CHAPTER-5

ECONOMY AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AMONG THE GUJJARS

'Cowherds or Gujjars as they are called have in the past suffered so much from having had their milk and butter taken from them without payment by the native officials and also sometimes by the servants of travelers, who do not look after them properly. The worldly belongings of each family are five or six ponies, buffaloes, cows and sometimes sheep or goats.'

-K.M. Munshi

The Human beings, as different from animals is incessantly engaged in what are known as economic pursuits or activities. These economic activities are so multifaceted, varied and complex that they constitute what is known as an ‘economy’. The economy may be treated as a system or a sub-system. It is a sub-system in the wider social system. It is possible to view the economy as the parent system, and analyze its constituent clusters of activities — production, investment, and innovation and so on — as themselves constituting sub-system (Rao, 2002).

This chapter deals with the study of the economy of the Gujjars of Jammu in terms of their traditional occupation, changes coming about in them, factors responsible for occupational changes and Central and State development programmes and policies for their economic upliftment. As Gujar tribe is achieving new scales with the passage of time, their economy has shifted from their traditional occupation to the more diversified contemporary ones. It is argued that improved educational and economic conditions also play an important role in identity formation of the Gujjars.

The Gujjars who were mostly nomadic and semi-nomadic were steeped in ignorance and age old backwardness since centuries. They lived mostly in primitive and semi-forest areas. They were financially, educationally and vocationally disadvantaged.
Their traditional profession has been generally to graze their cattle and supply its produce such as milk and ghee etc. to the urban people after covering a many kilometers of the hilly track. They usually live far from the towns on the hills and remote areas/places.

Gujjars are known traditionally for their transhumant economy and nomadic and pastoral life. The primary means of production for a Gujjar family is based on ‘Pastoral Economy’. Apart from this, flock is another important source of income which is received through sale of flock products like wool, goat hairs, sale of animals for meat, mutton, milk and milk products. In addition to these, Gujjars also derive their income from supplementary work, namely hunting, forest collection, agricultural and pastoral labour, labour on roads and forests, trading of animals and miscellaneous seasonal work such as hiring out of Ponies to the tourists (Khatana, 1992).

Khatana (1992) in his study on transhumance economy of Gujjar and Bakerwals of Jammu and Kashmir said that the life and expectations of the Gujjar Bakerwals are tied to the flock and its products because of the fact that flock is the basic means of production in this pastoral society. Each owner usually aims at keeping as many animals (sheep, goats and buffaloes) as possible. This urge to build up large flocks can be attributed to several factors. They regard flocks as wealth and a man’s social position depends upon the size of his flock rather than upon money or other possessions. Large number of flocks are also kept as a form of insurance against natural calamities on the assumption that the more animals a man has the greater the number that is likely to survive a bad year. This urge to gather large flocks and the consequent variations in pastoral wealth are the primary factors which determine the high or low status of a family.

Because of the traditional economy attached to flocks and other pastoral wealth, the pattern of inequality is associated with the ownership of the pastoral assets. The hierarchy of social positions, the concepts of rank and status are linked up with the flock strength and ownership of other pastoral assets.

In a transhumant society of the Gujjar Bakerwals, the flock is a major source of production and forms the largest portion of the total income. In fact in pastoral nomadic
society, where land and household productive activities are negligible, flock becomes the major source of income. The people of this community, in addition to the flock of sheep and goats also own other animals, namely, horses, mules, bovines and oxen (Ibid., 1992).

The Gujjars on the basis of their occupations and settlements in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are classified as — cultivators (mugami) who have sedentarized on the slopes and side valleys and the Gujjars who practice transhumance. The second category is further sub-divided into Baniharas or Dodhi Gujjars (milkmen) and Bakerwal Gujjars (who rear sheep and goats). The Baniharas or the Dodhi Gujjars tend buffaloes and sell milk and milk products and for this reason they are known as dodhi (milkmen). They live in bans (forests) for which reason they are also known as Baniharas (the residents of forests). The Gujar Bakerwals keep large herds of bakri (goats) and this is the reason why they are called Bakerwals. This classification of nomadic groups is based on the types of animals they rear for their economic pursuits (Ibid., 1992).

