



****Suggestions for State Budget-2012-13 *
Demands for Adivasi(Schedule Tribe)***

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Tribal Development: Suggestions for 12th Five Year Plan

Tribal Research and Training Institute and Pathy Budget Center, organized the discussion for perspective plan for schedule tribe development on 7th October, 2011 at TRTI, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahemdabad.

Pathy Budget center shared the findings of financial outlay and expenditure for tribal area and tribal development during the 10th and 11th five year plans in Gujarat state. Besides, the status of human development indicators for tribal people was also discussed with factual information from various authentic sources.

The participants from various organizations and TRTI's researchers provided suggestions for 12th five year plan for tribal development.

Background:

Gujarat government has made an outlay of Rs.15000 crs for the tribal development under 11th Five year plan. The actual expenditure is estimated to be around Rs. 19000 crs by the end of 11th five year plan. The investment during the 11th five year plan is very solid building block for tribal development for the next five year plan. The state government must focus upon in such way to bring tribal areas at par with other developed areas of the state.

The 12th five year plan should uplift the socio-economic status of the tribal people at faster pace, by reducing the poverty from tribal pockets. The schedule area should have same amenities of development as prevailing in the other region of state. The 12th five year plan must also formulate the measurable development indicators to be achieved and measured at regular interval of time period.

The tribal area should have also basic facilities at par with urban areas like drinking water, sanitation, well equipped health care services, power supply, and qualitative education services in their vicinity.

Economic Development:

Tribal economy is agriculture and forestry based economy, therefore, the next plan must recognize the need of developing the tribal economy in such way that it sustains the tribal people and reduces the distress migration in search of the livelihood.

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As the tribal areas are hilly and undulated, therefore, some of the parts are not viable for canal irrigation, therefore the government should focus upon solution at local and farm level solutions like providing assistance for capturing water in farm itself, recharging the existing wells, augmenting the water holding capacity of existing water bodies with people's participation.

All the land holding tribal people should be provided with quality seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides for more agricultural yields, the government should focus upon the food security crops for the tribal people. The state government should promote among the tribal farmers the agro based industries for value additions to their excess crops, which should fetch them more economic benefits.

Irrigations: all the big dams are built in the tribal areas, as the area being hilly; the state government should provide the irrigation facilities by lift irrigation to strengthen the tribal agricultural economy. The 12th five year plan must target the specific financial allocation for providing the facility of lift irrigation in the tribal areas.

The geographical features of tribal areas are not helpful in water percolation and the rain water runoff is greater, therefore, the water should be captured, where it falls. The government should come up with water conservation projects for natural resource management and development. The following steps should be taken

- Conservation of rain water, where it falls
- Creating structure in the farm itself for capturing rain water in the farm field
- Rejuvenating the existing water wells in the tribal areas and filling with rain water.
- Augmenting water holding capacity of village ponds in the tribal areas

Education:

The literacy rate is lowest among the schedule tribe people in Gujarat. The 12th five year plan must give focused attention to raise the literacy rate among the schedule tribe people. The cent percent literate Gujarat tribal area should be the slogan. The state government should augment all the existing schools with modern facilities in the tribal area as well. All the schools in the schedule areas should be provided all basic facilities like electricity, sanitation, drinking water, computer and internet connection and compound walls etc.

The 12th five year plan must ensure primary education and cover all the habitats with primary education facilities. The Plan must provide platform for higher education, if the primary

education level is based on strong foundation. The education must provide a building block to the tribal students to search the new avenues available to other students.

The Government must provide at least one higher secondary science school in each tribal block for facilitating the higher education in engineering and medical sciences for the tribal people. The teacher should be qualified and competent.

The government must ensure a system, which compels the teacher to attend and teach in the school.

The parents, who migrate to urban areas in search of livelihood, their children should be provided hostel facilities (loading and boarding) in the native place and those, children migrate along with parents, should be provided educational and nutritional facilities at work places in the urban areas.

The existing Adarashi Niwasi schools and Eklavya schools as introduced by the government is welcome step but, there should be adequate teaching staff for subjects like Science, Mathematics, and English. As these schools are residential, therefore, cooking staff should also be provided for providing the foods to the schedule tribe students.

Fee exemption schedule tribe students in self finance schools:

Although the fee exemption is provided to the schedule tribe students but presently the students have to deposit the fees in advance and it is refunded after the year. The practice put lot of hindrance to the tribal parents, whose children get admission, as they have to pay the fees in deposit by borrowing on high interest from the market, mortgaging their property for admission fees. This practice put lot of stress over the student and parents, this practice of advance fees should be abolished.

Health:

The Health conditions of people determines the level of human development index, The schedule areas being in the interior and un-accessible with difficult terrain, need serious attention for improving the health care infrastructure in the tribal pockets.

The tribal areas need more maternity hospital for safe and secure delivery of the new born babies. This will also help in reducing the maternal mortality rate among the schedule tribe women. Each taluka head quarter should be equipped with maternity homes with gynecologist available.

The health centers in the schedule area be provided residential facilities for all the medical personnel and it should be ensured that all the medicos stay in the residential quarters for services.

All the health care centers should be well equipped with basic health care infrastructure with life saving medicines.

Each tribal district head quarter place should have a medical college, so that the schedule tribe people do not have to rush to the urban centers for the treatment.

Food security:

According to NFHS-2005-06, report “mal nourishment among tribal children and women is higher than the other social groups. The malnourishment among the tribal will cause obstacles for human development. Due to nutritional deficiency among the tribal people, it reduce their immunity to fight against diseases and also reduces their productivity, therefore, the state government should ensure food security for the schedule tribe people by providing them with better delivery service of Public Distribution Services at their native place, and those, who migrate, should be provided the food security through mobile ration shops, where ever they are working.

