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RESEARCH ARTICLE

DECENTRALISED PLANNING: ALLOCATION AND UTILISATION OF FUND FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AT PANCHAYATH LEVEL

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Abstract

Even after 75 years of India's independence, the country still suffers from social inequality to some extent, especially the segregation or backwardness among different castes. Caste backwardness is still present in the country. It is a fact that living in a backward state, they are often unable to experience the benefits of the country's progress. The people belonging to the tribal groups cling to their traditional culture and still live in geographically remote areas. India adopted decentralised planning through which local governments obtain more decision-making powers and can address local needs. But even now its benefits were not completely trickle down to many of the marginalized sections living in the society. This study aims to examine financial assistance provided through Panchayat institutions for the development of Tribal population. Different kinds of funds were distributed through Panchayath Institutions but flow of fund was not maintaining a proportionate increase over the years.

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Introduction:-

In India, 705 clans are included in Scheduled Tribe category. They are commonly referred as 'Adivasi'. The environments they live in are geographically remote areas and often they do not get enough attention. Even after the years of independence, caste-based social backwardness still exists in our society. When we look at the social outlook, the most common thing to see is the backwardness of the tribal groups. Most of the tribal people in Kerala live in the areas bordering Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as well as forested areas in Western Ghats. According to the 2001 census of India, the Scheduled Tribe population in Kerala is 3,64,189. Wayanad district contain highest number of tribal population (1,36,062) followed by Idukki- (50973) and Palakkad (39665) districts. The Paniya (Paniyar) are the largest of the 35 major tribes. The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns created faced lots of difficulties. For the tribal population living in the forests and valleys, Covid19 pandemic and resultant lockdown created a great impact by affecting their employment and huge loss in income. Besides this, it leads to economic uncertainty. Due to implementing online education during this period leads to lack of access education to their children. They were provided with poor infrastructure facilities for education and healthcare. Besides this they live in geographically remote areas which impose restrictions in the availability of transportation and communication facilities. All these things made them to live in an isolated life. After Independence many efforts were undertaken to improve the conditions of marginalised sections of society by providing them educational opportunities, expanding health care facilities, subsidised food programmes, self-employment schemes for the poor and rural people, pension schemes, reservation in educational institutions and Government jobs etc. Even then, tribal communities are live in a

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backward condition due to various reasons including educational and social backwardness, geographical isolation, like to lead primitive pattern of life, cultural uniqueness etc.

Kerala is a state with unique features of development due to its high human development. Kerala state in India is famous for its development model. Kerala's Education and health sectors rank first in the country. However, position of the tribal communities in the state is at time lower than some of the most under developed countries. The present study examines initiatives for development implemented through Panchayath institutions by distributing various types of funds for their socio- economic development. The study aims to understand the different schemes availed to tribal communities at Panchayat level. The study focused various development fund provided for improve the conditions of Tribal people through Panchayath. The sample area selected is Vanimel Grama Panchayath For gathered relevant information because it contains Tribal population who live mainly in Vilangad Village. Required secondary data were took into account from the hand book of the Panchayath. Descriptive statistical methods were used for analysis.

Review of Literature:-

Venkateshwarlu(2022)

The central and state Government should give large importance to the economic upliftment of the tribal people. Education will greatly influence their overall development and create radical changes in their social life. More intervention from the part of the government is required to maintain their cultural diversity because Indian tribes too rich in their cultural aspects.

Akhil Baby (2022)

Researcher made an overview on the socio-economic conditions of the tribal belonging to the Paniyas, which has the lowest standard of the living, even though being the bulk of the tribal population in Kerala. Under the constitutional provisions of Directive principles, the state's major concern for tribes has been their welfare and development. It is ironical that despite a large number of well-meaning constitutional provisions aimed at protecting and safeguarding the welfare and interest of the tribal communities, the process of marginalization of the tribal has gone unabated.

Eswarappa Kasi, Atrayee Saha (2021)

The lack of Knowledge, deficiency of nutrition, inadequate healthcare facilities, immobility, and reliance on herbal medicines are some of the general situations faced by the indigenous population worldwide. Lack of developmental measures in India has always led the tribal population to dwell at the margins without proper resources of economic sustenance.