Gujjars, an ancient tribe traditionally leading nomadic and pastoral life since ages with main occupation as cattle herding and cattle rearing are now shifting to other occupations of present day social life. Many changes have taken place in the livelihood activities since 1947. A cattle rearing is no longer the main occupation among them. Though few families still rear buffaloes, milk and milk products, except in the settlements near the towns, are meant for domestic consumption (Manku, 1986).

**Table- 5.1: Occupation of the Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Sector</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>59.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>15.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>260</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Based Data*

The above Table- 5.1 suggested that majority of the respondents i.e., 59.61 percent revealed that they are employed in Government services; 25 percent were employed in Private sector and 15.38 percent revealed that they are running their own
business. Some of them informed that they still rear cattles but for their own domestic consumption.

As a matter of fact, Gujjar community have entirely been sedentarized and taken to agriculture and other economic activities especially in Jammu. Apart from agriculture, a large number of Gujjars have taken to trade and commerce, besides being absorbed in the service sector. They are now permanently settled down in almost all towns and villages. The process of sedentarization is also the logical concomitant of the spread of education and an overall upgrading of standard of living. Whenever, a pastoral nomad achieves a satisfactory level of affluence or gets some education or both, the tendency to escape the hardships and uncertainties of pastoralism by adopting agriculture, trade or service as an alternative source of subsistence, become manifested (Magray, 2003).

After the independence of India, the occupational avenues have undergone a tremendous change. With the spread of education and other amenities of life the traditional occupational structure has considerably changed. The Gujjars who had been a nomadic tribe are extensively becoming sedentary having a settled life. Though animal rearing is still practiced, the arable agriculture has also attained a prominence in the occupation of the Gujjars.

All the respondents revealed that today there is a shift from their traditional economy (occupation) to other more diversified contemporary ones.

**Table- 5.2: Responses towards factors responsible for change in traditional occupation to contemporary occupation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>28.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribe Status</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>23.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedentarization</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and state government policies for economic upliftment</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservation (Services, Education)</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>19.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>260</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field based data*
Above Table- 5.2 reveals that 28.07 percent of the respondents held that education is one of the factors responsible for change in their traditional occupation to the other contemporary occupations. Similarly 23.84 percent, 19.61 percent, 15.76 percent and 12.69 percent of the respondents held Scheduled Tribe status, reservation in services and education, various Central and State Government policies for economic upliftment of Gujjars and sedentarization factors responsible for the shift from traditional occupation to other modern occupations respectively.

**Central Government Policies for the Development of Gujjars:**

India is a welfare state, committed to the welfare and development of its people and of vulnerable sections in particular. Generally development symbolizes some sort of promotion, up gradation, newness and advancement in positive direction. It is multifaceted process having several dimensions like psychological, intellectual and demographic. In further elaboration, development suggests improvement in the standard of living and progress towards mobility of the people. Development also means progression toward an objective by means of economic growth. It involves utilization of the resources available in the way that is appropriate to the needs of the society. Apparently, it means development revolves around the socio-eco-political legal and even ideological factors.

The Preamble, the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India, stand testimony to the commitment of the State to ensuring welfare of, and securing social and economic justice to, all its people.

The emphasis in the successive Five Year Plans has been to bring about economic and social development of disadvantaged groups of people in the society. The socially disadvantaged groups, viz., Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have received special focus over the years for their social and economic advancement. Concerted efforts have been made by the Government to raise their social and economic status and to bring justice to the downtrodden and neglected communities and to help them to attain some measure of equality in the society through socio-economic development schemes. The
strategy followed for the development and welfare of weaker and vulnerable sections of
the society has been to implement special target group-oriented programmes by
earmarking funds, providing subsidies and reservation in services, Legislature & local
bodies and educational institutions also.

