



## Empowerment and challenges for implementation of tribal of sub-plans in Karnataka

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### Abstract

Tribal plays a pivotal role in their social, cultural, economic, and religious ways of life and is considered an economic asset in their society. However, they are still lagging in various life factors such as education, employment, good health, and empowerment. Empowering may be understood as enabling weaker sections like marginalized people and mainly tribal, obtaining and holding power and resources, and making decisions on their own lives. Thus, the analysis based on secondary sources of data shows that lack of education, poor health status and infant mortality rate, lack of self-employment opportunity, organizing capacity, and leadership quality are the main obstacles to the economic empowerment of tribal in Karnataka. The government of Karnataka should prepare appropriate sub-plans and Programmes for their empowerment in all kinds of issues.

**Keywords:** empowerment, education, economic, challenges, tribes and Karnataka

### Introduction

Tribal plays a pivotal role in their social, cultural, economic, and religious ways of life and are considered as an economic asset in their society. However, they are still lagging in various factors such as education, employment, good health, and economic and political empowerment, etc. Though they are diligent, they have limited control over resources and activities. Therefore, there is a need for empowerment to overcome inequality, discrimination, and exploitation and achieve their all-round development in society.

Economic empowerment of marginalized groups involves creating socio-political space for these groups by the state and civil society, and it is a process of liberation from man-made bondage through sustained struggle and resistance. It also represents the realization of hopes and dreams of marginalized groups for a social environment, free of inequalities that affect them politically, socially, and economically. The issue of empowerment is also linked with aspects like equality, liberty, and fraternity. Thus, the concept of "Empowerment" of tribal is relatively new, and it has been contextualized and acquires a new connotation in recent years among social scientists, policymakers, and development activists. However, to overcome these kinds of the obstacle of the empowerment of tribal, the scientific research is an urgent need.

There are a smaller number of studies explaining the causes and consequences of disempowerment. Such studies are related to a general inquiry of exploitation and dependency. These studies have identified lack of education, absence of skills and training, lack of property rights, social isolation and segregation, and male control over resources and reproductive rights as responsible for disempowerment. These factors, to different degrees, apply to the disempowerment of different socio-economic groups of tribals who are socially heterogeneous groups like White people versus Black people, educated and uneducated, high

caste and low castes. These socially discriminated women face different degrees and various types of obstacles for empowerment (Becker 1956; Sen 1993 & 2001) <sup>[1, 2]</sup>.

Generally, the tribal being poor and socially backward, live at a low level of scale of the quality of life. Thus, the tribal habitually face the problems such as food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to health care services and education, and the victim of domestic violence and rape and political less integrated. Unlike the well-organized communities, the tribals and tribal lag far behind in social status. In this nature and dimension of socio-economic inequality among the tribal in India as well as Karnataka also. Sen has advocated the human capabilities approach to the development process. Human capabilities include the social, economic, cultural, and political capabilities of human beings (Sen, 2001).

By way of implication, it may be observed that to achieve the goal of empowerment of tribal's; it is necessary to implement sub-plans among the tribal as equal to and analogous with men and women of modern urban society and urban economic system. Therefore, the human development perspective used to promote increased and more economic growth and political participation, equality, humansecurity, and human dignity and respect for tribal necessitate the adoption of programs for achieving empowerment of tribalslike others. Tribals, including their women and children, have the right to live happily and enjoy the full human life. This universe belongs to the poorest of the poor, namely the tribal people, as it belongs to the men and women of modern and materialistically prosperous system.

### Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the factors influencing the economic and political empowerment of tribes.

- To suggest the appropriate programs and policy measures to achieve the goal of empowerment of tribal in Karnataka.

**Research Methodology**

The research methodology adopted for the present study adopted secondary sources of data. The secondary data was collected from the various published documents. Statistical tables and simple average methods are used to analyze the empowerment of tribes.