Meenu Alexander, Cyril John, Kishore Selva Babu (2022)

Researchers primarily focus on the challenges of online education among tribal students, with a clear emphasis on English language acquisition. Most of the tribal children mainly depend Government Schools for their education. Education of this underprivileged populationshowed a noticeable omission during the Covid-19 era. Digital divide and communication media are some of the critical concerns in knowledge acquisition among tribal children.

Uposoma Dey, Samiran Bisai (2019)

Study aims to ascertain the overall nutritional status of tribal pre-school children. It also investigates key sociocultural factors influencing nutritional status among tribal children in India from a biocultural perspective. National education and short-term policy and appropriately planned nutrition intervention programs will also be useful in increasing their nutritional status. Tribals are more vulnerable mainly due to the insecurity of their food supply, which has serious long-term consequences for the child and adversely affects the development of the nation.

Data Analysis

The secondary data was collected from Vanimel gram Panchayat office. It gives the brief explanation of which type of development funds were provided for tribal community for their growth, welfare and better standard of living. Relevant data were taken into account from the Handbook of Panchayath. Various fund provided for the development of tribals for 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 were considered for analysis.

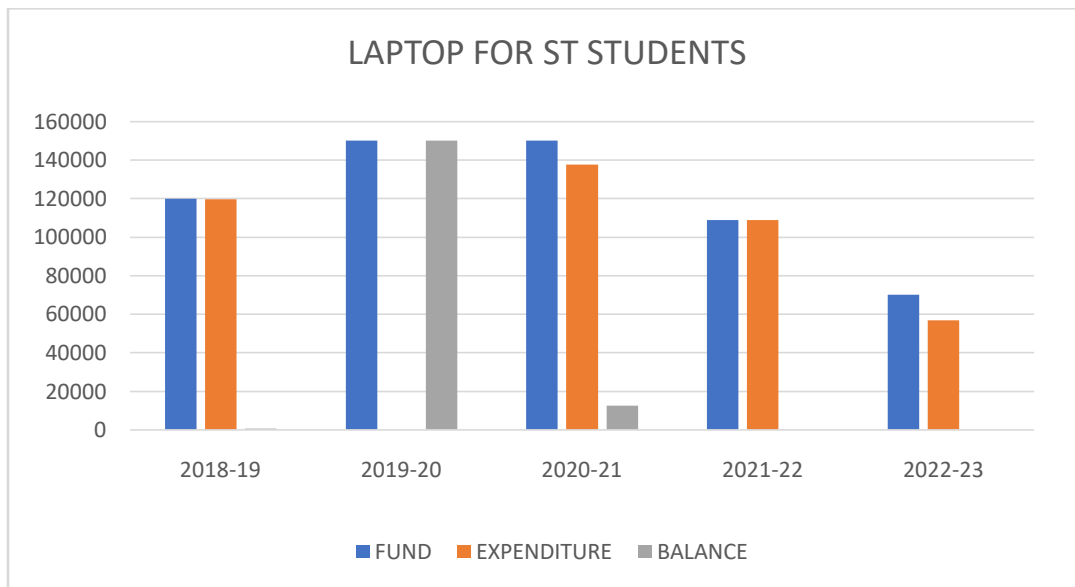
Laptop for ST students

Table 1.1:-

YEARS	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	120000	119560	440
2019-20	150000	0	150000
2020-21	150000	137445	12555
2021-22	108916	108916	0
2022-23	70000	56620	13380
TOTAL	598916	422541	176375

Source: Handbook of Panchayath

Table 1.1 shows five-year data of fund sanctioned for provided Laptop for ST students by Vanimel panchayath. More fund allowed for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. More funds spend for the year 2020-21 that is, Rs 137445. The entire fund allotted has been utilized for the year 2021-22. Due to Covid pandemic spread sanctioned fund were not utilised during 2019-20.



