



A Study On The Impact Of Tribal Development Schemes In The Economic Development Of Irula Tribals In Coimbatore District

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Social Welfare: A Brief Overview

Meaning: Social welfare is a dynamic process that addresses social problems and how society responds to them. These problems stem from unmet individual needs, such as food, shelter, dignity, status, and affection. When these needs are not fulfilled, they lead to issues like poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, loneliness, and crime. Social welfare includes both curative and preventive services aimed at assisting the disadvantaged, creating a supportive infrastructure, and promoting overall societal development.

Definition: Social welfare is "the organized system of social welfare institutions designed to aid disadvantaged individuals and groups to attain satisfying standards of life and health" (Titmus, 1968).

Social Welfare Administration: Key Concepts

Definition: Social Welfare Administration (SWA) is the process of transforming social policies into concrete services. It involves cooperation between government and non-governmental agencies to address societal needs.

Key Insights:

SWA is a two-way process: implementing policies into services and using experience to recommend policy modifications (John C. Kidneigh, 1950).

It involves activities like determining functions, providing executive leadership, and maintaining services (Arthur Dunham, 1962).

SWA focuses on creating and optimizing organizational structures to enhance service delivery (Rosemary Sorri, 1971).

Objectives of Social Welfare Administration:

1. Understand the organizational and administrative structure at various levels.
2. Provide effective welfare services to those in need.
3. Promote positive public relations with both the agency and the community.
4. Conduct research and evaluation studies on ongoing projects.

Nature and Importance of Social Welfare

Nature: Social welfare can be considered both a science and an art, involving the practical implementation of welfare programs and intellectual study to refine these practices.

Importance:

Maintenance: Ensuring individuals and groups lead stable lives.

Development: Helping individuals and institutions grow.

Change: Altering the social functions when necessary. Social welfare provides security for the underprivileged, elderly, unemployed, and displaced, ultimately contributing to a better quality of life for many.

Scope of Social Welfare Administration

There are two main views on the scope of social welfare administration:

POSDCORB Model: Focuses on management functions such as planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting, and budgeting.

Integral View: Encompasses both management techniques and subject-specific knowledge, recognizing the importance of both.

Models of Social Welfare

Familial Model: Family plays a key role in social welfare, seen in countries like France where social needs are often met within the family unit.

Residual Model: Public welfare systems serve only the most disadvantaged, as in the U.S.

Mixed Economy Model: Government and private sectors collaborate, as seen in countries like Germany.

State-Controlled Model: Government takes full control of social welfare, as in the former Soviet Union.

Tribal Development and Welfare

Pre-Independence Approach: Focused on isolating tribal areas to mitigate exploitation and protect them from outsiders. It was largely political and economically motivated, with limited focus on actual development.

Post-Independence Approach: The government focused on the socio-economic upliftment of tribal populations, incorporating tribal-specific strategies into national development plans. Programs like the Tribal Sub-plan aimed at narrowing the development gap between tribal and other areas.

Challenges: Despite efforts, challenges persist in fully addressing the needs of tribal communities due to inadequate strategies, lack of funds, and a lack of trained personnel. Sustainable development, better participation, and greater awareness among tribal communities are key to future progress.

Review of Literature

V. Sudarsen (1996) highlighted that Tamil Nadu has a small tribal population, constituting just 1.03% of the state's total population. Most tribes reside in the northern, central, and western districts, with Salem district having the highest concentration of tribal people (3.49%).

A. Prasanth & P. Balasubramaniam (2021) analyzed tribal attitudes toward development schemes. They found that 35.19% of respondents had a highly favorable attitude, while 31.48% had a moderately favorable view. The study suggests that improving tribal attitudes towards these schemes could boost their effectiveness.

C.A. Perumal & V.K. Padmanabhan (1986) discussed Rawlsian theories of justice in the context of India's tribal policies, advocating for positive discrimination. The study argues that India's tribal policies follow a pragmatic approach to promote social justice.

