Orissa State occupies a distinct place in our country as it represents a unique blend of unity among various castes, communities and minority groups. There are 62 Scheduled Tribe communities, each one different from the other, and 93 Scheduled Caste communities in the State. The State has the privilege of having highest number (13) of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs). Both ST & SC together constitute 38.66% of the total population of the State (ST- 22.13% and SC-16.53% as per 2001 census).

The ST & SC Development and Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department functions as the nodal Department for the welfare and all-round development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Backward Classes. The basic objective of the Department is to formulate and coordinate policies, programmes, laws, regulations etc. for economic, educational and social development of these communities. The principal aim is to empower the principal stakeholders through their educational, economic and social development in order to build self-reliance, self-esteem among them.

The Scheduled Area and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

About 44.70% of the area of the state has been notified as the Scheduled Area in accordance with the orders of the President of India, issued under paragraph 6 of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution. The Scheduled Area in Orissa comprises the entire districts of Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Nawarangapur, Sundargarh, and Kandhamal districts, R. Udayagiri Tahasil, Gumma & Rayagada Blocks, of Gajapati Soroda Tahasil, excluding Gazalbadi and Gochha Panchayats of Ganjam district, Kuchinda Tahasil of Sambalpur district, Telko, Keonjhar, Champua and Barbil Tahasils of Keonjhar district, Th. Rampur and Lanijigarh blocks of Kalahandi district and Nilagiri block of Balasore district.

Tribal Sub-Plan Approach

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) approach envisages integrated development of the Tribal areas, wherein all programmes irrespective of their sources of funding operate in unison to achieve the common goal of bringing the area at par with the rest of the State and to improve the quality of life of the Tribals. The original strategy was oriented towards taking-up family oriented income generating schemes in the sphere of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, elimination of exploitation, human resources
development through education and training programmes and infrastructure development programmes. This tribal development strategy has been reoriented to cover the employment-cum-income generation activities thereto. The strategies more or less continue with refinement over the years with greater emphasis on tribal development.

**Special Projects for Tribal Development**

The main instrument for achieving the constitutional objectives of welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes is the Tribal Sub-Plan, which is carried out through well planned out institutional mechanism. Besides, there are 21 ITDAs, which cover 55.46 lakh tribals (about 68% of the total tribal population) of the State. The remaining tribals live outside the Scheduled areas. Beyond the Scheduled area, there are 46 MADA pockets, 14 Clusters. The remaining tribal population of the State live outside the major project areas in the dispersed manner and are covered under the DTDP. In addition to this, 17 Micro Projects have been functioning for the all round development of 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Of the total 17 Micro Projects, 13 Micro Projects are located within the Scheduled Area and the remaining 4 are located elsewhere.

**Objective and Strategy**

The objectives of the TSP strategy are basically two fold, i.e. (i) socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes and their habitats, and (ii) protection of tribals from exploitation. It is envisaged to enhance the level of development of the Scheduled Tribes by adopting a multi-pronged strategy so as to minimize the gap that existed between them and the rest of the society.

Some of the broad objectives of the TSP approach that have been adopted in the State during the XI Plan period, including 2010-11 year are:

- To provide access to resource, to enhance employment opportunities and bring the income level of the impoverished and asset less tribal people in the TSP area at par with the general population.
- To ensure survival, protection and development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) and bring them at par with the rest of the ST population.
- To strive and to secure for the tribal people their forest rights and for the development of forest dwellers and shifting cultivators.
- To bridge the critical gaps in communication and such other economic infrastructure as well as the social infrastructure in the tribal areas to support the developmental activities of the tribals.
- To provide the basic health services for improvement in health and nutritional standards of the Scheduled Tribes leading to enhancement of status of the health indicators of these sections, particularly reduction of IMR/MMR and control of malaria.
- To bridge the literacy hiatus between the Scheduled Tribes and the general population with thrust on literacy and more specifically on primary education of the Scheduled Tribes Low literacy and lack of primary education have resulted in inducing vulnerability among the tribal population.
The State Government, in its pursuit to bring about socio-economic development of the ST communities, have launched special programmes, which include legal aid, rehabilitation of victims, housing facilities, establishment of special employment exchanges, reservation in employment, establishment of residential schools and hostels etc. Some of the strategies, already adopted/ proposed by the State Government in this direction are as under:

- Education, being the most effective and critical instrument of empowering tribal groups, has been given priority.
- Efforts are being made to achieve universalisation in access and retention at the level of elementary education for the members of the Scheduled Tribes.
- Steps are being taken to provide hostel facilities, scholarships and other facilities to achieve substantial increase in enrolment and retention. In this regard, 1000 ST Girls Hostels have been opened.
- Special attention is also being paid to the implementation of employment and income generating programmes.
- Prevention of exploitation of tribal in respect of alienation of land, money lending, debt bondage, trade, collection and sale of minor forest produce etc. has also received due attention of Government.
- Regulation 2 of 1956 has been amended to prohibit transfer of lands to non-tribal and even to other tribal by the Scheduled Tribes with marginal land holdings except for some specific purpose.
- A watchdog role has been given to Gram Panchayats under the amended money lending regulation to enable the community to protect the individual tribal from exploitation by money-lenders.
- In all individual benefit oriented programmes like SGSY, adequate training to beneficiaries is ensured through close monitoring.
- In all income-generating activities, community/cluster approach is adopted to cover beneficiaries in group mode rather than single beneficiary to harness strong community feeling inherent in tribal society.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are the primary vehicles for implementing development programmes for the tribals to ensure them social justice.
- Women Self Help Groups are vigorously promoted for ensuring both social justice and empowerment.
- Wherever necessary, missing infrastructure support for sustainable economic activities undertaken by Tribal beneficiaries has been provided through SGRY, I.T.D.A. programmes etc.
- Connectivity is being given high priority in respect of remote Tribal areas by development of rural roads and by construction of minor bridges. Culverts across hill streams to open up inaccessible pockets to ensure accessibility of Tribals to service delivery and marketing of their produce.
Particular attention is being given for the development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs), so that their mainstreaming is ensured. A new Central scheme for conservation-cum-development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups has been continuing since 2007-08.

PROGRAMME UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

SCA to TSP

The Special Central Assistance (SCA) is primarily meant for family oriented income generating schemes in sectors of agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry and cooperation and a part of SCA (not more than 30%) is permitted to be used for development of infrastructure incidental to such income generating schemes.

Article-275(1):

Article-275(1) of the Constitution of India guarantees grants from the consolidated fund of India each year for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. The objective of the scheme is promotion of welfare of Scheduled Tribes and raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas.

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)

ITDAs as nodal Tribal Development Agency were set up during the 5th Five Year Plan. As many as 118 Blocks of Orissa State having 50% or more ST population have been covered by 21 ITDAs in the State viz: ITDA, Koraput, Jeypore, Malkangiri, Nowrangpur, Rayagada, Gunupur, Th. Rampur, Baripada, Kaptipada, Karanjia, Rairangpur, Sundergarh, Bonai, Panposh, Keonjhar, Champua, Kuchinda, Nilgiri, Parlakhemundi, Balliguda and Phulbani. Each ITDA has a Project Administrator, who is senior Class-I Officer of OAS/I.A.S. cadre. Besides, every I.T.D.A. is facilitated with an Engineering Cell with an Asst. Engineer, as the Technical head.

MICRO PROJECT:

The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTG) are considered as a special category in view of their distinctly different social, cultural and occupational practices and traits. Primitive Tribes are distinguished from other tribal communities with regard to their pre-agricultural economy, extremely low level of literacy, isolated habitation etc. During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, it was decided by Government of India to plan and implement specific programmes focused on all-round development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribes. The programmes were mainly addressed to deliver packages of services consistent with their cultural, social, educational and occupational background with a view to facilitate them to gradually align themselves with the mainstream of society and enhance their social and economic status. These programmes have expanded with the passage of time with greater thrust.
Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan:

In the parameters of the guidelines from MOTA, Govt. of Orissa in ST & SC Development Department has formulated a Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan for 13 PTGs located in 17 Micro Projects of Orissa state. The CCD plan during the 11th plan period is a modest attempt for the holistic development of the PTGs. It aims at addressing the critical felt needs of the PTGs by improving infrastructure and provide basic facilities within their easy reach with a view to eliminate poverty, increase literacy level, ensure improved health status, overcome problem of food insecurity and above all bring improvement in the quality of life and conserve their traditional culture.

The CCD Plan for the development of the PTGs of Orissa prioritised activities in the areas like, education giving stress on pre-primary education by strengthening the existing Gyanmandirs and establishment of an Educational Complex for improvement of girls education, housing and connectivity and safe drinking water under Infrastructure, improvement of Agriculture and Horticulture and in the allied sectors, application of indigenous traditional technology blended with modern technology to ensure employment and food security for the PTG people. It is hoped that the Conservation-cum-Development Plan will be extremely productive and it will be result oriented and pave the way for sustainable development of the Primitive Tribal Groups in the state of Orissa during the 11th plan period, which is 2007-2012.