Home renovation for scheduled tribe

Table1.2:-

YEARS	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	400000	280610	119390
2019-20	619390	169390	450000
2020-21	694000	644000	50000
2021-22	1180084	1179000	1084
2022-23	491880	330000	161800
TOTAL	3385274	2603000	782274

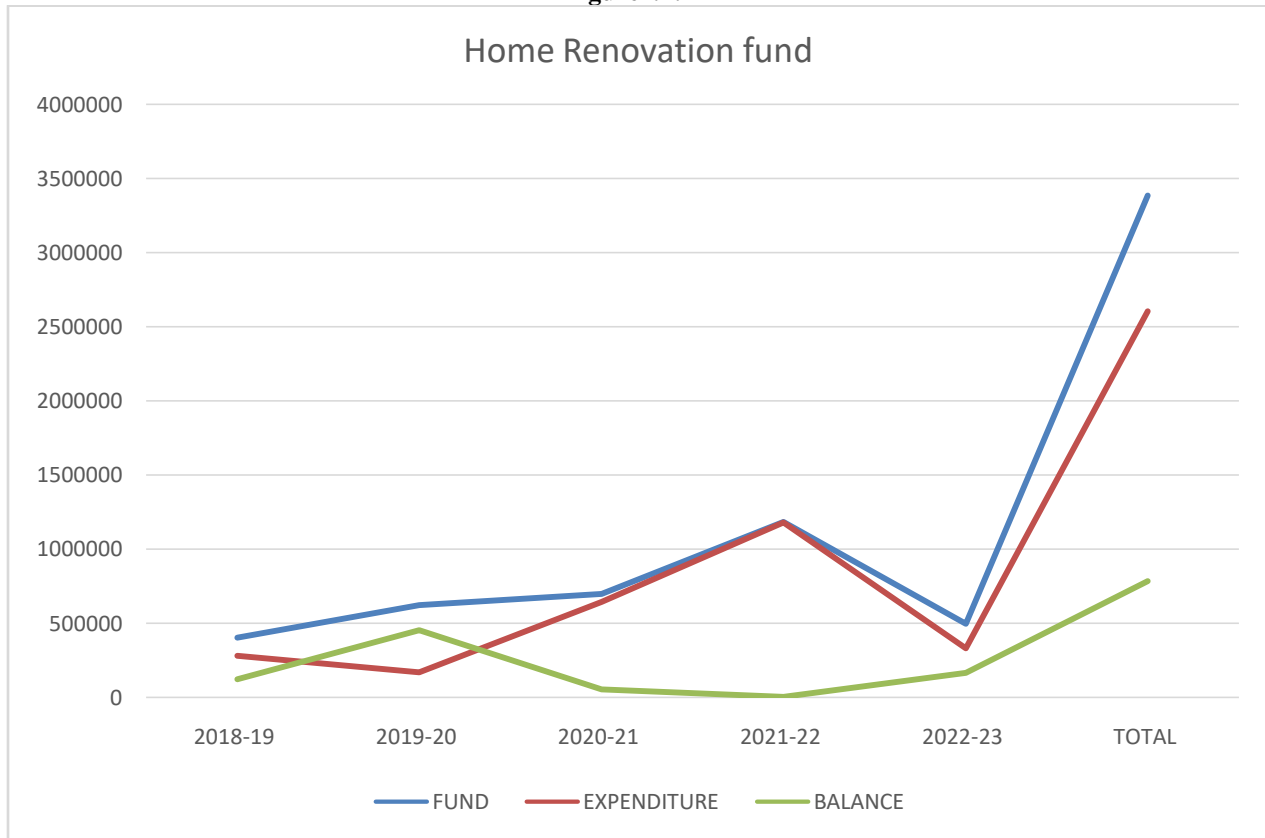
Source: Panchayath Handbook

The above diagram shows fund sanctioned for home renovation of scheduled tribe by Vanimel panchayath. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2021-22 which was Rs.1180084 and Rs.1179000 respectively. Fund provided for renovation also reduced during the year 2022-23.

Correlation Matrix					
		A		B	
A		Pearson's r	—		
		df	—		
		p-value	—		

B	Pearson's r	0.979	---
	df	4	---
	p-value	< .001	---
Note. H _a is positive correlation			
There is high positive correlation between Amount of fund allocated and its expenditure.			