S. Suresh & D. Sivakumar (2022) examined the socio-economic status of tribes in Tamil Nadu, noting that tribes, particularly the Irulars, face challenges like poverty, illiteracy, and limited access to basic services. The study stresses the role of social welfare programs in improving these conditions.

S. Saravanan & K. Poorna (2019) focused on the financial inclusion of tribals in Tamil Nadu, especially in the Nilgiris district. The study found that government schemes like MGNREGA and PMJDY positively impacted the economic status of tribal households, especially through access to banking services.

S. Kumar evaluated the implementation of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu, especially in Tirunelveli district, focusing on socio-economic and educational development. He identified various government departments contributing to tribal welfare, aiming for economic and social integration.

M. Gopinath Reddy & K. Anil Kumar discussed the socio-economic challenges faced by tribals in Andhra Pradesh, particularly the Irular tribe. They stressed the limited progress in economic mobility and political participation and examined the Forest Rights Act, 2006, for its potential to improve tribal livelihoods.

Damoradan Rajasenan (2019) evaluated the impact of Kerala's development model on tribal communities, concluding that while the model uplifted many, it also led to high levels of inequality, particularly among tribal groups in the Western Ghats. The study suggested that better fund utilization and addressing tribal concerns would improve development outcomes.

Statement of the Problem

Despite numerous government schemes aimed at improving the socio-economic status of tribal populations, their actual benefits have been limited. This study investigates the effectiveness of tribal development schemes on the economic development of the Irular tribe in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu.

Objectives of the Study

- ✓ To assess the effectiveness of existing tribal development schemes in addressing the economic needs of the Irular tribe.
- ✓ To analyze the socio-economic status of the Irular tribe before and after the implementation of these schemes.
- ✓ To identify challenges faced by the Irular community in accessing and benefiting from these schemes.
- ✓ To evaluate the role of government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders in these efforts.
- ✓ To propose policy recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of these schemes.

Methodology

This study will employ qualitative and quantitative methods, including interviews, surveys, and data collection from government agencies and community organizations. The focus will be on the economic condition of the Irular tribe and the impact of government schemes on their development.

Limitations

- ✓ Limited sample size and data availability could impact the generalizability of findings.
- ✓ The study may not fully capture long-term impacts due to time constraints.
- ✓ Economic, political, and environmental factors beyond the study's control may affect the outcomes.

Scope of the Study

The study will evaluate government and NGO-led tribal development schemes, focusing on the Irular tribe in Coimbatore district. It will assess socio-economic conditions, the effectiveness of schemes, and propose policy recommendations for improving tribal welfare.

Profile of the Study Area: Siruvani Hills

The Siruvani Hills, part of the Western Ghats, fall under Coimbatore District's Bolampatty Reserve Forest. The area, situated between 10° 37' and 11° 31' North latitudes and 76° 39' and 77° 50' East longitudes, showcases a diverse altitude range and is classified into three zones based on elevation:

1. **Upper Zone (1000 - 1200 m)**
2. **Mid Zone (550 - 1000 m)**
3. **Lower Zone (up to 550 m)**

The study primarily focuses on Block II of the Bolampatty Reserve Forest, which spans 10,651 hectares and encompasses regions surrounding Siruvani Hills. The area is known for its rich biodiversity and varied topography, with notable landmarks such as Muthukulam at 1200m and Mylon's Bungalow at 967m. The Siruvani foothills are easily accessible from Coimbatore via a motorable road passing through settlements like Perur, Madampatty, and Alandurai.

Settlements & Culture of the Irular Tribe

The Irular community resides on the outskirts of the forest, living in isolated pockets without modern amenities. The community's traditional practices, such as a unique dialect, clothing, and dietary habits, reflect their deep connection with nature. They primarily engage in agriculture, collecting forest products, and animal rearing. Women often contribute to the rearing of livestock, and men typically hunt using traditional tools like knives and sickles.

The Irulars follow a distinct social structure led by a headman ("Moopan") and follow various marriage customs, including love marriages, marriage by capture, and marriage by exchange of leaf and nuts. The tribe also practices unique death rituals, where the body is preserved for two days before burial, with specific rites and songs sung to honor the deceased.