The Central Government of India has committed itself to the overall development
of the country through various programmes. For this purpose the first Prime Minister of
India, late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and his cabinet formulated a Charter of directives which
are being considered as guide line for the multipurpose development Plans of our
country. These Plans are being carried out by the Planning Commission and till date ten
Five year Planning Programmes have been completed successfully and Eleventh is going
to finish. Under these programmes special provision has been made for the upliftment of
backward classes of the society. Similarly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted
in Oct, 1999 by bifurcation of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the
objective of more focused attention on integrated socio-economic development of the
most under privileged section of the society, the Scheduled Tribes in a coordinated
planned manner.

**Schemes for the Development of Scheduled Tribes:**

It needs to be emphasized that the programmes and schemes of the Ministry are
intended to support and supplement through financial assistance, the efforts of other
Central Ministries, the State Government and voluntary organizations, and to fill critical
gaps taking into account the situation of Scheduled Tribes.

The primary responsibility for promoting the interests of Scheduled Tribes thus
rests with all the Central Ministries. The Ministry compliments their efforts by way of
various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes.
These, comprising schemes for economic, educational and social development, are
administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and implemented through the State
Governments/Union Territory Administrations and voluntary organizations. The major
schemes/programmes for the development of Scheduled Tribes are as follows:
1. **Special Central Assistance (SCA) for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP):**

This is a major Programme for the focused development of tribals and tribal areas. Started in the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the special central assistance is provided by the Government of India to the Tribal Sub-Plan of States/UTs as an additive to the State plan to fill gaps in the budgetary provisions towards TSP. It is basically meant for Family Oriented Income Generation (FOIG) schemes in sectors like agriculture, horticulture, minor irrigation, soil conservation, animal husbandry, forest, education, cooperatives, fisheries, village and small industries etc; and infrastructural development incidental there to. The assistance given is hundred percent and it is expected to act as a catalyst for giving a boost to investment by the State Governments and financial institutions. The release of fund is broadly on the basis of the Scheduled Tribe population, geographical area and inverse proportion of per capita net State domestic product.

The State Government in turn releases funds on the basis of certain norms for ITDPs (Integrated Area Development Project), MADA (Modified Area Development Approach) pockets, clusters, Primitive Tribal Groups and dispersed tribal groups. About 70 percent of the SCA fund is spent on family oriented schemes and only 30 percent on the infrastructure incidental to such schemes. There is a thinking to change this proportion by assigning 80 percent of the SCA funds to infrastructure development and only 20 percent for individual/family oriented schemes since individual/family oriented schemes can be taken up under the schemes of the Ministry of Rural development and also funded through the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

The following Table- 5.3 will show that after the introduction of TSP concept in the Fifth Five Year Plan, there has been a tremendous increase in the flow of funds for tribal development (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).
Table- 5.3: Total plan Outlay for Tribal Development [in Crores (Rs.)]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five Year Plan</th>
<th>Total Plan Outlay</th>
<th>Tribal Development Programmes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Plan</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>19.93</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Plan</td>
<td>4672</td>
<td>41.92</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Plan</td>
<td>8577</td>
<td>50.53</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Plan</td>
<td>15902</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Plan</td>
<td>39322</td>
<td>1102.00</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Plan</td>
<td>97500</td>
<td>5535.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Plan</td>
<td>1,80,000</td>
<td>10,500.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Plan</td>
<td>1,66,756.36</td>
<td>15,800.05</td>
<td>9.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth Plan</td>
<td>2,89,147.14</td>
<td>23,375.08</td>
<td>8.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution:

Every year, funds are released to the State Governments to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by them for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and for raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas to that of the rest of the State. The objective is to promote the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and better administration of Scheduled Areas. The scheme covers all Tribal Sub-Plan and tribal majority States of the country. This is a Central sector scheme and 100 percent grants are provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the State Governments. The grants are provided on the basis of Scheduled Tribe population percentage of the State.