Figure1.2:-



Financial assistance for Marriage (girls)

Table 1.3:-

YEARS	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	75000	75000	0
2019-20	0	0	0
2020-21	150000	0	150000
2021-22	200000	200000	0
2022-23	500000	0	500000
TOTAL	925000	275000	650000

Source: Panchayath Handbook

Table 1.3 given data regarding marriage financial assistance for scheduled tribe by Vanimel panchayath. More fund allowed for the year 2022-23 Rs.500000 but not utilized. The entire fund allowed that is, Rs.200000 has been utilized for the year 2021-22. No fund was allocated for the year 2019-20. It can be seen that provision of funds were increasing with each year.

Figure 1.3:-

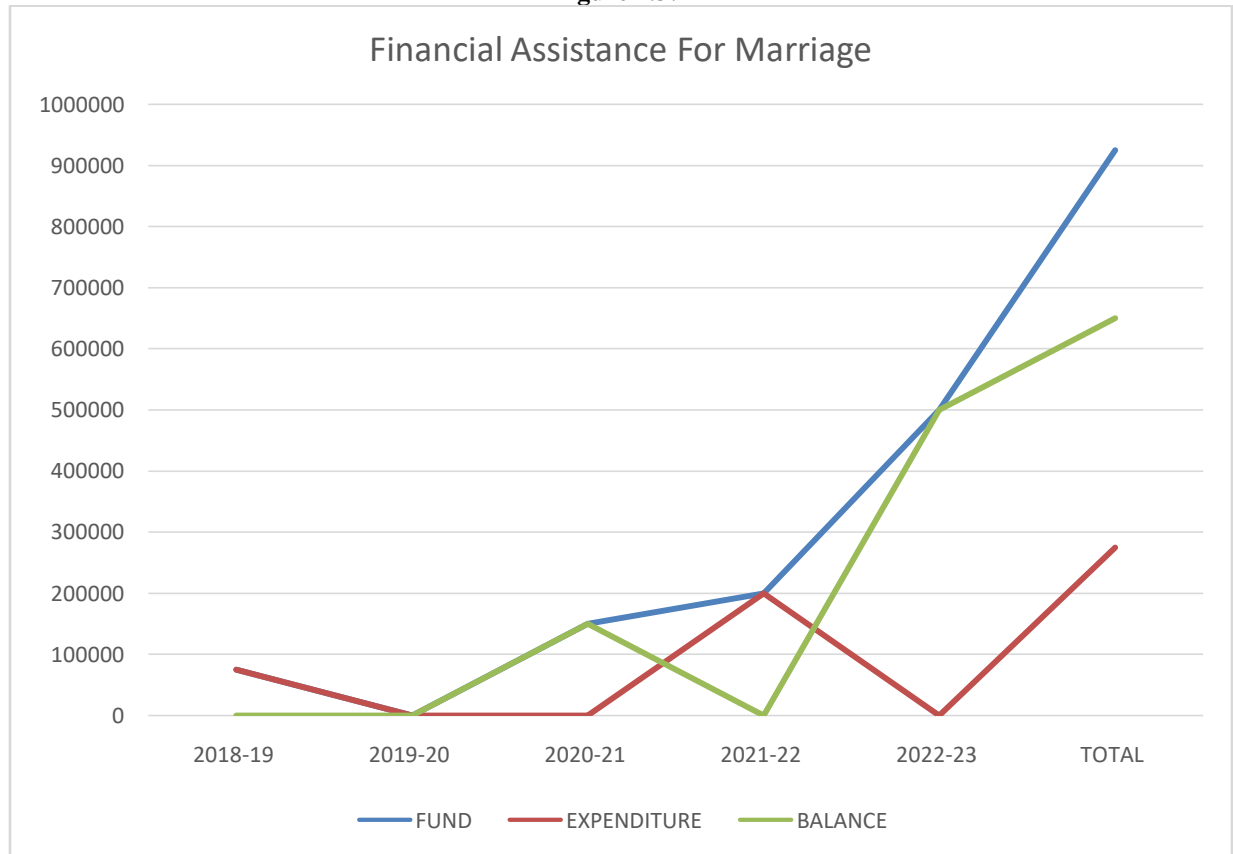
**Drinking water scheme for schedule tribe**