M.A.D.A

MADA scheme has been operating since the Sixth Plan for the total development of the dispersed tribal population residing outside TSP area, which are contiguous smaller areas having a population of 10,000 or more, with 50% tribal concentration. 46 such MADA pockets in 47 blocks in 17 districts having 5.68 lakh tribal population (2001 census), are functioning in the State. The development programmes in these areas are implemented through the BDOs. In these pockets, IGS in group mode and community-oriented programmes are being implemented. There is a MADA Project Level Committee for each MADA pocket under the Chairmanship of the Sub-Collector and officials and non-officials including the local MLA and MP as members. The Committee draws up programmes and oversees their implementation.

CLUSTER:

The cluster approach has been introduced from the middle of the 7th Plan period in order to bring smaller areas of tribal concentration beyond the MADA pockets into the mainstream of development. Contiguous areas having a population of 5,000 or more with at least 50% tribal concentration are identified as clusters. 14 such clusters have been identified covering parts of 13 Blocks in 10 districts of the State covering 62,021 ST populations (2001 census). The administrative arrangement for these 14 clusters is similar to that of MADA pockets. For development of tribals in
Clusters, in addition to normal programmes, SCA is provided for implementation of IGS in group mode and community benefit-oriented programmes.

**D.T.D.P:**

As an extension of TSP strategy, the dispersed ST population of the state located outside the ITDA/ MADA/ Cluster Pocket/Micro Project areas, is covered under a special project for tribal development called, ‘Dispersed Tribal Development Project (DTDP). Orissa Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Cooperative Corporation Limited is the nodal agency that operates DTDP for the total development of dispersed STs. Tribal Development involves upliftment of a number of Tribal Groups, which are at different stages of socio-economic development.

The following activities are being implemented for which assistance is being provided to the Dispersed Tribal Population living below the Poverty Line:

- Provision of subsidy under various bankable Income Generating Schemes.
- Community Minor Irrigation Projects such as LIP, WHS, Check dam etc.
- Training Programme for self-employment, wage employment etc.
- Bankable income generating schemes consist of schemes in the areas of-
  - Agriculture/Horticulture Development
  - Minor Irrigation
  - Animal Husbandry
  - Fishery
  - Small and Village Industry
  - Vocational Trade and Small Business

**SPECIAL PLAN FOR KBK DISTRICTS (RLTAP)**

Ever since implementation of the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for KBK Districts in 1998-99, major thrust area of activity has been promotion of literacy among the ST & SC in general and promotion of female literacy in particular by way of providing scholarship to SC /ST students to pursue their studies, providing hostel accommodation from primary level, arranging amenities in these hostels and taking up special repair / renovation of existing school and hostel infrastructure. As a result of these efforts, 400 nos. of 40-seated ST girls’ hostels were constructed in KBK Districts and provided with basic amenities from 1998-99 to 2001-02. Another 471 Primary School hostels have been repaired / renovated during the period from 2002-03 to 2007-08 with an expenditure of Rs.1582.50 lakh. Besides this, 246 nos. of hostels both for ST/ SC boys and girls have been constructed during the year from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and a total amount of Rs.3210.00 lakh utilized for the said work.

Keeping in view, the special development of KBK districts, as many as 364 nos. of 100 seated ST Girls hostel have been established during the year 08-09 out of 1003 established in the State. The trend has been maintained by proposing further 372 new100 seated ST Girl’s hostel during the year.
2010-11 out of 1040 in the State as a whole. Construction of 120 boy’s hostel in the KBK districts is also in progress out of 288 proposed for the State. Of the 250 seated 19 nos. of ST Girl’s educational complexes, 8 nos are located in the KBK districts and in operation. In addition to the above, 19 Ashram schools out of 52 nos have also been operationalized in the KBK districts (Micro Project Area).

In order to provide Higher Education to ST & SC students of KBK Districts, up-gradation of 8 nos. of High Schools from among the existing High schools of KBK Districts to Higher Secondary School has been completed during 2007-08. Rs.480.00 lakh has been spent during the year 2007-08 for infrastructure development of the said Higher Secondary Schools.

Consequent upon introduction of the new scheme i.e. “Special Plan for KBK Districts” which is almost same as that of the RLTAP scheme from the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs.35.50 crore has been allotted to the implementing agencies of KBK Districts during the year 2008-09. During the year 2009-10, funds to the tune of Rs.23.05 Crores have been released to different implementing agencies including Rs.3.00 Crores to the education complex at Hatamuniguda of Gunupur ITDA to R.K. Mission.

EDUCATION

Literacy and Education are the prerequisites for the quality of resources of any society. Improvement in the level of this indicator reflects development in the society. The rate of literacy among the STs is 37.37% against the overall literacy rate of 63.08% in the State as per 2001 Census. The Tribal male and female literacy rates are 51.48% and 23.37% respectively. Over the last decade there has been a significant improvement in literacy level among the STs in Orissa, which recorded a jump from 22.31% in 1991 to 37.37% in 2001 Census.