under the NSTFDC by the name of Aranya Shakti Prakalpa with a special power as per the Forest Rights Act, and in this scheme, an amount of Rs. 100000 is given as a loan to the 10 members, out of which Rs. 10000 is given to each member.⁴

Cultural programme:

Along with all development schemes, WBTDCC, Ltd. has made an effort to promote tribal culture. LAMPS has been advised to select people from the different villages, form a team, and organise competitions of dance and singing at the block and state levels, earning money as artists. It also work as earning livelihood and also keep their cultural traits alive which also promote their cultural value for themselves as well as for other non – tribal people and WBTDCC has also publishing "Adivasi Brata" regarding their cultural promotion.⁵ This programme was started in 2015.

Training provision:

WBTDCC and LAMPS have made a provision for training for the tribal people in different field like tailoring, cycle repairing, mobile repairing training where profit can be gain by means of less investment. Hand works like art of bamboo and making *kantha* in different style like *kantha* stich or tribal print which they sell it in the exhibition where they show their tradition as well as earn money.

Short term agriculture loan: (Khoraki loan)

This is an agriculture loan with a duration of 6 months with interest. This is mainly for summer time farming for help the farmer for more production. It started in the year 1983-84.

Loan for the family welfare middle term loan: (Hadko loan)

This scheme had started to help poor tribal family by the west Bengal tribal development co-operative corporation ltd. Now this scheme is closed after beginning of Indra Awas Yojana project.

Potato bond *bandaki* loan:

In this scheme, the beneficiary takes a loan instead of a potato bond, and when he pays back his loan amount, he gets his potato back. This is the system potato keep as the guarantee for the loan. This scheme was started in the year 2000.

Collection of forest products:

This scheme deals with collection of *Kendu* leaf and seeds of *Sal* fruits where they sell 1 *Chata of Kendu* leaf for the rupees 75/- that is 100 bundle.

Commodities supply:

This scheme was started in Raipur LAMPS in the year 1984 where it had made its own grocery shop where people can buy product in fair cost. Shops were made for food items, clothes and for kerosene.

Cold storage:

This scheme is started in the year 2000 with the facility of two unit of cold storage with capacity of 11000 metric ton in Raipur LAMPS.

Fund raising scheme:

This scheme meant for the help tribal people through banking facility. It is a bank of the LAMPS which is known as central co-operative bank started in the year 1984 where conduct works like- cutting forest, making road, culvert and hostel building to help them earning.

Nursery facility:

Scheme is started in the year 1984 for making tribal self-independent with the provision of provide eucalyptus saplings to the tribal for free of cost and also seedlings of vegetables.

Establish of I library:

This scheme is for an English- speaking course in which many tribal youth are benefiting through online training.

Socially protection scheme 2015 for Kendu leave collector:

This protection scheme is meant for the members who have reached the age of 60 and are generally engaged with this work of collection. This is a post retirement scheme where if any member after the age of 60 years again register in this work for two years then he or she will get rupees 50,000 at a time. If registration is for 5 years after the age of 60, then the beneficiary will get an amount of 1,00,000 rupees at a time, and if any beneficiary registers for 10 years after the age of 60, then he will get 1,50,000 rupees. Aside from this beneficiary, he will get his remuneration for his work. Another insurance facility also provide to them that is if any worker die accidentally then his family will get death incentive amount of 1,50,000 rupees and in the time of natural death of worker's family get rupees 50,000 as incentive. There is also a facility for providing health insurance to the worker and his family members.

Distribution of Sal leave plate making machine:

In this scheme, WBTDCC has started to circulate the machines for plate-making among the tribal women, where they will be helpful for earning a livelihood.

Research Methodology:

For my present work, data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data are collected by interview in the LAMPS office and secondary data have been collected by books.

Conclusion:

With this study, we came to know that the government of West Bengal had initiated a step for the development of the tribals through WBTDCC, Ltd., which operates LAMPS. This corporation has really affected the tribals, especially the Santals, because they are the predominant tribe in Bankura district. By the help of LAMPS many schemes have been regulated by which many Santal families are getting profit becoming financially independent and gradually they are moving towards growth. For helping them, they have started soft skill training where they are investing less and earning more, which is a positive sign of this scheme. To encourage in education it has started education loan for the students for higher studies. Though many schemes have been closed, there is a need to revive them, which will help tribals as well as Santals.

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