Table 1.4:-

YEARS	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	1060755	150000	910755
2019-20	1210755	479755	731000
2020-21	794005	293694	500311
2021-22	494005	279792	214213
2022-23	0	0	0
TOTAL	3559520	1203241	2356279

Source: Panchayath Handbook

The above table shows the distribution of fund for drinking water scheme for scheduled tribe for 5 years under consideration. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2019-20 which was respectively Rs.1210755 and Rs.479755. No fund was allocated for the year 2022-23. It can be seen that provision of funds were decreasing with each year considered.

Study room for ST students

Table 1.5:-

YEARS	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	380000	340000	40000
2019-20	40000	40000	0
2020-21	0	0	0
2021-22	400000	400000	0
2022-23	0	0	0
TOTAL	820000	780000	40000

Source: Panchayath Handbook

Table 1.5 Given distribution of fund for study room for ST students through panchayath. The entire fund allowed for the year 2019-20 and 2021-22 has been fully utilized. No fund allocated for the year 2020-21 and 2022-23.

Gothra Sarathi Scheme (to bring students from remote and difficult scheduled tribe sanctuaries to schools)

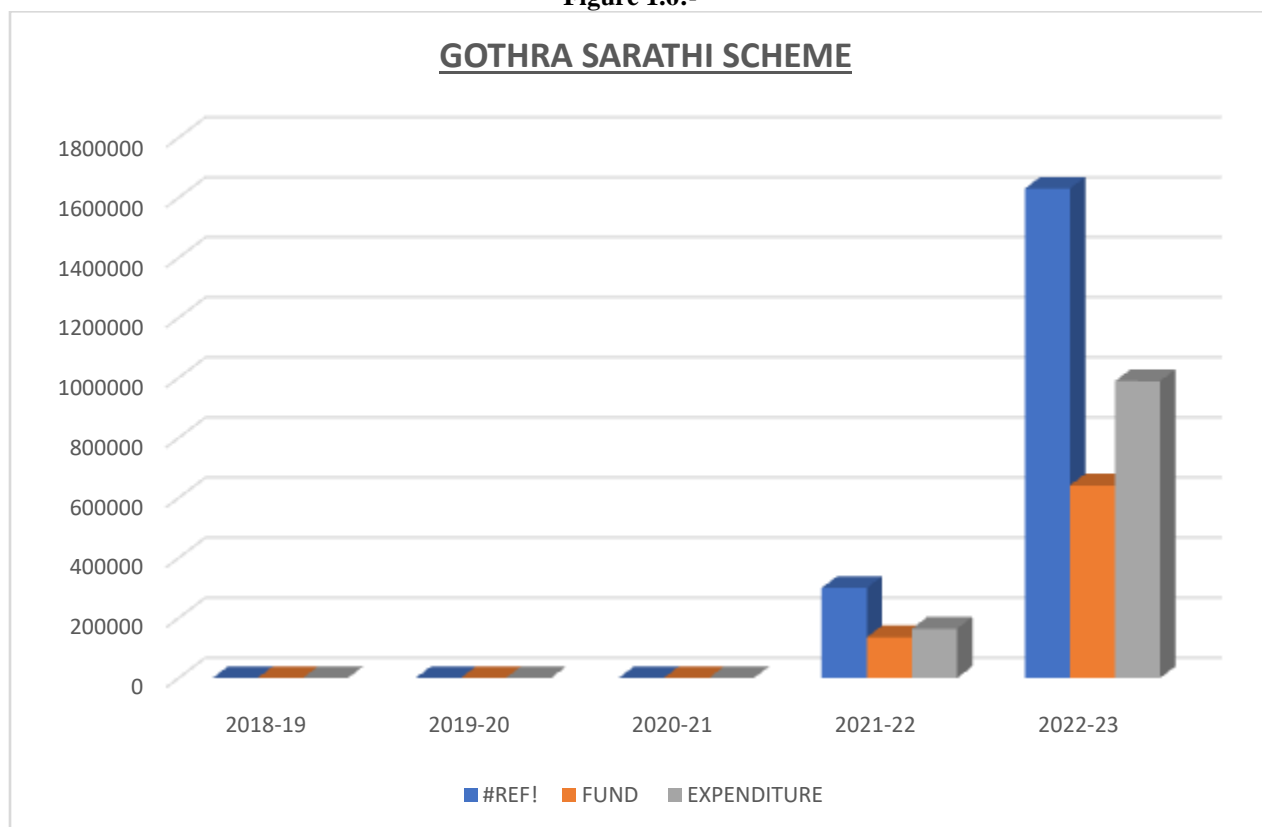
Table 1.6:-

YEARS		FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	0		0	0 ko
2019-20	0		0	0
2020-21	0		0	0
2021-22	300000		135700	164300
2022-23	1629792		641090	988702
TOTAL	1929792		776790	1153002

Source: Panchayath Handbook

The above diagram shows the five-year data for Gothra Sarathi Scheme for scheduled tribe by Vanimel panchayath. Gothra Sarathi Scheme is a new project under government. Project commenced in the year 2021-22. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2022-23 Rs.1629792 and Rs.641090 respectively.

Figure 1.6:-



Unarvuscheme (To Keep School Children Of Drugs)

Table 1,7:-

YEARS		FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	0		0	0
2019-20	0		0	0
2020-21	0		0	0
2021-22	50000		35592	14408
2022-23	14408		14408	0

TOTAL	64408	50000	14408
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Source: Panchayath Handbook

The above table shows the five-year data for UNARVU SCHEME for scheduled tribe by Vanimel panchayath. UNARVU SCHEME is a new project under government. Project commenced in the year 2021-22. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2021-22 Rs.50000 and Rs. 35592 respectively. In 2022-23 the fund will be reduced compared to previous year.

Auto Rikshaw Purchase ForSelf Employment

Table 1.8:-