**Status of tribals in Karnataka**

The south Indian State of Karnataka, once part of several kingdoms and princely states of repute in the Deccan peninsula, is rich in its historical, cultural, and anthropological heritage. The state is the home to 42,48,987 tribal people, of whom 50,870 belong to the primitive group. Although these people represent only 6.99 percent of the state population, there are as many as 50 different tribes notified by the Government of India, living in Karnataka, of which 14 tribes, including two primitive ones, are primarily natives of this state.

**Table 1:** Scheduled Tribes Population in Karnataka (in Lakhs)

District	2001	2011	District	2001	2011
	ST	ST		ST	ST
Bagalkot	0.8	0.97	Hassan	0.26	0.32
Bengaluru	0.86	1.9	Haveri	1.27	1.41
Bengaluru Rural	0.62	0.53	Kodagu	0.46	0.58
Belagavi	2.43	2.97	Kolar	2.06	0.79
Ballari	3.65	4.51	Koppal	1.39	1.64
Bidar	1.82	2.36	Mandya	0.17	0.22
Chamarajanagar	1.06	1.2	Mysuru	2.71	3.35
Chikkaballapura	0	1.56	Raichur	3.03	3.67
Chikmagalur	0.41	0.45	Ramanagara	0	0.23
Chitradurga	2.66	3.03	Shivamogga	0.56	0.65
Dakshina Kannada	0.63	0.82	Tumkuru	1.94	2.1
Davanagere	2.1	2.33	Udupi	0.42	0.53
Dharwad	0.7	0.88	Uttara Kannada	0.24	0.34
Gadag	0.54	0.62	Vijayapura	0.3	0.39
Kalaburagi	1.54	0.65	Yadgir	0	1.47
KARNATAKA	34.64	42.49			

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey 2020-21

Above table 1 discussed the decadal tribal population in Karnataka as above. Bellary had the highest population, 3.65 lakh in 2001, and it raised 4.51 lakhs in 2011. Likewise of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Raichur (3.03 lakhs in 2001 and it raised 3.67 lakhs in 2011, and it has the second-highest percentage of ST population in Karnataka followed by Chitradurga Mysore and Belgaum

**Welfare programmes for scheduled tribes in Karnataka**

In Karnataka, the ST population increased from 0.35 crores during the 2001 census to 0.42 crores in the 2011 census that constitutes 6.99% of the total population in the state. To provide quality education to the meritorious ST students studying at fifth standard and above are given admission in reputed residential or non-residential schools. The department bears all fees and maintenance charges. 7580 students were benefitted from this program from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation Ltd. (KMVSTDC) is implementing several developmental schemes. From 2016-17 to 2020-21 (up to Nov-2020), 10334 beneficiaries were provided financial assistance for self-employment, and 24109 beneficiaries were covered under Ganga Kalyana Programmes.

To improve productive endowments and exchange entitlements among the ST households, the State Government has implemented various programs in social and economic domains. It has been attempted through a) Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare and b) Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. The progress of important schemes is summarized as follows:

**1. Tribal sub-plan**

To promote the overall development of STs, the tribal sub-plan (TSP) is being implemented by the department. As per the plan, the due share of funds and benefits from all developmental sectors in the state’s annual plans are channelized exclusively for the welfare of the ST community in proportion to their population. Integrated Tribal Development Project functions in Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Chamarajanagar. Since 1992 the project has been extended to all districts of the state. The in- grant aid under Article 275 (1), the in- grant aid is also being provided to take up such special development programs that are otherwise not included in the plan programs.

**2. Construction of Valmiki Bhavans**

The Valmiki Bhavans are being constructed at the cost of Rs. 4.00 crores at District level, Rs. 2.00 crore at Taluk level and Rs.75.00 lakh at Hobli level, and Rs.20.00 lakh at village level to benefit Scheduled Tribe people. 1311 Valmiki Bhavans were constructed during the last five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto Nov-2020) with an expenditure of Rs. 18030.84 lakhs.

