Development programmes in its comprehensive sense relates to overall development of the **Tribal areas** and **Rural areas**. Conceptually also rural development is taken as the development of tribal areas to achieve the desired positive changes both in a qualitative as well as quantitative sense. Tribal development is the ultimate analysis, which involves the provisions of opportunities for the optimum utilisation of the population residing in the tribal areas and the region under study is not an exception to this.

Tribal development is therefore, an absolute and urgent necessity of our country and the tribal development programmes have always attracted the attention of Economists, Social Reformers, Geographers and Politicians. Since 89.71 per cent of the population is being accommodate by the tribal areas. And the majority of the tribal workforce mainly depends on forest and agriculture alongwith other allied activities. The past experience of tribal development planning has shown a disenchantment with **growth centred strategies** and **percolation theory** of tribal development on the basis of which planning was done for the removal of poverty, inequality and unemployment. But the percolation theory of tribal development has failed to bridge the gap between the rich and poor, though it lead to some spatial growth in tribal areas and Mandla-Dindori region is not exception to this.

The first step in tribal development was with the creation of social consciousness and to create awareness among the people about the number of obstacles coming in the way of their development. On the otherhand attempts were made to plan the number of programmes to overcome them, includes their rights and duties in a community in which they live; progressive aspects of their traditions and their own strength and potentialities to develop themselves, that is why the emphasis placed on tribal development is not new. Even prior to independence Gandhiji also pointed out the need and significance of developing the Indian villages to achieve the assured overall development specially that of the remotely located tribal areas of the country.

No doubt, substantial efforts were made from the begining for the overall development of the tribal people and areas but unfortunately the majority of the tribal poor still continue to live in object poverty. Pandit Nehru was of the view that the basic thing that is necessary for the development of country was the dependable assured development of power sector i.e. the electric power and
even the atomic power. According to him tribal development including the industrialisation of the tribal areas/regions to a great extent will require the availability of power. One can do many things in the tribal areas without show and even without making major investments. Agricultural activities too have to be linked with commercialisation and/or industrialisation. So can animal husbandry alongwith other similar programmes to be tied up and integrated with industrialisation. It is therefore, desirable that these aspects should carefully be examined. An enormous field will be opened and it will become necessary to train the people as per the requirements of various sectors.

Tribal development is an old theme, but has evolved new contents and fresh concerns. The earlier definitions of tribal development assumed the village to be a homogenous entity. But this truth was exploded under the impact of the first set of tribal development programmes implemented during the first five year plan period.

Tribal development in its comprehensive sense related to the overall development of the rural and tribal areas and that of tribal masses. Many sectors of our planning such as electrification, water supply, health, education, improvement of agriculture and industrial sectors have a direct bearing on the income generation and in providing employment opportunities to ensure the upliftment of the tribal poor then by influencing the standard of living achieved in the country side.

According to Michael Todaro also Rural Development encompasses (i) improvement in the levels of living conditions including employment, education, health and nutrition, housing and variety of social services; (ii) minimising inequality in the distribution of rural income and narrow down the gap of the rural-urban income as well as other economic opportunities and (iii) the capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of such improvements.

Tribal development is a strategy to enable a target group of people, poor men and women, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they need. It involves helping the poorest among the poor, those who seek a livelihood in the tribal areas to demand and control more of the benefits of tribal development. The group specially includes small farmers, marginal farmers, landless agricultural and non-agricultural labourers living below the poverty line.
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In formulating the strategies for tribal development is to articulate the display of sophisticated models and techniques which have not been of much help in resolving the pending issues. Contrary to this, the experiences of development strategies and efforts being initiated in the past have really been of much help.

Tribal development is not a new concept. Several eminent people have contributed their mits towards tribal reconstruction. Tribal development is a classic concept and everyone interprets it in his own way. The general feeling expresses that more emphasis should be given to developmental activities which are specially concerned with the tribal areas, and many of these include agricultural growth, fair wages as also housing and house sites for the landless, village planning, public health, education and functional literacy and finally transport and communication etc.

