CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Development means change with growth. The development administration in tribal areas is likely to change the existing status of tribal and their environment in a positive and desirable manner. However, the introduction of tribal development programmes is likely to alter or at least make impact on the attitude, life style and values of tribal people. In this context, the administrators must understand exciting ways of tribal people and the theories and techniques of social change and development administration. Tribal development poses a different kind of challenges to development administrators because first administration in tribal areas emerges with the involvement of local community, who have quest for development benefits. Secondly, the constitution mandates the administrators with special responsibilities to develop these tribal areas. Moreover, tribal areas vary in topography, culture, level of development and capacity to adapt the developmental challenges. Anyhow, the process of development and the nature of development programmes are to some extent designed to meet the needs of the tribal areas. There are several approaches to tribal development. Such approaches may be based on areas i.e. tribal development blocks, tribal sub-plan areas and hill areas. Some time such approach may be instructional based such as tribal agency, large scale multipurpose co-operative society or directorate of tribal welfare. In some ways such approach may be programme or scheme, target oriented based with may include (a) improvement in the quality of life, (b) reductions of poverty (c) checking the extinction of a particular tribes, (d) elimination of exploitation and money lenders, (e) prevention of shift in cultivation, (f) introduction of joint forest management, and (g) skill training and income generation activities.

However, where a single line administrative approach is not suitable for tribal development, an integrated approach or holistic approach is suggested for the socio-economic and political empowerment of tribals. Since independence both central and state government have implemented a number of tribal development programmes starting with mere general awareness programme to most appreciated skill training and income generation activities. A deep analysis of erstwhile tribal development programmes provides
a number of researchable dimensions in the area of tribal development. The available literature both in the forms of published books, articles in journals and unpublished thesis shows that.

Indian experience of tribal development through five year plans has evidently developed various strategies for sustainable tribal development. After implementing several strategies like creating Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Blocks in second five year plan, to integrate tribal development projects during fifth five year plan and adopting empowerment strategies during ninth five year plan, recognizing and enhancing forest rights of the tribals during twelfth five year plan and adopting human development approach at present have sustained the effort of government towards welfare of tribals in India. On the one hand, development of tribal areas is taking place with the available constitutional safeguards and development inputs from government. The impact of development in tribal education, tribal literacy, tribal health, assimilation of tribals in development process, level of participation in development programmes, social and cultural developmental of tribes, interface with bureaucracy and government – all takes place but on the other hand, alienation of tribes from their land, exploitation by the outsiders, irrational use of natural resources, lack of access to education, health facilities and developmental programmes, non availability of modern facilities like electricity, road, potable drinking water, ICT, transport facilities are also still continuing.

Displacement of tribal population in the name of development leads to conflict and tribal unrest. Inadequate and non operational constitutional safeguards for tribal people, due share in developmental process and denial of right to participate, lack of transparency in tribal development programmes, gender inequality among tribes, diminishing status of tribal identity, culture and tribal arts, lack of financial assistance for income generation activities, lack of engagement from the government side, excessive administration due to overlapping rural and tribal development programmes have also burdened the process of tribal development. Malayali Tribes are not an exception to all these issues.

The available literature surveyed indicates the following constraints in tribal development which includes lack of realistic approach, change in appropriate strategies,
inadequate financial support, cosmetic approach, lack of future vision and alternative strategies.

As far as this study is concerned, the main objective is to reveal the changing pattern of development among the Malayali Tribes of Vellore district. Data have been gathered through an interview schedule from 360 respondents. Respondents were chosen from tribal villages located in Anaicut, Madhanur, Katpadi, Nemili, Thiruppatur, Alangayam, Jolarpet, Pernampet Panchayat Unions.

**Important Findings of the Study**

Now it would be more informative to peep into the varied nature of the respondents and their socio-economic background. Among the total 360 respondents, 55.83 per cent are male and 44.17 per cent are female. An important finding is that 63.33 respondents have medium size families having 3-4 members.

Among the total respondents 41 per cent are from middle age group i.e. 26-35 years. Another 42.33 per cent are below the 36 years of age and the remaining 16.67 per cent respondents are older and above the age of 50 years. The marital status shows that 81.67 per cent are married and 18.33 per cent are unmarried.

The educational qualification of the respondents clearly reveals the educational backwardness of the tribal population in the study area. Among the respondents 11.12 per cent are illiterates. Nearly 50 per cent respondents have not crossed their middle school education. In this category, 26.66 per cent have completed only the primary education and another 23.06 per cent have gone up to middle school only. Yet another 26.94 per cent respondents have completed their higher secondary education. The remaining 12.22 per cent are either degree holders or have technical qualification such as ITI, paramedical courses etc.

For improving the educational development, government has established Tribal Residential Schools. Two residential schools are functioning in Yelagiri Hills and Peenjamandhai. About the functioning of the tribal residential schools, 43.33 per cent
respondents are highly satisfied and another 25.28 per cent are satisfied. The remaining 31.39 per cent respondents are not satisfied with the functioning of tribal residential school.

Housing structures of the Malayali tribes have manifested both the economic status and developmental transformation taking place in the study area. Before independence most of the Malayali tribes used to live mostly in thatched huts, whereas now the trend has changed and 45 per cent of respondents live in concrete houses either provided by government scheme or by the forest department. Only 18.89 per cent of the respondents live in huts, that too in interior areas. Those who have access to transport, city, exposure with NGOs and government officials appear to be assimilating themselves with mainstream development.

Occupational analysis shows that 56.66 per cent respondents engage in agriculture and related activities like animal husbandry etc. 19.44 per cent respondents involve mainly in collecting forest produce and closely work with forest department. Yet another 19.17 per cent respondents who do not have land and permanent occupation opt for seasonal activities, construction works and any other menial jobs.