**2. A. Karnataka Maharishi valmiki scheduled tribes development corporation Ltd**

A large number of ST households continue to be deprived of productive assets and income-earning avenues. Therefore, Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation was established for the economic development of the Scheduled Tribes. The schemes implemented by the Corporation are as detailed below.

## 1 Self Employment Scheme

### a. Self Employment Scheme for unemployed youths

This scheme is launched mainly to help unemployed and under-employed youths belonging to STs and improve their economic condition by taking up profitable and viable economic activities. The Corporation provides subsidies and term loan through commercial banks and financial Institutions for setting up self-employment activities. An amount of Rs.8406.25 lakhs has been incurred as expenditure covering 10334 beneficiaries from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

### b. Direct Loan under Self Employment Scheme

The Corporation is implementing a direct loan under self-employment program during the year 2020-21. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.50,000/- which includes the subsidy of Rs.25,000/- and loan of Rs.25,000/- is provided to each beneficiary from the Corporation for engaging themselves in small business activities like handicraft shop, bamboo shop, readymade garment shop, sheep rearing, fish business, etc. During 2020-21 up to Nov-2020, 3304 beneficiaries were covered with Rs.1652 lakh expenditures.

### c. Industries, Service and Business (ISB)

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the unemployed Scheduled Tribes to start various self-employment activities, namely small scale industry, purchase of Transport Vehicles, Piggeries, Poultry, Goat Farming, Leather Industry, Establishment of Advocate Office, Beauty Parlour, Readymade Garments and DTP Centre, etc. From 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto Nov-2020), 4891 beneficiaries benefitted from a loan facility of RS.28075.3 lakhs, including subsidy.

## 2. Micro Credit Finance (Small Loan) Scheme

Under this scheme, financial assistance is given to skilled and unskilled Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries belonging to semi-urban or urban areas of the Self Help Groups to develop their small business activities. The unit cost is Rs.25,000/- per beneficiary, out of which Rs.15,000/- is subsidy and Rs.10,000/- is margin money from State Government. From 2016-17 to 2020-21(upto Nov-2020), 36622 beneficiaries were covered with an expenditure of amount Rs.6279.69 lakhs.

## 3. Land Purchase Scheme

The scheme was launched in the year 1991 in commemoration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth centenary in Karnataka. Under this scheme, financial assistance is being provided to landless agricultural labourers for purchasing agricultural lands from non-SC/ST land holders. The land will be purchased by paying maximum three times of the guidance value fixed by the government, subject to maximum limit of Rs.15.00 lakhs per unit. Out of Rs.15.00 lakhs, maximum extent of irrigated /dry /farm land will be purchased and registered in the name of women beneficiaries. Out of unit cost, 50% will be subsidy and 50% will be term loan. 1911 beneficiaries were covered under this scheme with an expenditure of Rs.20119.21 lakhs from 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto Nov-20).

## 4. Ganga Kalyana Scheme

### a. Individual Irrigation Borewell Scheme

Irrigation facility is provided to the small and marginal scheduled tribe farmers by digging borewell/openwells. The unit cost is Rs.3.50 lakhs, which includes subsidy of Rs.3.00 lakhs and loan amount of Rs.0.50 lakh. Subsidy of Rs.3.00 lakhs includes Rs.0.50 lakh meant for energization of borewells. However, in respect of Kolar, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural and Tumkur districts where ground water level is depleted, the unit cost is fixed at Rs.4.50 lakhs, inclusive of subsidy of Rs.4.00 lakhs and loan amount of Rs.0.50 lakh at 6% rate of interest. Under this scheme 24109 beneficiaries were covered from 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto Nov-2020) with an expenditure of Rs.44561.27 lakhs.

### b. Lift Irrigation Scheme

Irrigation facility at free of cost will be provided to 3 small and marginal scheduled tribe farmers having their lands nearby rivers/canals by drawing pipeline and installing pumpsets. Unit cost is Rs.4.00 lakhs for minimum 8-00 acres of land and Rs.6.00 lakhs for 15-00 acres of land.