An over view of the concepts and methods of tribal development provided so far suggests that it has been viewed from different perspectives by various scholars and institutions. Of course, people appears to be common dominators in the development of the tribal environment. Since seventies the concept of tribal development has become more specific in its interpretation. The strategies designed to improve and to extent the benefits of development to the poorest among the poor living below the poverty line, in the tribal areas of the study region as well as in various parts of the country.

In recent years, the concept of integrated tribal development not only has been very frequently being used in the planning documents but has been considered and is used in different studies on tribal development plans, even in pilot projects initiated in the country since 1976-77. Further, integrated tribal development has become the accepted strategy for the tribal development in our five year plans (1978-85). A community or a group action too has been suggested after realising the objectives of the integrated tribal development programme at the grass-root level. Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao has rightly suggested that tribal villages up to the population of 5000 should be clustered for the purpose of development. Thus the theory of cluster of villages as a unit too can be applied to organise and to initiate the process of development for the tribal areas/regions.
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Number of policies has been formulated and various development programmes to achieve the targets have been introduced particularly after 1960s in agriculture, animal husbandry, and rural industries sector certainly have positively helped the rural and tribal people. The population of the region too has been influenced by these policies and programmes. Development is both a cause and a consequence of change. Man and environment constitute the subject matter of development and population is both the cause and consequence of development.

In the process of tribal development the successful implementation of rural development programmes most of which are being designed for the betterment of the tribal masses have positively strengthened the tribal economy of the region. The progress of the country where about 75.0 per cent population residing in tribal areas solely depend on the progress of the villages. Until the development of these villages is assured the development of the country will remain uncertain.

For about four decades Government of Madhya Pradesh has been making sincere efforts for the upliftment of tribal people and their areas by identifying the basic needs and to resolve the problems of the tribal areas and that of the people. During the planned era number of development programmes designed for the tribal areas and people have been implemented in various parts of the state and the region under study is not exception to this.

The purpose of the present study is to conduct the intensive field work as per the specially designed set of village and household questionnaires to collect the first hand information and data from the selected sample villages representing all the development blocks of the study region, to gauge the process of tribal development programmes; to study the tribal development programmes implemented in the area and to analyse their impact alongwith the role of government functionaries and the attitude and involvement of the tribals in the process of the transformation.

THE STUDY REGION

Astronomically Mandla-Dindori region lies between 22°12' to 23°22' North latitude and 80°18' and 85°51' East longitudes and truly has a central location in the country. Administratively the region is divided into two districts i.e. Mandla and Dindori, six tahsils i.e. Mandla, Dindori, Niwas,
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Shahpura, Nainpur and Bichhiya. It is further divided into sixteen development blocks. It covers an area of 13,269 sq.kms. and comprises 4.30 per cent of the states total area.

According to 2001 census, Mandla-Dindori region accommodates more than 14,73,220 persons out of which 7,37,059 are male and 7,36,161 are female 78.56 per cent. Population of the region is residing in 2004 villages and 170 forest villages. While the remaining 21.44 per cent population is being accommodated by the two towns. The region enjoys the direct road link with Jabalpur, Raipur and Nagpur. The region is widely accessible by road. The region is traversed by National Highway 12A which connect the region with important towns like Jabalpur in the northwest, Bilaspur in the east, Raipur in the southeast, Nagpur in the southwest and Bhopal in the west.

The dominant feature of the physiography is Narmada valley and is the main river valley of the region. The important tributaries of Narmada include Budiner (Halon, Phen and Kukarnala), Kharmer, Machrar, Chakrar, Turar, Seoni, Banjar (Surpan-Matiari) and Thanwar etc. The drainage system of the region is directed towards the north and northwest and is drained by Gangetic system.