The Ministry, which earlier used to release the funds without identifying the projects, has now decided to release funds to the State Governments against specific infrastructure development and welfare projects from 2000-2001. In the Ninth Plan, besides other projects, from the funds allocated under this Scheme it was proposed to establish 100 Residential Schools on the pattern of Navodaya Vidyalayas (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).
3. Boys' and Girls' Hostels for Scheduled Tribe Students:

This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in the year 1961-62 with Central assistance limited to 50 percent of funds provided by the State Governments. This is given for construction of hostel building and extension of existing hostels. In the case of Union Territories, the Central Government releases 100 percent as assistance. The maintenance of these hostels and their buildings are the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. This is a useful scheme for enabling the Scheduled Tribe students to study in hospitable environments and promoting literacy among tribal girls and boys who have many handicaps due to poor socio-economic condition. Since the land for the building is to be provided by the State Governments free of cost and moreover, 50 percent of funds are to be provided by them, there has been poor demand for the construction of the new hostels. The State Government has also to bear the recurring and non-recurring cost of running and maintenance of these hostels (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

4. Ashram Schools in TSP Areas:

This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched during 1990-91 with an objective to extend educational facilities like establishing residential schools for Scheduled Tribes in an environment conducive to learning. The funds under the scheme are given to the States on a matching basis i.e. 50-50 while 100 percent assistance is given to the UTs (Union Territories). The scheme provides funds for the construction of school building from the primary standard to the senior secondary stage of education. It also allows for up-gradation of existing primary level Ashram schools. Under this scheme, besides the school building, the construction of hostels for students and staff quarters are also undertaken.

The State Government has to provide land free of cost for such constructions. Grant is provided for other non-recurring items of expenditure like purchase of furniture, equipments, and sets of books for school and hostel library. A sum of Rs.44.86 crores was earmarked for this Programme in the Ninth Five Year Plan. This scheme suffers
from the same ailment namely the failure of the State Governments to provide 50 percent fund out of their own budgets (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

5. **Scheme for Educational Complex in low Literacy Pockets for Development of Female Literacy:**

It is known that the literacy level among females in the Scheduled Tribes is abysmally low. This scheme is meant to tackle this problem through identification of 134 districts in the country, which have below 10 percent literacy rate among Scheduled Tribe females. The scheme is implemented through NGOs, cooperative societies and State Governments. The primary objective of the scheme is promotion of education among tribal girls in the identified low-literacy districts of the country. The secondary objective is to improve the socio-economic condition of the poor and illiterate tribal population. It is a Central sector scheme and the Government of India provides 100 percent funds.

The educational complexes are established in the rural areas of the notified districts and have classes from I to V with provision for up-gradation up to XII provided they have sufficient accommodation for class rooms, hostels, kitchen, and gardening and for sports. These educational complexes impart not only formal education to tribal girls but also train the students in agriculture, animal husbandry and other vocations and crafts which will make them skilled for leading a better life. The teaching from class I to III is done in the tribal dialects of the area and women having proficiency in tribal dialects are engaged as teachers. Though the strength of students in each class has been fixed at 30, a maximum of 10 more students, if available in the locality, are admitted as day scholars.

The recurring grants provided to run the educational complexes is Rs.9000/- per student per year. This includes expenses on accommodation, food, clothing, payment of salary to teachers etc. The students are provided with two sets of uniform, one set of school books besides free food and medicine. Besides the above, the student’s parents are given the incentive of Rs. 50/- per month. A sum of Rs.1000 per student is also given as a non-recurring grant for purchase of cots, mattresses, utensils, etc. Under this scheme, 128
Educational complexes have been established from the year 1995-96 to 2000-01 (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

6. **Scheme for Vocational Training in Tribal Areas:**

   Realizing the need for skill up-gradation and to equip the tribal youths for self employment, this scheme was introduced in 1992-93 and is continuing since then. The main aim of the scheme is to develop the skill of the tribal youths for a variety of trades and prepare them for new job opportunities as well as self-employment in areas close to their villages as well as outside. The secondary aim is to improve the socio-economic condition of tribal youths by enhancing their earnings. This scheme covers all the States and Union Territories and 100 percent grants under the schemes are provided to States/UTs and other organizations implementing the scheme. These organizations can either be set up by the Government as autonomous bodies under State or Central Government or NGOs registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960.