## 5. Training Programme

The Corporation is also organizing training programs like Computer hardware, light motor vehicle driving, heavy motor vehicle driving, repair of motor rewinding at free of cost belonging to unemployed Scheduled Tribe's youths to take up gainful self employment in co-ordination with NSTFDC.

## 3. Udyogini

The scheme envisages helping women to engage themselves in income generating activities and to make them selfemployed and intends to facilitate to avail loan through banks and other financial institutions. It also intends to provide subsidy through the Corporation.

For women belonging to ST category maximum loan of Rs.3.00 lakh whose family income doesn't exceed Rs.2.00 lakh with subsidy of 50%(Rs.1.50 lakh).For Women belonging to general and special category with the project cost of minimum Rs.1.00 lakh to maximum Rs.3.00 lakh with a subsidy of 30%(maximum subsidy is Rs.90,000/) whose family income does not exceed Rs.1.50 lakh. The age limit is from 18 to 55 years for general as well as for SC/ST beneficiaries.

## 4. Women Training Programme

Training programmes aiming to improve the skills to women belonging to lower income group, widows, destitute, physically challenged and women belonging to ST categories is being implemented. These programmes intend to develop entrepreneurial skills among women. There is no income limit.

## 5. Devadasi Rehabilitation Programme

In order to come out of the evil practice of Devadasi system and with the intention of empowering Ex-Devadasis financially and to make them self-reliant, this scheme is being implemented in 14 districts viz. Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Raichur, Koppal, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Ballari, Kalburagi, Davangere, Yadgiri, Chitradurga and Shivamogga. Financial assistance of Rs.50,000/- (Rs.25,000/- loan and Rs.25,000/- incentive) is provided Ex-

Devadasis by the Corporation to take up income generating activities such as Animal Husbandry, Petty Shop etc. Awareness is being credit through through Jagruthi Programmes and Health camps about the evil practice. From 2017-18 to 2019-20 an amount of Rs.2230.00 lakhs expenditure has been incurred for 2778 beneficiaries. During the year 2020-21 an amount of Rs.614.00 lakh have been provided in the budget to cover 790 beneficiaries. An amount of Rs.130.62 lakh has been spent to conduct awareness campaigns, legal and health camps about the evil practice of Devadasi system.

**6. Devadasi Pension Scheme**

The Corporation also implements the scheme that provides pension to support to ex-devadasis. Ex-Devadasis above the age of 45 years are given a pension of Rs.1500/- per month to lead normal and respectful life. This pension amount is credited directly to the Bank account of the beneficiaries. As per the survey conducted during the year 1993-94 & 2007-08, 46,660 Ex-Devadasis were identified. Among them, those who have crossed 45 years of age numbering to 30201 are proposed to be provided with a monthly pension of Rs.1,500/- during 2020-21. From 2017-18 to 2019-20 an amount of Rs. 15307.00 lakhs expenditure has been incurred for 88,918 beneficiaries. During 2020-21 a grant of Rs.5423.40 lakh is provided in the budget of which an amount of Rs.2211.93 lakh is spent and 30130 beneficiaries were covered upto November 2020.

**7. Micro Credit Scheme**

It was introduced during 2011-12 in order to facilitate the members of the Shree Shakthi Self Help Groups (SSSHG), who are willing to take up income generating activities. An amount of Rs1.00 lakh is provided at 6% interest rate. From 2015-16, an amount of Rs.2.00 lakh interest free loan is provided to each group. An interest free loan of Rs.1.00 lakh to 3.00 lakh for the self help groups of STs and Rs.1.00 lakh to 2.00 lakhs for self help group of other catogery is provided to based on the savings of the group.