Most of the Malayali tribes one or in another way engage in animal husbandry activities, as many SHGs formed are involved in poultry farms, honey production, turkey, pigeons, fisheries, goat and sheep rearing etc. As such 76.94 per cent respondents accepted that they are engaged in animal husbandry activities.

Due to poverty and ignorance, tribals are exploited by the outsiders and money lenders. After realization of this fact, government has started establishing multi-purpose co-operative societies for tribals. Now the society purchases the forest produce from the tribals for a reasonable price. Tribals also get loans from the society and members are informed about government welfare programmes and schemes. Two societies are functioning in Yelagiri and Pudur Nadu. As such 31.67 per cent respondents opine that they could get agricultural loan easily from the societies. Another, 20.27 per cent respondents have benefited by selling their forest produce to the societies. Yet another 13.33 per cent respondents are happy to get loans from societies for the educational expenditure of their children. Only a few, 6.67 per cent are pledging their jewels in the
societies for urgent needs. However, 28.06 per cent are not getting any benefits from the societies. Hence, it is obvious that majority of the Malayali tribes are benefitted from these societies.

The monthly family income of the respondents clearly shows that more than half of the respondents i.e., 55 per cent earn up to Rs. 6000 as their average income. Another 23.33 per cent get Rs. 6001-10000 as their monthly income. Only 21.67 per cent get more than Rs. 10000 as their monthly income. Therefore, it seems that there exists economic backwardness. Both the central and state governments must take necessary initiatives to enhance the economic status of the Malayali tribes living in Vellore district.

Similarly, about the income, 53.33 per cent respondents expressed their satisfaction as they could live satisfactorily with their income. Another 24.17 per cent respondents are to some extent satisfied with their income. However, 22.5 per cent are not satisfied as they get very meager income and live in poverty, because these respondents are either having no land of their own or very old and they are not able to find regular jobs in their locality.

Yet another important finding of this study is that 70.28 per cent respondents are in the habit of migration for doing work in the neighbouring state or district. Because, most of them have small piece of land, in many hamlets electricity is not available and rain is scanty, Malayalis are not able to engage in agricultural activities throughout the year. Hence, they go for seasonal works by migrating to neighbouring areas. There are several controversies that surround the NGOs, i.e. source of funding, ideological orientation, their loyalties etc. However, NGOs have played a vital role in bring the tribal from dark to lights, from ignorance to awareness, from submissiveness to empowerment etc. In this 33.33 per cent respondents accepted that NGOs have rendered a marvelous service. Another 59.17 per cent respondents are to some extent satisfied with the services of NGOs. Only 7.5 per cent have negative opinions on NGOs.

Due to growing awareness created by NGOs and government agencies 91.38 per cent respondents have obtained tribal identity cards. Similarly, 88.33 per cent respondents have their voter identity card, Aadhar cards and community certificates.
Access to health appears to be a difficult task both for tribals and government machineries. Because, tribals have to walk more than 5 to 10 kms for health centers. Governments is not able to reach all the tribals to take care of their health care needs as tribals like in isolated, interior and non approachable areas in the hill and their strength also not much. Hence, about the health care only 41.67 per cent respondents are satisfied.

Ration shops and the resultant distribution of essential commodities are also not reaching all the tribes in needy times, as such only 64.72 per cent respondents are satisfied in their regard.

Due to their ignorance, non availability of suitable schemes and attitude of the banks 76.94 per cent respondents are not at all covered by any type of insurance schemes.

Collection of minor forest produces is an additional income providing job for most of the Malayali women. As such, 70.28 per cent respondent opined that permission given to collect forest products is most beneficial to them. Similarly, 58.33 per cent accepted that their forest collections get a fair price as they sell it in co-operative societies.

Another important finding is that MGNREGS has reached majority of tribals and as such 63.33 per cent respondents felt that besides their routine work it has given them additional employment opportunities. Yet another contribution of Malayalis is that 58.06 per cent.

Another trend that reflects the changing pattern of development is that women development also taking place among the tribals. With the efforts of NGOs, banks and government 64.17 members have already joined self help groups. Initiatives are also taken to mobilize the remaining women and men to make them SHG members. Besides NGOs and SHGs influence of political parties and tribal welfare organizations have also been found among the Malayali tribe in Vellore district. An interesting fact is that 76.11 per cent respondents are satisfied with the government initiatives for poverty alleviation among tribals.

Similarly, 58.33 per cent respondents understand about participatory development programmes such as joint forest management and involve in it. Another important aspects
of tribal development is that the interaction of government official with the tribals to train, monitor and take remedial measures, in this regard only 28.61 per cent respondents acknowledged that government officials visit their area often and another 58.33 per cent told that they visit only occasionally. Another finding is that 60.56 per cent respondents are satisfied with the behaviour of the forest officials and the remaining 39.44 per cent expressed negative attitudes towards them.

It is true that despite sustained efforts of government and community based organizations, tribals especially Malayalis in this study, remains backward and tribal development programmes are not reached them as desired. In this regard, respondents have listed lack of road and communication facilities, less co-operation from government officials, lack of education and awareness as causes for such backwardness.

From the social, economic and historical points of view, tribals including malayalis have been subjected to isolation, exploitation, bonded labour and excluded from developmental processes. Due to all these maladies have been slowly decreasing due to the constitutional safeguards, NGOs intervention, awareness caused by educational development, judicial activism etc. The tribal way of adoption to development processes is slower but it is taking it strong and deeper roots. We have to wait little more time to see their empowerment. Malayali are on the right tract of development processes.
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