7. **Scheme for Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs):**

   These groups practicing primitive agricultural practices and having low level of literacy and stagnant or diminishing population face various problems in their progress and development. To cater to the need of such group, a separate scheme was introduced in the year 1998-99 which mainly focuses on ensuring food security and the protection and development of PTGs.

   The objective and purpose of this scheme is that funds under the central sector scheme for the development of PTGs will be available only for those items/activities which though very crucial for the survival, protection and development of PTGs are not specifically catered to by any existing scheme. The activities under the scheme may include measures such as awareness generation and confidence building, training for skill development, improvement in agriculture technology, housing, education and health standards. The scheme covers 75 PTGs spread over 18 States and one UT. 100 percent funds are provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the programmes mentioned
above. Those activities which focus on helping the beneficiaries to cope up with extreme adverse conditions threatening their survival are taken up on priority basis (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

8. **Promotion of Voluntary Efforts:**

The roles of voluntary Non-Governmental Organizations become important as many of them have been rendering yeoman services in the tribal communities of the area. For this purpose the Ministry of Tribal Affairs supports many welfare programmes especially in the field of education and medical care run by the NGOs through the scheme of grant-in-aid to the voluntary organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. This scheme is in operation since 1953-54 but its scope has been increased from the year 1998-99. The schemes run through NGOs include residential school, hostels, medical centres, and computer training centres, shorthand and typing units, balwadis, libraries and audio-visual units. In all, 90 percent of the fund for a Programme is given by the Ministry and 10 percent is to be contributed by the NGOs. From the year 1999-2000, 100 percent fund is also available to the NGOs working in the Scheduled areas.

The main objective of the scheme is to provide for an over-all improvement and development of the Scheduled Tribes through voluntary efforts in the field of education, health and sanitation, environment, drinking water, legal redressed service and those need-based socio-economic upliftment efforts having direct beneficial impact on the target groups (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

9. **Schemes for the Financial Assistance to Scheduled Tribes:**

A new National Finance and Development Corporation meant for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes has been started in the year 2001 after bifurcation of the National SC and ST Finance and Development Corporation. This Corporation would provide financial assistance at concessional rates for income generation activities and training in skill development to STs whose annual income is below double the poverty line. This assistance for self-employment purposes would be available up to Rs.10 lakhs
through the State channelizing agencies which are in many cases the State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

The projects undertaken under this Programme should be technically feasible and financially viable. The Corporation would provide term loan, seed capital, bridge loan etc. at concessional rates of interest. The maximum amount available would be 85 per cent of the project cost with 10 percent coming from the State Corporations and 5 per cent from the beneficiary concerned. It provides finance in the sectors of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and dairy, minor irrigation, small industries, small trade and transport services. This scheme will also help in removing indebtedness among tribal and provide finance at concessional rates which the commercial banks have so far failed to provide (Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

10. Grant-in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations and others:

This is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100% grant, available to the state Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (STDCCs) and other similar corporations of State engaged in collection and trading of minor forest produce (MFP) through tribals Grants under the Scheme are provided to strengthen the Share Capital of Corporations, construction of Warehouses, establishment of processing industries of MFPs etc. to ensure high profitability of the corporation so as to enable them to pay remunerative prices for MFPs to the tribals(Annual Report 2009-10, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India).

11. Educational Development of Scheduled Tribes:

For the promotion of education among the Scheduled Tribes, the following schemes are in operation:

(a) Centrally sponsored scheme of post-matric scholarship: - The post-matric scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance to all ST students for pursuance of post-matric studies in recognized institutions within India. The Scheme
provides for 100% assistance from the Ministry to State Governments and UT Administrations implementing the Scheme, over and above their respective committed liabilities.

(b) National overseas scholarship scheme for higher studies abroad:— Annually, Ministry provides financial assistance to 9 meritorious ST students for Post-graduate, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral studies in foreign universities/institutions of repute.