The climate is cold winter, hot summer medium rains are the main is generally, pleasant and salubrious. The region has rich forests and belongs to the northern tropical dry deciduous type and moist deciduous forest consisting of teak forests, mixed forests and reserved forest. The region is a well-known timber growing area of the state.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study is to review various development policies and programmes initiated and implemented by the government for the upliftment of the tribal areas; to evaluate the utility and need of various programmes; to examine the impact of tribal development programmes in minimising the disparities; to examine the relevance of target area and social groups and their other achievements; to analyse the role and place of non-agricultural activities and allied activities related to agriculture in transforming the environment of the region; to trace the inter village linkages in terms of employment and marketing; to study the role and impact of development institutions and finally to examine the social dynamics of tribal development.
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The main objective of the study is "Development programmes and transformation of tribal environment of Mandla-Dindori region (M.P.)". Attempts have also been made to study the transformation of physical environment, socio-economic, cultural and agricultural environment, of the tribal areas of the study region.

A BRIEF REVIEW OF WORK ALREADY DONE IN THE FIELD

Very few efforts have been made to tackle the problem of spatial backwardness, tribal and regional disparities and income inequality in relation to social justice, redistribution and optimum consumption and balanced spatial development. Advocacy for this aspect has emerged as an important provocator in the nation development policy of India including other developing countries (Singh, 1980). Considering the existence of the poverty areas, within each region has been described by Friedmann as the syndrome of collective poverty (Mathur, 1976).


At the UN Conference in Nagoya, Friedmann and Douglass explained the need to integrate rural with urban development, the countryside with cities.

Friedmann (1974) explained the need of territorial and functional integration for development and as a prerequisite for Integrated Rural Development. He also explained the need to rearrange the priorities in the use of investment funds at national and state level and the adoption of a spatial framework for the formulation of the appropriate policies and programmes.
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Serious attempts were also made by various government and non-government organisations including academicians to critically review all previous development programmes and concluded that most of the efforts related to tribal development are mainly limited to raising the agricultural production caring growth with equity; there is lack of coordination and interlinkages between different programmes and agencies; efficiency of the staff is not satisfactory and the procedure adopted is not simple, and there exists great discrimination by rich people on poorest sections of our society due to their traditional discrimination on development programmes. On the other hand, experiences show that their exist several constraints in the present development planning process due to administrative and political frame work.

I.G.U. Commission on Rural Development also emphasized the need to analyse the rural space as a multi-functional organisation, analysing the rural space and has also indicated few research themes: (i) Typology of rural areas (structure or the rural functions, trend of rural transformation and mobilisation of rural resources), (ii) The place of rural spatial types in the regional structure of the economy (i.e. interrelationship of urban and rural areas) and (iii) Formulation of development concepts for spatial types.

The term integrated rural development is frequently used by academicians, financial institutions, international agencies and national institutions dealing with the problems of rural areas. The term has been widely used by Kotter (1974), Ahmed (1975), Clark (1975) and World Bank (1975) and denotes varied and sometimes conflicting approaches. Weitz, Raanan (1978) discussed that the human and institutional factors in rural development in the developing countries assume prime importance and expressed the need of professionals to carryout the development plants, as they can cope simultaneously various aspects. Soja (1974) pointed out that integrated rural development not only aims at reducing poverty but also at combating the prevailing forces of cultural homogenisation, economic dependency and political manipulation. Yudelmen (1976) revealed that success of rural development involves a unique combination of technical and institutional change. Singh's (1986) work on Geography of Rural Development provides an integrated new perspective in development studies and an excellent model for the researchers representing geography, economics, rural development, resource management, planners and decision makers.
NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD

Tribal areas of our country have been facing numerous problems and number of academicians and/or the planners including geographers have attempted to study few of these problems. Since the 1960 serous attempt were made by number of academicians and in the books written by Mumford, Taylor, Meadow, Mesarovic and Pestel, Heibronner, Habermass and Mandel voiced about various issues faced by the rural area and their people. Seer was the first who raised the issue of income distribution and employment in rural areas while Friedmann and Weaver attempted to talk on the new schemes of development doctrine. Singh and Rana discussed the Rural Habitat Transformation following the line of thinking as advocated by the I.G.U., I.G.U.W.G. - TRHDC and attempted to coordinate human and infrastructural issues covering environmental, socio-economic and behavioural dimensions.