**8. Land Purchase Scheme**

The scheme has been launched during 1990-91 to make the landless agricultural labourers land holders by purchasing lands from non-ST land holders. Under this scheme, 2 acres of dry land or 1 acre of wetland will be distributed to the beneficiaries. The Unit cost fixed is 20.00 lakhs, for 4 districts namely Bengaluru urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapura and Ramanagar and for the remaining 26 districts the unit cost is Rs.15.00 lakhs. Under this scheme, 50% will be subsidy and 50% as term loan with 6% interest rate which has to be repaid in 10 annual equal installments. The lands will be registered in the name of women beneficiary of the family.

**9. Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)**

The main objective of the program is to assist ST farmers to purchase power tiller for the preparation of land, planting seedlings/plants and for spraying activities of Horticulture crops. 90% of assistance is being given to ST farmers for purchase of Power Tiller.

**10. Fishries activities tribal area subplan**

Under this scheme various programmes have been taken up for the beneficiaries involved in fisheries activities and

belonging Scheduled tribe. In 2019-20, an allocation of Rs.40.00 lakh was made. Rs. 40.00 lakh was spent for the implementation of these programmes. 6 beneficiaries have been assisted. During 2020-21, an allocation of Rs.40.00 lakh has been made and Rs.9.80 lakh is spent up to the end of November 2020.

**11. Micro irrigation tribal sub plan**

Under this head of account department has taken up MI schemes such as construction of new tanks, anicut/pickup bhandars, modernization of tanks and lift irrigation schemes etc., to create irrigation facility to the lands belonging to scheduled tribe beneficiaries. An expenditure of Rs. 6916.15 lakhs is incurred against the grant of Rs. 7911.00 lakhs during 2020-21 (End of November 2020. Irrigation facility of 710.24 Ha is created against the target of 1818.41 Ha.2020-21 (End of November 2020). These schemes are being handed over to respective beneficiaries after construction.

**12. Industrial finance to ST entrepreneurs**

Karnataka State Financial Corporation (KSFC) is a State Level Financial Institution established in 1959 to cater to the long term financial needs of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the State. KSFC takes pride being pioneer in serving MSMEs of industrial and service segments in the state for the past 61 years. The cumulative Gross Sanctions of the Corporation reached 17,884.72 crore covering 1,74,217 cases as on 31.3.2020. uner this scheme the authority released Rs.12 crore for Scheduled Tribes Entrepreneurs scivities.

**13. Scholarship and merit awards (Reimbursement of Fee)**

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students who have been selected for engineering courses by the Karnataka Examination Authority through the CET are being provided the reimbursement of fee. In 2016-17. The details are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Reimbursement of Fee for ST – Students

Year	Numbers	Total (Rs. In Lakhs)
2016-17	1237	490.74
2017-18	1218	521.6
2018-19	1122	517.56
2019-20	933	459.62

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey 2020-21

**Policy Implications**

- The state should emphasize the importance of skills formation and development programs for the benefit of tribes.
- The Government of Karnataka should make different plans and programs for the empowerment of tribes in general and in particular.
- The local government officials should be involved in organizing the financial institutions among tribal and encourage them to takeup self-employment activities outside the tribal habitats and settlements
- Agriculture and allied sector development should be promoted to create household job opportunities for tribes.

- Self-awareness and interest are essential for empowerment.
- Health care services and health insurance is necessary to improve the health status and supply of food grains through the LAMPS or PDS.
- The Forest Rights Act of 2006 and 2008 should be implemented appropriately without delaying increasing the financial benefits-based business and its processing activities.
- Institutional financial assistance is an urgent need for increasing the access of tribes to open up new avenues of economic empowerment.

### Conclusion

In concluding remarks, we may say that the tribal are slowly empowered economically, politically, and socially. The socio-economic empowerment of tribal could be kept as a long-term development goal in India and Karnataka. Economic independence and the education of tribes will go a long way in attaining self-reliance. So, empowerment awareness, education, competitiveness, willingness, confidence, self-motivation, mindset, and encouragement from society are essential for empowering tribes. The success achieved in this regard is helpful to bring tribes into the mainstream of inclusive growth process in India. Reducing poverty and unemployment of the tribes would pave the way towards their empowerment.

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