(c) Book bank scheme:— The Ministry also gives financial assistance for setting up Book-Banks in institutions running professional courses like Medicine, Engineering, Law, Agriculture, Veterinary, Chartered Accountancy, Business Management, and Bio-Sciences.

(d) Scheme of up-gradation of merit:— Under the Scheme "Research & Training" the Ministry provides financial assistance under three components:—

(i) Grants to Tribal Research Institutes on 50:50 sharing basis; for conducting Research & Evaluation Studies, Seminars, and Workshops etc.

(ii) Award of Research Fellowship to Tribal Students on 100% basis registered in Indian Universities.

(iii) Supporting projects of All-India or Inter-State nature on 100% basis to NGOs/Universities etc. for conducting research on tribal matters, Travel Grants and for Publication of Books on tribals.

(e) Coaching for competitive examinations:— These Schemes provide 100% central assistance to State/UT Administrations. The upgradation of merit Scheme is for arranging coaching classes in reputed colleges for developing competence among ST students for their better performance in competitive examinations conducted by various universities institutes for admission to Medical and Engineering courses while the Scheme for coaching is for conducting Pre-Examination Coaching for tribal students for various examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC,

Similarly, to insure the existence of the Tribals in general and Gujjars in particular, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir State has taken number of steps in the bid to improve the welfare of the Gujjars. Different approaches based on different theories and models were applied to solve the problems of the Gujjars and to bring them into the fold of so called progressive society.

State Government Policies for STs (Gujjars):

We have seen above the National Development commitment towards the welfare of the under privileged, down trodden, backward and vulnerable sections of the society is tremendous. Scheduled Tribes constitute 10.90% of the total population of the J&K State. The Gujjars, Gaddis and Bakerwals have been declared as Scheduled Tribes by the Scheduled Tribe order 1989 amended in 1991. As these groups account for a sizeable proportion of the total population, the State of J & K has initiated many schemes for their upliftment on socio-economic front. The State has approved schemes keeping in view especially the economic scenario of these classes and many more schemes are in the pipeline. The schemes for the upliftment of the said target group are implemented through various Departments/Corporations, which are:

1. The J&K Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe & Other Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd.

2. Social Welfare Department

3. Women Development Corporation
The Jammu and Kashmir SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation Ltd:

The schemes undertaken by the Corporation for the socio-economic upliftment of the target group are as under:

1. **Bank Tie-up scheme:** - This scheme is meant for those beneficiaries who are living below the poverty line and interested in the establishment of small income generating units up to Rs.1.00 lakh. This is a regular scheme of the Corporation for whole of the financial year. The Corporation provides subsidy to the extent of 50% of the unit cost subject to a maximum of Rs.10, 000 per unit for SCs, STs & OBCs beneficiaries and 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs.3, 000 in case of other Backward Classes beneficiaries who are sanctioned loans by the Bank under the scheme (Economic Survey 2008-09, Government of J&K).

2. **Direct Financing Scheme:** - The Corporation has started the awareness campaign of this scheme at Tehsil, Block and Village level by organizing camps at far flung areas of the State. The Corporation has tried its best to reach at the door steps of the target group people and to provide due share of financing to each area.

3. **Skill Development Training Programme:** - The SCs, STs & OBCs Corporation so far has arranged Skill Development Training for target group candidates in the following trades, Computer, Nursing Course, Typing, Calico Printing, Sisal Fiber Craft, Electrician, Tailoring, Beauty Culture and Amber Charkha (Economic Survey 2008-09, Government of J&K).

**Social Welfare Department:**

The Department administers Central and State Government’s Schemes in the areas of Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Social Security, Tribal Development and Educational up-lift of SC, ST and OBC Students. It provides direct benefit to the target groups through scholarships, hostel facilities, reimbursement of examination fees, etc. The schemes/programmes are implemented
through various departments /corporations/field agencies. The STs of the society is benefited through the following schemes implemented by the Department (Economic Survey 2008-09, Government of J&K).