During the late eighties and early nineties the investigations in the geography of tribal development conducted by geographers were generalised and were very few. It certainly required a serious attention of the geographers because tribal development as a concept had become the issue of national importance and has drawn the attention of people from various disciplines.

During late 1990 gradual emphasis was towards the case studies not only to know the first hand information of the tribal areas and their people but also to gauge the impact of tribal development programmes implemented and to evaluate and also to analyse the attitude of beneficiaries and that of government officials looking after the implementations.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Library work: Considering the nature of the present study, to review the available literature books, doctoral research works, journals, periodicals, reports of various government and that of research institutes and other agencies engaged in the field of tribal development and other related fields, articles based on field study reported in state and nation daily news papers too have been consulted to collect the required information and data on the subject as per the objectives of the study.

For the purpose Jawaharlal Nehru University Library of Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Library of DRDA, Mandsa-Dindori Tribal Department and various other department libraries located at Mandsa, Dindori, Bhopal
and New Delhi have been consulted and attempt has also been made to collect the required literature on the subject.

**Selection of the Study Area**: The proposed study has been conducted in the Mandla and Dindori districts, administratively lies in the jurisdiction of Jabalpur Revenue Division, having district headquarter at Mandla and Dindori has been purposely selected for the present study. It is so because Mandla-Dindori region is also considered as agriculturally developed region in the Mandla-Dindori revenue district. On the otherhand in the proposed study region only Mandla block is the general block while remaining blocks are tribal block. It was also thought to assess the process of tribal development and to gauge the degree of awareness among the tribal masses and the attitude of the officials looking after the implementation of various rural and/or tribal development programmes.

Mandla-Dindori is well known for its agricultural productivity influencing the economy of the tribal areas and is a potential region for further development. Number of development programmes and schemes too have been implemented in various parts of the region. On many occasions number of questions have been raised regarding the validity of various development programmes implemented and their impact on the tribal people and respective tribal areas. Severe criticism of many programmes too have been made considering the objectives and the procedure being followed in their implementation. In this context, it is important to assess the success of some of these programmes in the Mandla-Dindori region evaluating the ground realities.

**Selection of the sample of villages**: Mandla-Dindori region with sixteen development blocks has 2174 villages. At the first stage of the sampling only one per cent villages representing all the sixteen development blocks have been randomly selected. In the process efforts have been made to as certain that atleast one village is selected from each block to ensure the wider representation from the region for this study. Thus, in all 22 villages have been selected as sample villages.

**Selection of the Respondents**: Considering the nature of the present study household has been considered as ultimate unit. After selecting the sample villages, efforts have been made in selecting the cross section of the households representing various social groups for the detailed study based on their income. Considering the time constrain 5.27 per cent households
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from the selected sample villages have been selected from various levels considering their activities, caste, income, beneficiaries of the programmes and also the non-beneficiaries.

To have a detailed first hand and microscopic study of the selected households from the sample villages, are divided into three categories i.e. (a) village with more than 90 households will be placed in the first category, (b) villages with 40-90 households in second category and (c) villages with less than 40 households will be placed in third category. At the second stage selection proportion of the respondents has been made considering (i) 0-500, (ii) 500-10,000 and (iii) 10,000 - 15,000 per cent from the third category. This has purposely been done to ensure the wider representation, to evaluate the implementation of various programmes, to examine the procedure adopted and to gauge the impact of various programmes on selected beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries as respondents representing various social groups i.e. General, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Castes (OBC) as the representative classes of our society.

