Several programmes and schemes have been launched by the central and state governments to uplift the rural masses, especially in the tribal dominated areas of the country, under various Five Year Plans. One of them is Poverty Alleviation Programme which was started during the Sixth Five Year Plan. Poverty Alleviation Programmes contains various programmes and schemes for the upliftment of the tribals with special provisions and guidelines in terms of concession for the tribal people in general. Besides, the implementation of these programmes presumes devolution of power to grass roots level for their success.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes are special programmes designed to provide income and employment to the people who otherwise would have been deprived of it in the absence of such programmes. The process of implementation emphasizes participatory role of the beneficiary and follows decentralized planning.

The topic was selected because of my interest in tribal development in Arunachal Pradesh. I was always struck by the inequalities in otherwise egalitarian tribal communities before independence. The quest to understand the issue formed the basis of selection of such topic for my PhD dissertation.

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