**Post-Matric Scholarship to SC/ST Students:**

The scheme is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) over and above the committed liability which is to be borne by the State Government. Under the scheme students of SC/ST community are being provided scholarship whose parents or guardian’s income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 65290/- annually (Economic Survey 2008-09, Government of J&K).

**Construction of Hostels for ST Boys/Girls Students:**

In order to provide safeguard against the exploitation and to promote and protect socially, educationally, economically weaker sections, special care has been taken for their educational interests. Hostels for ST Boys/Girls students have been constructed by this Department. The constructions of ST Boys/Girls Hostels come under two Centrally Sponsored Schemes shared between the Centre and State on 50:50 basis (Economic Survey 2008-09, Government of J&K).

The other major schemes being implemented through the Social Welfare Department are:-

**Advisory Board for Gujjar and Bakerwal:**

Gujjar and Bakerwal Sub-plan is being implemented through State Advisory Board for the Development of Gujjars and Bakerwals for their welfare and upliftment. The J&K State Social Welfare Advisory Board was set up in the year 1995 to implement the programmes of social welfare and to assist the Central Social Welfare Board in expansion and development of welfare services.

The main programmes of the Board are Management of 16 Gujjar and Bakerwal hostels with intake capacity of 1375 inmates which include 3 girls Hostels. Besides this,
the Board provides Pre-Matric Scholarships to Gujjar and Bakerwal students. It is through this Board that financial assistance is given to various voluntary organizations under different schemes. These voluntary organizations give financial assistance for the welfare of Gujjars. Special concessions are given in case of institution of tribal areas. The idea is to cover the low income backward areas, like hilly areas and tribal areas. The programmes of education of women are also promoted in rural tribal, backward urban and slum areas. Vocational training courses for women are also encouraged (Economic Survey 2008-09, Government of J&K).

Beside all these, there are number of other agencies also from where they are getting direct and indirect benefits. Some of them are:-

**National Minority Development and Finance Corporation:**

For the welfare of minorities, the national minority development and finance corporation has been established. The objective of this Corporation is to promote economic development activities for the benefit of backward section among the minority. Women are given preference in these sections. The Commission has the job to assist people in their economic development, self- employment, loans and advances. According to the objectives of this Corporation, ST can benefit by taking up an activity providing work and gain full employment for needy. Through these schemes they can drive adequate income or can supplement the family income.

Small industries for production of various items can be set up either as production or training-cum- production centre. Emphasis is given on handicrafts production, fabric handicrafts, handloom etc. self employment branches can be organized, where tribes can pursue economic benefit themselves.

Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Castes Development Corporation Limited are linked with National Minority Development and Finance Corporation. This Corporation can undertake wide range of activities or socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
Women Development Corporation:

While the male members of economic backward sections are provided finances, in case of minorities through National Minority Development and Finance Corporation, assistance is provided for females by Jammu and Kashmir Women Development Corporation. One of the focused agencies for the development of women is J&K Women Development Corporation which was established in the year 1991. The main objectives of the Corporation are to provide financial assistance for the activities like Food Processing, Weaving, Spinning, Handicraft, Dairy Units, Video-graphy, Sericulture, Floriculture, Agriculture activities and other viable units. These Corporations are formally engaged in providing financial assistance, training-cum-production centres, organizing women and development corporative basis, arranging training, preparing income generating proposal, marketing, providing awareness programme.

It shows that after independence the Government of India, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and Voluntary organizations have made special efforts through the process of planning to bring about economic development of tribal people habitated in different regions of the Jammu &Kashmir. The Government endeavors to bring change in the socio-economic development of Gujjar through plan projects which are implemented by the bureaucratic machineries. Voluntary agencies through their work also play an important role in this regard.

In the light of above Central and State policies, to assess the awareness among Gujjars and benefit received by them out of various schemes meant for Scheduled Tribes, a field survey was undertaken. Following analysis reflects the findings of the field survey.

