CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION
AND FINDINGS
CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

India is one of the first nation-states of the world to have elaborated preferential arrangements for the hundreds of ethnic minorities in general and tribal communities in particular. While understanding the historical reasons for the backwardness of such tribal groups, the country has made Constitutional provisions, several special plans and programmes for their welfare and development, and has been allocating funds for this purpose in the national and state budgets.  

Indian constitution is not the product of one day or two days work. It has got a long history behind. All the Acts which was passed by the British Government is one of the aspects which helped the constitution makers to draft this constitution. Especially starting from the Regulating Act of 1773, Pitt's India Act, 1784, charter Acts of 1813, and of 1833, Revolt of 1857, Indian Councils Act, 1861, and 1892, Minto-Moley reforms1909, Montague-Chelmsford Reform Act, 1919 and Government of India Act 1935 and finally the Indian Independence act 1947.

When we come closer to the Constitution, we can understand that many people have sacrificed their time and talents for this cause. The Constitution makers had taken more than three years to complete this constitution. One of the most important people who sacrificed his life for this cause is Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Without him our constitution could have been incomplete. As we go through the Constituent Assembly

---

Debates we see the role played by Dr. Ambedkar. The service he rendered for the upliftment of the untouchables, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes is note worthy. The outcome of Ambedkar's political carrier was definitely mixed. He obtained major concessions from the British by collaborating with them and his politics made an impact during the constitutional debates when he gained more concessions for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes.

The tribes constitute a small but important element in India's population. The Constitutional debate which had taken place in the constituent Assembly for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes is well appreciated by the People of North East. Especially the stand taken by the Premier of Assam Mr. Gopinath Bardolai and J. J. M. Nichols Roy who stood for autonomy for the tribal areas. And for some place they wanted autonomous districts and district councils. If something was granted to the Assam and for the tribals, it was because of their effort.

The constitutional perspectives relating to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is to be gathered from the following articles. Fundamental rights to Equality are spoken in many articles that are Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17. We will see the same rights against exploitation, in Articles 23 and 24. Another very important part which gives lot of safeguards to the deprived people is enumerated in Articles 38, 39, 39A, 41, 43 Etc...

A minister in charge of Tribal welfare in States is included in Article 164(1). Administration of the scheduled areas and tribal areas are mentioned in Articles 244 and 244A. Grants from the Union to certain states is mentioned in Article 275. Special provisions for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, especially for reservation of
seats for them in the House of the people. Article 332, speaks of reservation of seats for the Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Article 335 points out the claims of Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes to services and posts. Article 338 clearly speaks of a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Control of the Union over the Administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes is explained well in Article 339. Under the provisions of this Article President may appoint any time and shall at the expiration of ten years from the commencement of this constitution a commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled areas and welfare of the Scheduled Tribes. A National commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has since been appointed. This Article also empowered the union to give directions to any state in regard to drawing up and execution of schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Though there is no well defined definition about the Scheduled Tribes given anywhere in the constitution, still Presidential orders have been given many a time concerning Scheduled Tribes. Especially Article 342 speaks about Scheduled Tribes. There are more than 600 tribes at present.

Special Provisions with respect to the State of Nagaland is mentioned in Article 371A. Article 371B, 371C, 371G, 371H speaks of Assam, State of Manipur, State of Mizoram, and State of Arunachal Pradesh respectively. Fifth Schedule and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution mainly deal with the Administration of the Scheduled Areas and the Scheduled Tribes. The Sixth Schedule Deals with the administration of
the tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Fifth Schedule deals with the administration of other Scheduled Areas and Tribes.

Prior to the constitution, the term “Scheduled Tribes” was not in use, but the tribes were variously termed as aboriginals, Adivasis, forest tribes, hill tribes, primitive tribes. Up to 1919, the tribes were included under the head of “Depressed Classes”. The term Scheduled Tribes was inserted in the constitution through Article 342(1). This Article gave the power for the President to specify the tribes and the tribal communities.

Thus the Constitution makers were well aware about the situation of the tribals. So they have made many special provisions for them in the constitution. Thus the constitution enjoyed special responsibility on the Central government as a whole and state government in particular to make earnest endeavour for the development of the scheduled Tribes and the areas inhabited by them. To sustain all the Constitutional safeguards Central Government and State Government launched various plans and Programmes through the Departments specially set up for the purpose and different Ministries and agencies.

The formation of the State of Nagaland was intended to bring about lasting peace to the Naga problem, but failed to achieve its goal. It was resented to by the underground Nagas and the undeclared war continued. Several attempts have been made to arrive at a lasting peace such as the ceasefire Agreement of 1964 and the Shillong Accord of 1975. The latter, instead of ending Naga insurgency, added fuel to the fire. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) formed in 1978, was the product of this accord. The war still continues.
The North Eastern part of India consisting of eight states has witnessed movements at various points of time. Such ethnic movements and other issues have created demands for autonomy and separate state, independence as well. The Government of India tried to put an end to such movements through military force and through state apparatus.