YEARS	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	14000	14000	0
2019-20	210000	0	210000
2020-21	210000	21000	0
2021-22	0	0	0
2022-23	0	0	0

Source: Panchayath Handbook

The above table shows allocation of funds for Auto Rikshaw Purchase for Self-Employment project to scheduled tribe by Vanimel panchayath. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2020-21 is Rs.210000. No fund allocated for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23

Fund for Laying hens and ewes

Table 1.9:-

YEAR	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	270000	192000	78000
2019-20	116000	116000	0
2020-21	0	0	0
2021-22	120000	120000	0
2022-23	0	0	0

Source: Panchayath Handbook

Table 1.9 shows the fund distribution for purchasing laying hens and ewes to ST woman through panchayath. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2018-19, which was Rs.270000and Rs.192000 respectively. No fund allocated for the year 2020-21 and 2022-23 for such purpose. Fund provided for laying hens and ewes was helpful for unemployment women to earn smaller amount of income for meeting their little needs.

Other Projects

Table1.10:-

YEAR	FUND	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2018-19	1633000	1356830	276140
2019-20	1021245	574434	446811
2020-21	1385750	1173200	212550
2021-22	23984	0	23984
2022-23	0	0	0

Source: Panchayath Handbook

The Table 1.10revealed data regarding provision miscellaneous fund for scheduled tribe by Vanimel panchayath. More fund allowed and spend for the year 2018-19 Rs.1633000 and Rs.1356830 respectively. The amount fund allocated in miscellaneous account was shown a declining trend over the years.

Conclusion:-

Inclusive development initiatives in India focused on marginalised and excluded sections of the population and their development in education, health, social living, financial self-sufficiency etc. Effective interference through decentralised planning and Kerala model of development contributed support to this initiative for inclusion. It can be

observed from the analysis that different type of funds was allocated to Tribal community development through various title, but it was not fully utilized in most of the years. During Covid Pandemic period no particular attention is given to tribal community to address their problems. Even now development of tribal communities remained a question mark due to lack of sufficient allocation of funds and continuous attention to that area.

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