Traditional Knowledge & Religious Practices

The Irulars possess vast knowledge of medicinal plants used for curing ailments such as snake bites, skin diseases, and rheumatism. This knowledge is passed down orally through songs and poetry. Women and children are restricted from collecting medicinal plants, and specific herbs are avoided during menstrual cycles.

Religiously, the Irulars are devoted to Goddess Kali Amman, and celebrate a variety of Hindu festivals,

including a seven-day festival that involves water collection from Uthikulam falls for ritual purification. They also engage in magic-religious practices, using plants with magical properties for healing and protection against evil spirits.

Economic Activities & Livelihood

Economically, the Irulars depend on daily wage labor, primarily in agriculture and forest product collection. They cultivate crops such as paddy, maize, and millet, while also growing cash crops like turmeric and ginger. The community is highly social, maintaining strong inter-tribal relations with other neighboring tribes, and celebrating cultural exchanges through festivals and marriages.

Governmental Ministries and Departments for Tribal Welfare (Shortened Summary)

Introduction: Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, outlined 5 principles for tribal development focusing on preserving tribal culture and providing the necessary resources for their upliftment. These principles formed the basis of India's tribal welfare strategy, emphasizing protection of tribal rights, cultural respect, and community-driven leadership. Nehru's approach focused on both *protective* and *promotional* measures.

Constitutional Provisions:

- ✓ **6th Schedule:** Establishment of District and Regional Councils for tribal autonomy, ensuring self-management of resources and practices.
- ✓ **Article 332:** Provides for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in State Assemblies, excluding certain tribal areas in Assam.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA): Formed in 1999, MTA focuses on integrated tribal development, including education, health, infrastructure, legal rights, and cultural preservation. It oversees policies, research, and coordination for tribal welfare. Key responsibilities include:

- ✓ Social security and insurance for STs.
- ✓ Promoting tribal welfare programs, scholarships, and vocational training.
- ✓ Supporting tribal women, promoting inclusive growth, and protecting tribal culture and heritage.

Major Welfare Initiatives:

- ✓ **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP):** Strategy introduced in 1974-75 for reducing development gaps between tribal and non-tribal areas.
- ✓ **Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA):** Institutions created in the 70s and 80s for comprehensive tribal development.
- ✓ **Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs):** Established to build knowledge and skills for tribal development. Since 2014-15, efforts to revitalize and strengthen TRIs have been underway.

Schemes and Programs:

- ✓ **PVTGs Development:** Focused initiatives for the development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- ✓ **Central Sector Schemes (CSS):** Includes financial assistance for education, scholarships, vocational training, and livelihood enhancement. Notable schemes include:
 - *National Overseas Scholarship Scheme*
 - *Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students*
 - *Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):* Providing quality education in remote areas.
 - *Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna (VKY):* A Gujarat model for holistic tribal development.

National Forest Policy (1988): Emphasizes forest conservation and active tribal participation in welfare programs.

Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare Schemes: Tamil Nadu implements several schemes for tribal development:

1. **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP):** Special strategy for tribal area development with funds earmarked for infrastructure, education, and healthcare.
2. **Special Central Assistance (SCA):** Provides additional funding for tribal areas focusing on infrastructure, livelihood, education, and healthcare.
3. **Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP):** Comprehensive development projects with a focus on infrastructure, education, and health.
4. **Hostels for Tribal Students:** Residential facilities to ensure access to education for tribal students.
5. **Healthcare Initiatives:** Mobile health units, dispensaries, and sanitation programs targeted at tribal health issues.
6. **Livelihood Programs:** Promoting traditional crafts, agriculture, and market access for economic upliftment.
7. **Education & Skill Development:** Emphasis on improving education facilities, providing scholarships, and conducting skill development programs.

These initiatives aim at improving the socio-economic status of tribal communities, preserving their culture, and ensuring access to essential services and opportunities.