Collection of Data

As per the nature and requirement of the present research problem secondary and primary data and information has been collected from various sources. Secondary data such a block-level information and data for varying period alongwith the overall information and detailed data for the region as a whole too have been collected. Data related to various Tribal development programmes and schemes, types of loans, loan amount sanctioned, the proportion of subsidy and other details of the selected beneficiaries has been collected. Socio-economic problems involved in the implementation of various tribal development programmes and related population data too are collected from the District Census Handbook of the Mandla and Dindori districts. District Gazetteer of Mandla and Dindori, various Fiver Year Plans, Publications and Report of the Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA), District Tribal Development Agency and several other documents being published by other agencies too are being consulted before and during the field work to have the first hand knowledge of various issues considering the purpose of the study. Data and detailed information of various tribal development programmes implemented in the region, have been collected by adopting the persuasion and repeated visits, to ensure the availability of required data and information for the study.
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A set of detailed questionnaire and a schedule has been designed for the village survey and household survey based on the objectives of the study. The detailed data and information regarding the sample villages have been collected using village questionnaire.

From the identified and selected 316 household covering the 22 sample villages data and information has been collected as per the detailed household questionnaire specially prepared for the purpose, covering all the sample villages. During the fieldwork method of personal interview too has been adopted.

A great deal of discussion has been made with the local people, other than the selected sample respondents, representing various levels and are engaged in various activities during personal visits. As per the need of the hour, researcher has preferred to stay even during the night at certain sample villages wherever it became necessary to develop the understanding and to have the first hand knowledge of the situation prevailing respective sample villages. Stay at such sample villages has provided greater opportunity for informal discussions and has helped the researcher to have the first hand information and insight in the prevailing situations in the villages. Processes and customs, degree of awareness and the programmes initiated and implemented by the government in the region. This all not only has positively facilitated to know but also to understand various facts to the study region and its people.

PROCESSING OF COLLECTED DATA

Mainly tabular analysis has been adopted so as to derive the conclusions for the present study. The collected data have been processed by using simple frequency counts, cross tabulations, simple statistical methods of percentage and averages too are used.

Simple correlation too are worked out with reference to some of the independent variables such as caste, occupation, annual income and landholdings. As per the need of the study statistical tests like significance of variance too have proved to be very helpful in analysing the inter and intra regional variations.

All the information, thus obtained has been analysed and scientifically and systematically presented with the help of cartographic techniques, using maps and diagrams to correlate and explain the different aspects of the present study.
EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE PROPOSED STUDY

The accessibility of the sample villages and the availability of infrastructural facilities in these villages is going help in gauging the constrains and problems faced by the rural masses and also by the agencies managing the implementation and monitoring of various rural development programmes in the study region. The socio-economic analysis of the beneficiaries of various rural development programmes and other sample households representing non-beneficiation is going to help not only in identifying and assessing the future needs of the people but has helped in evaluating the impacts of various rural development programmes implemented in the region in last five decades.

The outcome of the proposed study will and can also become useful to various agencies working in the field of tribal development to know the attitude of tribal population and their involvement towards these programmes and also that of the government machinery, looking after the implementation and monitoring of the tribal development programmes. The findings of the study will provide an opportunity with detailed facts, to know the expectations, experiences and the problems being faced by the beneficiaries, and non-beneficiaries of the programmes specially designed and implemented for them, probably without considering the actual requirements of the target areas and/or target groups. The results of the study not only are going help in identifying the problems related to villages, beneficiaries and tribal development programmes but will also help in assessing the growing needs of the tribal masses and to suggest the possible remedial measures.

Content of the present study is divided into ninth chapters.

The first chapter deals with the geo-economic personality of the region. Chapter second explains the development programmes and policies; Process of tribal development in the study region has been presented in the third chapter. The transformation of sample village has been discussed in the fourth chapter. The transformation of socio-economic environment has been explained in the fifth chapter. In the sixth chapter the transformation of agricultural environment has been examined. The seventh chapter explains the transformation of infrastructure facilities in the study region. The eighth chapter discusses the transformation of living environment and finally in the ninth chapter conclusions have been presented alongwith the problems and suggestions.