The North East India, which has often been victimized in ethnic conflict trying to dominate one tribe by the other tribe, or forcing its language or culture causing ethnic strifes in those area has been translated as demanding initially, autonomy or separation from the main land of India. Different ethnic groups have been demanding autonomy. The Bodo movement is mainly against the Assamese who are trying to establish hegemony through cultural and linguistic domination. Assamese language as a compulsory subject in the state services and in the school curriculum is the manifestation of such hegemony. The Bodos are the single most numerous communities in Assam. The Bodo Accord of 1993 was signed between the Assam Government (AGP) and the Union Congress government. The Accord did not concede to either a state or a union territory carved out of Assam. Instead it provided for a statutory structure of autonomy within the form of Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC).

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India made all the Hill Districts of Assam Autonomous with respective District Councils. Such autonomous were given to the tribal people of Assam in social, religious, cultural and economic fields. The Tribal Areas which were put under the Sixth Schedule Part B, were declared Autonomous Regions and separate Regional Councils were provided for them. The Governor of
Assam was empowered to administer the areas mentioned in the Sixth Schedule Part II, as the Agent of the President of India.

Thus it is very much clear that the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provided the Autonomous District Council, giving too much autonomy to the hill people, keeping in view their political and economic backwardness. When the constitution of India came into force in 1950, the District Councils were constituted in all the hill Districts of Assam except in the Naga Hills Districts, because the Naga people had boycotted the first general elections held in 1952. As the years passed, many more districts and sub-divisions were constituted in the District Councils in their respective areas except in Nagaland.

When the autonomy given to the hill tribes under the provisions incorporated in the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution, failed to satisfy tribal leaders, especially the Naga leaders, the Government of India carved out some more states and Union Territories by dividing the province of Assam. But such step instead of satisfying their sentiments and emotion, encouraged some more ethnic communities to come forward with the demand of autonomous states on the one hand, and angered the extremist tribal leaders who wanted independent sovereign status on the other. It changed the whole political scenario of the North-East India. Today, the entire hill region including the plains of Assam is under the militant tribal movements, creating numerous problems in the region for the Government of India and the hill people of North-East. Today insurgency and political extremism have become the order of the day in North-East. In Assam the districts like Karbi-Anglong, North Cachar Hills, Kokrajhar etc are in full
grip of the insurgency. In Nagaland, NSCN has established its control over the region. Autonomy movements in different places have shaped in different way.

After independence the Government of India implemented many programmes for the development of the tribal people of North-East India no doubt. The North Eastern Council was constituted in the year 1971 by an Act of Parliament. This Council is the model agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight states of, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

North East has got its own problems. The special feature of this region is that economic backwardness, poor communications and lack of trained manpower. Some of the factors that hamper development are the lack of road communication, absence of marketing facilities and lack of interest of the people in development programmes itself. The feeling of exclusion from the mainland India is also a real factor. Sometimes there are vested interests that prevent schemes from taking off. Compared to other place the rail road connectivity is also very poor. Most of the capital cities of North East do not have rail road and airport connection at all, that itself is a big problem. Though there are programmes and projects taking place in the Region, the growth is not very much visible compared to other states of India. One of the problems that North East faces is insurgency and smuggling, because it is exposed to many other countries. North East has five neighboring countries like China, Bangladesh, Myanmar Bhutan and Tibet etc... So it is the responsibility of the people themselves to find out ways to improve the situation.
The Government of India has been taking special care concerning the welfare of the tribal people ever since Independence. During the British period, the tribal communities in India remained fully or partially isolated from others in the country, and they remained backward. The British policy of isolation increased the misery of the tribal people. The policy of isolation by the British Government was largely effected by their deliberate efforts not to develop communication in the tribal areas and as a result, the tribals remained cut off from the rest of the population and the mainstream of the economic and political life of the British India. The founders of Indian constitution seriously considered the miserable conditions of the tribals who were segregated from the national mainstream and provided for special measures to them.

The Constitution of India contains many provisions with respect to protection and development of the tribal population. To sustain the constitutional safeguards given to them, Government adopted many programmes through the plan periods. The Government of India has taken special care for the welfare of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes throughout these years.

Our main concern here is how far development has reached the interior villages of Nagaland. In fact, the government has taken up many initiatives and provisions based on guidelines provided by the committee's reports and the studies made by the eminent scholars. After all the efforts, tribals are still in their pathetic condition. The problems connected with tribal development vary from place to place and from one region to another. So it is desired to study all the tribal inhabited areas in different parts of North
East to gain better understanding of the problems connected with development. One of the most important cause is the problems of unrest that is very much part and parcel of tribal development in the North Eastern Region. These kinds of problems are more prominent in Nagaland.