Analysis and Interpretation

Village wise classification of the respondents

S.No	Village name	No of respondents	Percentage of respondent
1	Potta pathi	5	10%
2	Sadivayal pathi	12	24%
3	Sarkar bororthi	3	6%
4	Singa pathi	24	48%
5	Vella pathi	6	12%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table we came to know that out of 50 respondents 5 belongs to potta pathi, 12 belongs to sadivayal pathi, 3 belongs to sarkar bororthi, 24 belongs to singa pathi and 6 belongs to vellapathi

Gender wise classification of the respondents

S. No	Gender	No of the respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Male	31	62%
2	Female	19	38%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

The above table shows most of the respondents are male (62%) and the rest of the respondents are female (38%)

Age wise classification of the respondents

S. No	Age in years	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	26-35	18	36%
2	36-45	14	28%
3	45&above	18	36%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From above the table we came to that out of 50 respondents 18 belongs to the category of age group of people above 45, 14respondents belong to the category of (36-45) and rest of the falls under the category of(26-35)

Respondents based on their marital status

S. No	Marital status	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	married	43	86%
2	single	4	8%
3	widow	3	6%
4	divorced	0	0%
	total	50	100%

Observation;

Regarding marital status of the respondents,86% are married and only 8% are single and 6% are widow and divorce not present

Occupations of the respondents

S. No	Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Cultivators	4	8%
2	Agricultural labor	2	4%
3	Cattle	2	4%
4	Government employee	4	8%
5	Private concern	7	14%
6	Kooli	27	54%
7	Jobless	4	8%
	Total	50	100%

Observation ;

From the above table most of the respondents are kooli (54%) which means their major economy is daily wages, very meagre percentage of respondents are other than labours e.g. government employees(8%), private sector (14%), cultivators(8%) etc.,

Education Wise Classification of the Respondents

S. No	educational Criteria	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Illiterate	6	12%
2	elementary	12	24%
3	VIII standard	21	42%
4	SSLC	5	10%
5	HSC	2	4%
6	UG	2	4%
7	PG	2	4%
	total	50	100%

Observation ;

From the above table the figures indicate that most of the respondents are studied not more than VIII standard (42%) we can see very meagre percentage of HSC (4%), UG & PG (4%) categories

Classification of the Respondents by their Housing type

S. No	Housing type	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Hut	0	0%
2	Thatched	2	4%
3	Concrete	48	96%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of respondents having concrete houses which was provided under the government schemes (96%) very few of the respondents having thatched houses(4%).

Monthly Income status

S. No	Monthly Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage Of Respondents
1	5000-8000	24	48%
2	8001-12000	20	40%
3	12001-15000	3	6%
4	15001&Above	3	6%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of respondents income are between 5,000-8,000 (48%) and 8,001-12,000(40%) very few of the respondents having income more than 12,000.

Classification of the Respondents by their types of family

S.NO	Type of family	No of Respondents	percentage of Respondents
1	Nuclear	33	66%
2	Joint	17	34%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents are living as a nuclear family (66%), remaining respondents are living in joint family (34%).

Own vehicles of Respondents

S. No	Own Vehicle	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	24	48%
2	No	26	52%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table half of the respondents are not having own vehicles (52%)

Classification of the Respondents by their vehicles type

S. No	Types of vehicles	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Discover	5	21%
2	Hero Honda	9	37.5%
3	Pulsar	3	12.5%
4	Scooty	2	8%
5	Bullet	0	0%
6	Tvs xl	5	21%
	Total	24	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents using the mid range vehicles like hero honda (37.5%), discover (21%), sooty (8%) and very few of the respondents using expensive vehicles

Awareness of Respondents about tribal development schemes

S. No	Tribal development Schemes	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	ya Model Residential Schools(EMRS)	48	96%
2	Venture Capital Fund for Schedule Tribes	0	0%
3	Construction of House	48	96%
4	Funds For Self Help Group	39	78%

5	NGO Schemes	0	0%
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Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents are aware tribal development schemes like Eklavya model residential schools (EMRS), construction of house (96%) and funds for self help group (78%), none of the respondents aware of the venture capital fund for schedule tribes and NGO schemes

Respondents About Utilization of Government Housing Schemes

S. No	Utilization of Housing Schemes	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	48	96%
2	No	2	4%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents are utilized the housing schemes (96%), very few respondents are not utilized the housing schemes (4%).

