



Transferring Land Record: A problem to Tribal Empowerment in Jungle Mahal

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Abstract:

Tribals are the most backward community in our society. Since independence government of India has been taking various initiatives for their empowerment. The tribes of Jungle Mahal in West Bengal are not an exception. Now a days, both central and state government have launched various land related schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Geetanjali Housing Scheme, PM Krisak Sanman Nidhi, Krisak Bndhu, Phasal Bima Yojan etc. for their development. Inspite of those initiatives, due to lack of awareness they are unable to get full benefit from these schemes. The main objective of this article is to show the difficulties faced by the tribal people, caused by the problem of land transfer. It also suggests some measures to overcome this situation.

Keywords: *Tribal, Development, Land, Scheme, Jungle Mahal.*

Introduction:

Development is the natural catalyst and corollary for empowerment, which facilitates the control that people may easily get in their own life choices. Empowerment is a complex, composite phenomena with crucial societal implications.(Page and Czuba, 1999). The World Bank defines empowerment as “the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices into desired actions and outcomes” (World Bank, 2022). In contrast to merely legal rights and freedoms, capabilities have also been referred to as genuine or substantive freedoms since they represent liberties that have been emancipated from any potential barriers. Sen (1999).

According to the 2011 census, there are 10.45 crore Schedule tribes in India, or roughly 8.6% of the country’s total population. government. has implemented a number of programs and policies aimed at improving the living conditions of the tribal population, with a primary focus on sustainable development, cultural preservation, and even socioeconomic empowerment. Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes, National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) Development Program, Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST), National Fellowship for ST Students, National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Aadi Mahotsav and Cultural Festivals, among other initiatives, are all aimed at empowering tribes.

The Indian government has launched a number of initiatives aimed at empowering tribal communities by concentrating on their ability to generate income in order to impact economic development. In this regard,

the Term Loan Scheme, which offers soft loans up to 90% of the unit cost with repayment terms of 5 to 10 years, becomes a perfect example of an effective loan for viable business units. Through the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojna (AMSY), borrowers can obtain loans up to 2 lakhs of rupees at a concessional interest rate of just 4%. The Micro Credit Scheme allows every self-help group (SHG) to receive up to ₹5 lakhs per year. The Adivasi Shiksha Rinn Yojana (ASRY), which provides interest rate subsidies, allows tribal students to pursue higher education. These initiatives help tribal people improve their socioeconomic status by helping them become more independent, enterprising, and educated.

The primary goal of the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsha Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) is to generate income for the economic development of tribal communities. Numerous new initiatives were implemented by the Indian government to support and empower ethnic groups. For women, the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojna (AMSY) is ideal. It guarantees that they can obtain loans up to two lakh rupees at a concessional interest rate of just 4%. In Hazaribag, Jharkhand, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan on October 2, 2024, with an investment of more than ₹79,150 crore to fill critical gaps in the social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood development of 63,000 tribal villages. The Central Government has plans and initiatives aimed at raising the living standards of tribal communities. Different initiatives were implemented in the fields of agriculture, health, education, and livelihood. Through these initiatives, the Indian government hopes to overcome the developmental gap and improve the standard of living for tribal communities'

Jungle Mahal as a part of Choto Nagpur Plateau is situated in the South- West part of West Bengal. The forest areas of West Bengal's four districts are included. Jhargram (separated from Paschim Medinipur in 2017), Purulia, Bankura, and Paschim Medinipur. The tribes in Jungle Mahal, like the majority of Indian tribes, depend heavily on land for their way of life. The tribes use their land for a variety of purposes, including housing, farming, and raising cattle. In addition to the forest, one of the primary sources of tribal income in Jungle Mahal is land. In West Bengal, the Central and State governments offer a number of land-related programs for tribal development. The Central government's PM Awas Yojana, the State's Geetanjali Housing Scheme, and the State's Aamar Thikana are housing schemes that give impoverished tribal people concrete homes; the Central government's PM Krisak Snman Nidhi and the State's Krisak Bndhu are pension schemes for farmers; and the state government's Bangla Phasal Bima Yogona compensates for agricultural products lost due to natural disasters.

There are many literatures concerning different problems of tribal empowerment. But there is a dearth of literature focusing on this issue. So the present research try to find out the causes of not enjoying land related government schemes by the tribes of this particular region.

Research Method:

Based on the highest tribal percentage, I chose four blocks from each of Jungle Mahal's four districts for the survey. This method was used to select Garbeta II from Paschim Medinipur, Ranibandh from Bankura, Bandwan from Purulia, and Nayagram from Jhargram. Two villages were chosen from each block based on the highest tribal percentage and population. Several households from each village made up the total of 88 households that were surveyed. It should be noted that two of the eight villages, which come from four different blocks, are not connected to any forest area, while six of the villages are part of six different Joint Forest Management systems. In addition to a number of focus group interviews, a well-structured questionnaire was employed for the household survey.