Throughout the study an attempt has been made to highlight the overall developmental situation of the various tribes, especially of the people of Nagaland. The present findings show that though the Central Government has taken lot of efforts to improve the situation of the tribal people through constitutional safeguards and protective discrimination, the plight of the people has slightly changed in some parts of the state, especially in the cities. But the backward regions of the state remain some what same especially in the interior villages, because of many reasons.

In the light of discussions and interviews conducted the major findings of the study are as follows:

**Findings**

[*] Inspite of constitutional safeguards, protective legislations and numerous developmental programmes the status of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled tribes in North East India is still far from satisfactory.

[*] Only 40% of people could avail education in the backward areas, remaining 60% are not able because of lack of schools and colleges in those backward areas. Free and compulsory Education to all the children upto 14 years of age in the interior villages are far from satisfactory despite providing them special incentives, like midday meal, dress, books etc...by
the government in this area. Lack of educational facilities, breeds discontent and becomes a fertile ground for violence and insurgency.

* Government efforts for the tribal development through community development schemes have benefited the people. Still more efforts have to be made to improve this situation and every family in the village should be aware about it. Though there are many developments taking place in the villages the awareness towards these programmes are not enough. The officials with the help of the village chairman need to do more work. So awareness is lacking among the people.

* The Government employees who are posted in the interior villages hardly stay in their respective postings. Even the newspaper report also confirms my finding that there are no staffs in the power department in some of the villages as those posted there earlier.

* The study found out that industrialization in Nagaland is only 10% (on the basis of Industrial Units Registered). Without industries, no state can make ample progress. The need to have more industries in the state is well recognized by every one. Because of this the job opportunities are very much confined to government employment. As a result our educated youth are unemployed in Nagaland. Unemployment is one of the main causes of lack of development in the state.

* The study found out the disappointing reality that the State does not have professional courses like medical college, an engineering college, and BSC nursing schools for the state. All the students aspiring to study these courses have to go out of the state for the study. This cause constraints to
The study found out that the basic needs such as drinking water, health centers, irrigation and electrification is extremely poor in many villages. 55% of the villages do not have water supply system. These areas need to be addressed with appropriate technologies. Provision of ample supply of drinking water and electricity in the villages is necessary for development.

Students Union of three villages of Yongnyah, Yongshei and Tangha-under Yongnyah EAC Headquarters of Longleng district, have dismissed the claim of the State Government about achieving 100 per cent rural electrification.

39% of the villages don’t have proper road connectivity. State transport system from the capital to the villages is a must for development. It is found that only one bus runs from the state capital to the districts. 50% of the villages do not have proper transport system. By cutting new roads and developing and maintaining the existing roads, this problem can be solved, without which no development can take place.

It is found out that there are no Marketing facilities for the people to live a comfortable life. Each village should have at least a market complex, whereby they can sell their commodities and buy necessary household articles and earn money for their livelihood.

The study found out that the basic needs such as drinking water, health centers, irrigation and electrification is extremely poor in many villages. 55% of the villages do not have water supply system. These areas need to be addressed with appropriate technologies. Provision of ample supply of drinking water and electricity in the villages is necessary for development.

Government should set up at least one medical college and few engineering colleges, B.SC nursing schools and General nursing Schools in the State. Engineering Colleges in different streams exclusively for the state, so that the deserving students from the villages will get admission in these institutions.

those aspiring students, whose parents financial position is not sound. Government should set up at least one medical college and few engineering colleges, B.SC nursing schools and General nursing Schools in the State. Engineering Colleges in different streams exclusively for the state, so that the deserving students from the villages will get admission in these institutions.
It is found that both in the cities as well as in the rural areas there is lack of dignity of labour among the people.

It is found that various government sponsored schemes and programmes do not reach the people in the villages. There should be some mechanism to check the corruption. Corruption at all levels should be uprooted in the state. Even the Morung Express daily newspaper report also agrees with my findings and highlighted that the funds do not reach the people. It is also found that there is no sincerity on the part of the state to implement the constitutional provisions for the STs.

It is found that banking facilities are not available to 80% of the people in the villages. This is also a drawback for development. Banking should be availed to these people, so that much more can be done.

The study found that only 20% of the training programmes are conducted in the villages, rest of the training programmes are conducted in the cities or towns. So the people from the villages are unable to participate in the programmes conducted by the government. So it is desirable to conduct various training programmes in the respective sub-divisions, where the villagers can take part in it, rather than conducting them in the District Headquarters.

It is also found that in almost all the backward districts there are no colleges for job oriented vocational courses to facilitate the youths to get employ themselves.
The study found that 30% of the educated people in Nagaland are unemployed. The Cottage and local employment generation schemes in the tribal area must be given top priority. The efforts may be made so that persons should get the employment at nearby their native place, for this purpose forest based programmes and schemes must be given priority.