According to the positive Respondents, How Influenced Economic Condition

S. No	responses	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Increased productivity	4	15%
2	Higher Income Generation	12	46%
3	Better Access to Markets	10	38%
4	Enhanced entrepreneurship Opportunities	0	0%
	Total	26	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents are told their economic condition increased due to the factors like increased productivity(15%), higher income generation(46%),better access to markets(38%).

Economic condition of Respondents

S. No	Perception of Respondents	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Increased	26	52%
2	Not Impact	24	48%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table 52% of the respondents told their economic condition increased on the other hand 42% of the respondents told it has not impacted

Utilization of self employed schemes

S. No	Utilization of Self Employed Schemes	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	2	4%
2	No	46	96%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of respondents are not availed self employed schemes (96%). Very few of the respondents have utilized the self employed schemes (4%).

Utilization of tribal Agricultural Schemes

S.No	Participation of respondents	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	4	8%
2	No	46	92%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents are not utilized the agriculture schemes (92%). Few of the respondents are availed the agriculture schemes (8%)

Impact in the respondent's Income through Participation in These Schemes

S. No	Impact on respondent income	No of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Increased	24	48%
2	Not Impacted	26	52%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table 52% of the respondents are told participating in these schemes not impacted their income, and 48% of the respondents are told it has impacted which means it has increased income.

Contribution of Schemes to the overall Empowerment and Social development of respondent's family

S. No	Responses	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	35	70%
2	No	15	30%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents told these schemes has contributed to the overall empowerment and social development of their family (70%), the remaining respondents it has not contributed (30%)

Satisfaction on road facility

S. No	Satisfaction on road facility	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	46	92%
2	No	4	8%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table the most of the respondents are satisfied with the road facility available in their area (92%) few of the respondents are not satisfied (8%)

Satisfaction of water facility

S. No	Satisfaction of water facility	No of Respondents	Percentage Respondents
1	satisfied	46	92%
2	Not satisfied	4	8%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table most of the respondents are satisfied with a clean water facility available in their area (92%) and few of the respondents are not satisfied (8%)

Availability of PHC facility

S. No	availability of PHC	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	0	0
2	No	50	100%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table all respondents told there is no primary health centre in their locality

Participation of Gram Sabha Meetings

S. No	participation	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	41	82%
2	No	9	18%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From the above table 82% of the respondents are participating gram sabha meetings, 18% of the respondents are not participating.

Contested of Counselor Election

S. No	Contested of Counselor Election	No of Respondent	Percentage of Respondents
1	Yes	5	10%
2	No	45	90%
	Total	50	100%

Observation;

From above the table only 10% of the respondents contested in the counselor election

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

The tribals are by nature honest. They work hard. They are known for their physical stamina. They do have interest for learning. They have the habit of giving to the people from the plains in spite of their exploitation

The encouragement at central and state government levels have done them a work of good and transformed their life of better opportunities for job and education. The scholarship is given to the children of ST.

Department of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal welfare have done their best in improving their living standard. The Government increases its efforts to give a face lift to the tribal life style and standard of living is most appreciable. Development has become the major goal of modern governments. This is particularly important for vast developing country like India.

A concern for tribal areas, tribal people and other weaker sections of the population was voiced in the very first session of the Indian constituent assembly, held in December 1946, by Jawaharlal Nehru. The assembly's main resolution stated that adequate safe guards shall be provided for minorities, backward classes, and tribal communities. The present study takes in to consideration the "irulars" tribal community who are residing in The Coimbatore District special reference has been given to their socio-economic conditions.