Agricultural Development: the schedule tribe people’s livelihood is fully dependent upon agriculture and agricultural practice is of primary nature with traditional method, the agricultural is rain fed and its like agricultural activity is full with risks. The schedule tribe people’s agricultural risks should be minimized by providing alternative irrigation, and well irrigation. The agriculture should ensure food security of the tribal people and it should also provide the cash money in their hands, therefore, the agriculture should be blended with food security and cash crops like vegetables. They should be provided the ready market for selling their produces.

The schedule tribe people should be provided agricultural implements, better quality seeds, and pesticides. The tribal farmers should be recognized as “Agriculturalist”.

Besides agriculture, the dairy development in tribal areas should also be the viable solution in bringing more cash money in the hands of tribal people. As the tribal people have enough open spaces in their vicinity, with grass. They should be provided some basic training in the dairy development and animal husbandry.

At policy level all the dairy and animal husbandry schemes should be merged and simplified. And the tribal people should be motivated to take up the dairy development work and there should be single window clearance for the project development.

Social welfare:

The social welfare schemes play very vital role in reducing the economic stress of the tribal people and also help in reducing the poverty. The state government should allocate more money for innovative schemes for removal of poverty of the schedule tribe people. The state government must upgrade the financial allocation for many welfare schemes as in the present day context; the financial assistance is not adequate. Like the assistance for widow pension should be enhanced to Rs.1000/- month from present Rs.500/-. The old age pension should also be enhanced to Rs. 1000/-per month. Likewise, all the schemes should be upwardly revised to assist the needy people.

Implementation of Forest Right Act:

The state government should speed up the process of verification of land right claims and complete the issuing the land entitlement to the legitimate forest land cultivator as per the rules of FRA. The process of implementation of forest rights act should be followed from Gram sabha level as per the provision of act. The process should be simplified.

The claims which have been rejected should be re-checked and Gram sabha should re-consider the verification process.

The tribal forest land cultivators, who have been given the land entitlements, should be assisted by enhancing the yield by soil and water development process. The farmers should be provided the high yielding seeds varieties along with training to improve their agriculture. Such farmers should be provided the loan assistance for improving their agricultural productivity.

The land less tribal people should be assisted by raising the forest resources like nursery, and the state government should purchase seeding from them to raise their economic status.

The local tribal people should be engaged in the forest protection works and be provided the wages for the same.

The state government should development eco tourism in the forest areas and local adivasi educated youth should be trained and engaged in eco –tourism activities, this will boost up the economic opportunities for the local educated youth.

Panchayat and PESA act:

The PESA (Panchayat Extension in Schedule Areas) should be implemented in letter and spirit in the schedule areas. All the development activities in the tribal areas should be executed in decentralized manner with the approval of gram sabha as per the PESA's provisions. The

people's participation should be ensured in designing, developing and executing the development work in the schedule areas.

The Panchayat level administration requires the presence of village secretary very often, therefore, the Panchayat secretary should stay in the village itself and should be provided the residential facilities.

The state government must allocate financial grants for capacity building of understanding the provision of PESA act in the schedule areas. The state government should conduct workshops with experts' assistance for capacity building of people for implementation of provisions of PESA act.

Drinking water and sanitation services:

The taluka and district head quarter of the schedule areas should be provided with sewerage and sanitation facility to prevent water borne diseases. The state government should allocate more finance for providing these services to sanitation level as per the other urban centers. The villages should have portable drinking water facilities. Each house hold should be provided with sanitation facility, people should be motivated and educated about the benefits of having sanitation facility at home. This will enhance the health level and improve the human development index.

Assistance to tribal entrepreneurship:

The state should also promote and motivate tribal people to take up the entrepreneurship and provide assistance. The educated youth should be capacitated in agro based industrial and forest based resource for entrepreneurship among the schedule tribe people.

Social security for the Tribal Migrant workers.

As per 2011 census, 30% of tribal people migrate in search of livelihood in the urban areas. The children also migrate along with their parents, the migration has its own merits and demerits, the state government should strive to make migration not only for economic security but also initiate the social development through various pro-active steps like providing residential educational and hostels facilities at native places to prevent the migration of children. At the destination site, the state with help of local administration should provide food security to migrant workers, children should be provided ICDS services at work site, the children should also be admitted in the schools in the urban areas as right to education is fundamental right.

The migrant workers should be provided drinking water, mobile sanitation services at the pavement sides. The workers provided health care services from local authorities' hospitals, as they are state citizens.

As most the migrant workers are engaged in construction sites, therefore, the workers should be provided the benefits under construction workers welfare board.

All the workers should be covered under RSYB (Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna).

The tribal workers, who are engaged in agriculture, construction, brick kiln etc are un-organised, the state government should protect their labour rights. The state government should make special allocation for implementation of labour laws for the scheduled area to prevent the exploitation of the workers.

Empowerment and Development of Tribal women:

The state government should focus empowerment of scheduled tribe women and allocate separate funds throughout the 12th five year plan. Health, education and nourishment should be selected key focus areas, besides; women should be provided ample opportunities for economic development, based upon the traditional skills, women should also be provided additional skills for value additions to the produces.

The state should ensure 100% literacy among the tribal women by the end of 12th five year plan, the adivasi girls, who are desirous of higher education should be provided subsidy for education like technical, the state should provide the hostel facilities for motivation.