Result and Discussion:

Following independence, India launched a public housing program with the primary goal of housing refugees. Housing has evolved into a crucial component of the government's initiatives to combat

poverty. The Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), a rural housing initiative, was introduced in 1996. Although the IAY assisted in addressing housing needs in rural areas, the Indian Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) discovered a number of issues in 2014. On April 1, 2016, the Indian government launched the "Housing for All by 2022" initiative to address these issues. This resulted in the IAY being redesigned as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). The goal of PMAY-G is to give all homeless families and those residing in subpar housing a permanent, well-built home with basic amenities. The federal and state governments split the cost of constructing these homes 60:40 in most regions and 90:10 in the northeastern and Himalayan states. concurrently. ii

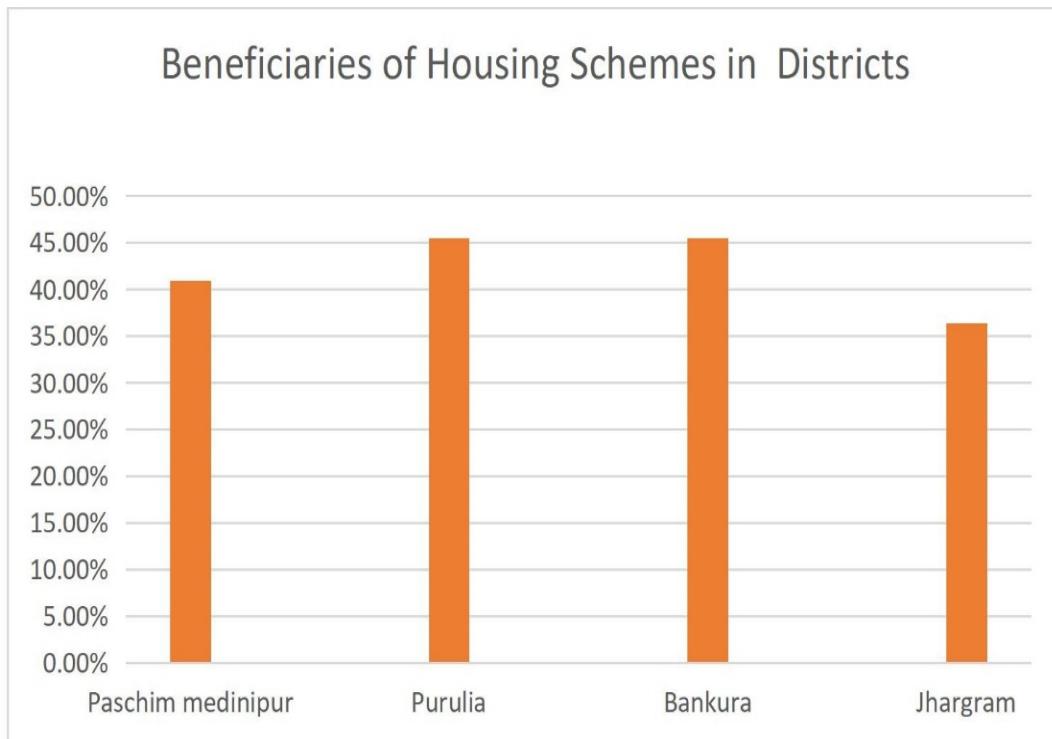


Chart:- 3.1: Beneficiary of Housing Scheme

According to Figure 3.1, these programs benefit households in Paschim Medinipur, Purulia, Bankura, and Jhargram by 9.09 percent, 27.27 percent, 27.27 percent, and 4.55 percent, respectively. According to a survey, the majority of families in Jungle Mahal live in mud homes, and they ought to benefit from these housing initiatives. The districts' lower percentage of getting benefits from this scheme can be attributed to a number of factors. The most significant factors in this context, according to the households surveyed, are nepotism for selecting the beneficiary and the issue of land records, which is particularly important for getting benefits from this kind of scheme but is very common among tribal people.

Union government intended to support farmers and their families financially under P. A M. Nidhi Kiosk Saman. It should be mentioned that Piyush Goyal introduced the PM-KISAN SCHEME in Gorakhpur on February 24, 2019, and made it a national project in the 2019 Indian Union Budget. According to the union government, the beneficiary farmers receive Rupees 6000 annually in three installments as financial assistance. It is anticipated that this scheme will strengthen the finances of impoverished farmers by spending a total of Rs 75,000 crore annually. In January 2019, the West Bengal government's Department of Agriculture launched the Krishak Bandhu scheme, which offers farmers financial assistance for their agricultural needs and social security to their families in the event of the farmer's untimely death. On June 17, the Chief Minister of West Bengal formally introduced the updated version of this scheme, which was renamed Krishak Bandhu (Natun). iii

Table-3.14: Beneficiary of Farmer's Pension Scheme

District Name	Village Name	Beneficiary of farmer's Pension Scheme	
		Village (%)	District(%)
Paschim Medinipur	Metyal	12.28	13.64
	Betjharia	15	
Purulia	Ledam	18.18	18.18
	Senkabesa	18.18	
Bankura	Kharujhor	37.82	31.82
	Haramgara	25.82	
Jhargram	Mohanpur	11.64	13.64
	Dulki	15.64	

However, the majority of the tribes in Jungale Mahal did not transfer the land record from their previous generation to the current one because they were unaware of it. Because of this, even though they use the land, they are not its legal owners, and this prevents them from taking advantage of any government-provided land-related programs that require land ownership.

Conclusion and measures:

The majority of the tribal people live in isolated, underdeveloped areas. One internal barrier to tribal empowerment is a lack of knowledge about their rights and development opportunities. The majority of tribal people are ignorant of the necessity of transferring land records from ancestors to current generations. As a result, the truly impoverished are not receiving the benefits and are denied access to numerous land-related development initiatives. Therefore, the government's primary responsibility is to educate tribal people about their rights and privileges in order to prevent tribal alienation, prevent exploitation, and integrate them with mainstream society. Prior to the schemes' implementation, appropriate awareness-raising techniques must be used. In this regard, knowledge of Cast Certificates, Aadhaar cards, the transfer of land records from ancestors to the current generation, etc. ought to be produced in order of priority. a two-way conversation. Different government agencies like local self-government, forest department, LAMPS etc. and NGOs should take the active role to overcome this problem.

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