In order to assess the awareness about the tribal development programmes among the Gujjars, it was observed from the data collected from the field all the respondents were aware of such programmes.
Table - 5.4: Knowledge of Tribal Development Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Books/Uniforms</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to students</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribe Status</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservation in Services</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Hostel Facilities</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Facilities/Financial Assistance</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field based data
Table-5.4 is based on multiple responses

The data presented in the table- 5.4 revealed that a majority of the total 260 respondents reported that they are aware that their community is accorded with Scheduled Tribe status. They said that it is a great benefit to their family for improving their economic condition. About 240 respondents stated that they are aware of about Free Education provided under tribal development programmes. The schemes of free books/free uniforms, scholarship to students and free hostel made available to them under tribal development programme. Similarly 233 respondents have knowledge about reservations in services which were provided by the government to improve their economic condition. The schemes of credit facilities are known to only 93 respondents.

Table- 5.5: Benefits Drawn From Tribal Development Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Books/Uniforms</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to students</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>34.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservation in Services</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>21.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Hostel Facilities</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Facilities/Financial Assistance</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>260</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field based data

Department of Sociology
The data presented in the Table- 5.5 reveals that the respondents on being asked whether they have benefited from any of such programme, 17.30 percent of the respondents reported that they have been benefited as a result of free education facilities provided under Tribal Development Programmes like, free books, free uniforms and free hostel facilities. The benefit of scholarship accrued to about 34.61 percent of the respondents. It is, however, to be noted that 21.15 percent of the respondents reported that they have benefited from the Tribal Development Programme through reservation in services. The benefit of financial assistance has been drawn by 9.61 percent of the respondents. Because of ST status accorded to their community, the schemes for the tribal communities helped these families in one or another way.

Therefore, after independence, the Government of India, on its part, started a programme of financial assistance to Tribal Associations/NGOs for undertaking programmes of social welfare. To know Gujjars’ response related to the Tribal Associations, the researcher asked whether they are aware of the names of the Tribal Associations which are active in the state.

**Table- 5.6: Awareness of Tribal Associations/NGO activeness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>76.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>23.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>260</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field based data*

It is interesting to note from the above Table- 5.6 that 76.15 percent of the respondents have confirmed that they are aware that Tribal Associations/NGOs are active in the state; the remaining 23.84 percent of the respondents are unaware of the intervention of the Tribal Peoples Associations.

To conclude, the major economy of the Gujjars of Jammu earlier was mainly based on cattle-rearing. Majority members of the community were dependent on cattle-rearing and a few supplemented their income by working in the fields of landowners. But
now with the advent of higher education, opportunities for employment has also been made available to Gujjars and they have also been granted Scheduled Tribe status by Government of India which entitles them to job reservation in Government services. As a result of which many educated forward Gujjars have diverted from their traditional occupation of cattle-rearing and milk vending business to Government jobs and some other business but at the same time maintaining their traditional occupation also to some extent.

It has thus been concluded that the Gujjars of Jammu and Kashmir drew much benefits from the programmes launched by the Central and State Government for the socio-economic upliftment. Tribal Associations/NGOs are also playing significant role in socio-economic development of tribal people. However, their work is concentrated mainly in tribal areas and by exceptionally in cities. Voluntary action is a form of organizing activities, supporting, strengthening and helping to develop work to meet all types of legitimate needs of individuals and groups in a society. Therefore, after independence, the Government of India, on its part, started a programme of financial assistance to tribal Associations/NGOs for undertaking programmes of social welfare.

Thus, the Government, in the first 20 years of independence, adopted policy of working with Tribal Associations/NGOs for promoting welfare of the people. As a result several Tribal Associations/NGOs are formed in the tribal areas of different States which are working for the tribal development with the financial assistance of the Government and public donations. Important Tribal Associations and non-official agencies, covering tribal welfare in their programmes in J&K are – (1) Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (2) Tribal research and cultural foundation etc. These Tribal Associations/NGOs, in recent years, are playing a significant role in advancing the social and economic development of Gujjars and thereby in the process of identity formation among them.