The ultimate purpose of development is to provide increasing opportunities to all people for better life. It is essential to bring out more equitable distribution of income and wealth for promoting both social justice and efficiency of production to raise substantially the level of employment, to achieve a greater degree of income security and to improve facilities for education, health, nutrition, housing, social welfare and safe guard the environment. These quantitative and structural changes in the society must go hand in hand with the rapid economic growth and existing disparities. This development rate must be kept up till all have their basic needs such as their (food, cloth and shelter) are met, and is expected that the tribal people will not need but compete openly with others

FINDINGS

- ❖ Majority of the respondents age group between 26-35 and 45 above
- ❖ More than half of the respondents (62percent)are males
- ❖ Majority of the respondents (86 percent)are married
- ❖ Majority of the respondents are studied not more then VIII standard (42percent)
- ❖ Majority of the respondents are kooli (54 percent)which means their major economy Is daily wages
- ❖ Majority of respondents income are between 5,000-8,000 (48percent)
- ❖ Most of respondents having concrete houses which was provided under the government schemes(96percent)
- ❖ Majority of the respondents are living as a nuclear family (66percent),
- ❖ Half of the respondents are not having own vehicles(52percent)
- ❖ Majority of the respondents using the mid range vehicles like Hero Honda (37.5 percent)
- ❖ Most of the respondents are aware tribal development schemes like Eklavya model residential schools(EMRS), construction of house (96percent)
- ❖ Most of the respondents are utilised the housing schemes(96percent)
- ❖ Half of the respondents told their economic condition increased(52percent)
- ❖ Less than half of the respondents are told their economic condition increased due to government policy the factor of higher income generation(46percent)
- ❖ Most of respondents are not availed self employed schemes(96percent).
- ❖ Most of the respondents are not utilised the agriculture schemes(92percent)
- ❖ More than of the respondents are told participating in these schemes not impacted their income(52percent)
- ❖ Most of the respondents told these schemes has contributed to the overall empowerment and social development of their family(70percent)
- ❖ Most of the respondents are satisfied with the road facility available in their area (92percent)
- ❖ Most of the respondents (92percent) are satisfied with a clean water facility available in their area
- ❖ All respondents told there is no primary health centre in their locality
- ❖ Majority of the respondents(82percent) are participating gram sabha meetings
- ❖ Only 10 percent of the respondents contested in the counselor election

SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Primary health centre should be established in their locality the currently they are using primary health centre which is located beyond 15 k.m from their locality.
- ❖ More awareness programs about schemes like Venture Capital Fund for Schedule Tribes and NGO schemes etc
- ❖ Water facility shall be given to the Sarkar bororthy and Potta pathi villages for development of agricultural activities.
- ❖ More awareness programs to be conducted to the students. In recent days discontinuing of the students are

drastically increased in that locality.

- ❖ Job oriented training can be given to them.
- ❖ Government shall organize through NGOs some self help group in tribal areas for their development.
- ❖ Government can appoint tribal promoters in tribal areas for their better development.
- ❖ The government should make arrangements to generate among the people of their right and privileges.

Conclusion

The Constitution of India provides for the special provisions relating to Scheduled Tribes. Article 342, article 164, article 244 and article 275 are some of constitutional guarantees given to the STs. The Constitution prescribes protection and safeguards for Scheduled Tribes with the object of promoting their educational and economic interests. Under Article 330 and 332 of the Indian Constitution, seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha and state assemblies. Government has made provisions for their adequate representation in the services. To facilitate their adequate representation certain concessions have been provided, such as: (i) Exemption in age limits, (ii) Relaxation in the standard of suitability, (iii) Inclusion at least in the lower category for purpose of promotion is otherwise than through qualifying examinations. A commissioner has been appointed by the government in order to protect their rights. The government also implements various welfare programs through the welfare department specially created to safe guard and uplift them. To improve them economically employment opportunities are given to them through reservations.

The Irulars of Siruvani Hills maintain a rich cultural heritage that blends traditional practices, spiritual beliefs, and a deep connection to the environment. Their sustainable use of natural resources, knowledge of medicinal plants, and unique social customs make them an integral part of the Western Ghats' cultural and ecological landscape.

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