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## **Impact and Evaluation of Government Policies in the development of Bodh Tribe, Himachal Pradesh**

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**ABSTRACT:** People of Bodh community are drawing benefits from development policies run by the Government. The awareness level however is linked with other factors of social awareness. Lahaul region is advanced in this regard. Subsidies provided by the Government for upliftment of tribal people have also helped Bodh community people in activities such as financial help to build their house under various schemes. Reservation policy and its benefits in seeking Government job or to avail other services is also known to people of Bodh tribe. These factors have helped in integrating the Bodh tribe into mainstream society. The people of Bodh tribe are facing problems which influence their progress and development. Important problems comprise of lack of education, lack of finance, lack of awareness, corruption and political interference. Winter season and hard terrain problems due to topography of the region is a great hindrance in the way of development.

**Keywords:** Bodh tribe, development, government policies, hindrances

### **INTRODUCTION**

Economic sector is a big sector in Bodh tribe (Singh, 1982) and it covers various schemes like, agriculture, horticulture, soil conservation, animal husbandry, dairy and milk supplies, fisheries, major and minor irrigation, flood control, tourism, civil supplies, weights and measures, communication, rural development, community development, land reforms, panchayats, energy covering hydel power and micro hydel projects, small scale industry, handicrafts, large and medium industries, mineral development, civil aviation, roads and bridges, cable ways, road transportation, communication, telecommunication, science and technology (Bhowmick, 2005). Social services is another one sector which comes after the economic sector in Bodh tribe. The schemes covered by the social services sector is as under, elementary education, secondary education, adult education, technical education, development of art and culture, development of allopathy, ayurveda, water supply and sewerage, youth services and mountaineering and allied sports, town and country planning including housing (Deogankar, 1980). Social services sector also includes money spent on information and publicity of various scheme run by the Government time to time for the welfare of scheduled tribes, scheduled caste and other backward classes.

General services sector comes at number three after the economic and social services sectors. General services sector includes, fire services, police, telecommunication services, public works budgets and tribal development machinery. The last sector is border area development programme, under this sector the fund is allocated for those scheduled areas which are the border areas and share international boundary with other country (Eisenstady, 1969). After the long discussion on various sectors it can be said that the economic sector is the biggest sector followed by then social services sector, general services sector and border area development programme sectors. Tribal development issues as brought out are so distinguished approach in development planning. Which

itself was the most debated issues in the tribal development literature. Here is the detail of Five Year Plan wise tribal development as follows:

**Plan wise Tribal Development Policies and Programmes (Soundarapandian, 2001).**

S.No.	Plan Period	Tribal Development Programme
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> Five Year Plan (1951-56)	Community Development Approach (Tribal Development Projects)
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Five Year Plan (1956-61)	Special Multipurpose Projects for Tribal People (Creation of Tribal Development Blocks)
3.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Five Year Plan (1961-66)	Improvement of over the general Community Development Approach (Improvement of Tribal Development Blocks)
4.	4 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1969-1974)	Administrative Frame Programme implementation and Protective measures [Tribal Development Agencies (TDA)]
5.	5 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1974-79)	Total and comprehensive view of the tribal problems and Coordination of Sectoral Programmes (Tribal sub-plan and creation of LAMPS)
6.	6 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1980-85)	Integrated approach and large financial allocation (Expansion plan of TSP)
7.	7 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1985-90)	Mix-up of beneficiary oriented programme and infrastructural development (Intensive Tribal Development)
8.	8 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1992-97)	Plan considering the need of the people and participation (District/Regional Planning and Participation of Voluntary organization)
9.	9 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (1997-2002)	Eradication of Poverty and Provision of Food Security
10.	10 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2002-2007)	Eradication of Poverty and Provision of Food Security
11.	11 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2007-2012)	BADP/SCA Utilisation

Himachal Pradesh is a small mountain state of gods and goddesses, predominantly inhabited by most backward tribal. Most of the under developed areas of the state are those far-flung villages and tehsils which are inhabited by these tribals. These area are remote and inaccessible with non-existent transport and communication system and highly inadequate educational, health, water supply and electricity supply facilities (Gupta, 2007).

In the present study, an attempt has been made to discuss some aspects of development policies, strategies and results of implementation of tribal development plans among Bodh tribe of district of Lahaul & Spiti in Himachal Pradesh.

**METHODOLOGY**

*A. Data Collection*

**1) Primary sources:** The relevant data has been collected from the sample of respondents from Lahaul and Spiti subdivision respectively. The information was gathered from the respondents with the help of questionnaire and interview schedule.

**2) Secondary sources:** Secondary sources have been collected from published and non-published sources. It includes various books, articles, reports of the various departments, Journals pertaining to the tribal development, modernization and political development, the statistical data of the economic and statistical department, Tribal development and Department of social and tribal welfare are the main sources of secondary data.

*B. Tools of Data Collection*

**Questionnaire:** Keeping in view the undertaken problem researcher has conducted a pilot survey before preparing a questionnaire. Questionnaire was prepared on the basis of information collected during pilot survey, So that relevant and meaningful information may be collected from the respondents during the course of field investigation. To elicit

the information from the respondents both close ended and open ended questions have been prepared by the researcher.

### C. Personal Interview

Personal interview has also been conducted with the respondents to know more about the socio, economic and political life of the people of Bodh tribes. Separate interview schedule was also be fixed with the leaders of Bodh tribe to know about the emerging pattern of leadership among the Bodh tribe.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The state and centre government have run various policies and programmes under these four sectors. The allocation of funds for various schemes and policies under these four sectors through the eleventh five year plan from 2007-2012 is given in the table 1.

**Table 1: Approved outlays on various sectors under tribal sub-plan 2007-2012.**

S.No.	Sectors	Sector Plan	SCA	Tribal Pockets	Dispersed Tribes	Total
1.	Economic Services	64606.00	1312.00	228.00	1012.00	67158.00
2.	Social Services	40590.00	208.00	42.00	366.00	41206.00
3.	General Services	15509.00	-	-	47.00	15556.00
4.	Border Area Development Programme	2080	-	-	-	2080.00
	Total	122785.00	1520.00	270.00	1425.00	126000.00

Table 1 depicts the approved outlays on various sectors under tribal sub plan 2007-2012. The total outlay on economic sectors, during the period 2007-2012 under state plan has Rs. 64606 lacs. Special Central Assistance has Rs. 1312 lacs for the same period, 228 lacs for tribal pockets. Dispersed tribes got 1012 lacs. A total of Rs. 67158 lacs has been approved for the economic services. In the social services sector state plan started up with total approved outlays Rs. 40590 lacs and social central assistance has Rs. 208 lacs. The analysis of the data of table 1 shows that a huge amount has been approved for the economic services under the eleventh five year plan. A good amount has also been approved for social services and general services in comparison to 10<sup>th</sup> five year plan. The allotment of huge amount will not be enough for the transformation of a tribal society into mainstream society, but it will be depend upon the best implementation of the policies and programmes (Buddhadeb 1995). Moreover, Government would ensured that more and more tribal people could get benefits of these policies and programme. The table 2 shows the actual expenditure of annual plan 2007-08 under Tribal Sub Plan 2007-2012.

**Table 2: Actual expenditure on various sectors under tribal sub-plan 2007-2008.**

S.No.	Sectors	Sector Plan	SCA	Tribal Pockets	Dispersed Tribes	Total
1.	Economic Services	9448.31	399.92	42.50	366.19	10256.92
2.	Social Services	7110.71	28.58	5.00	161.82	7306.11
3.	General Services	1141.21	-	-	5.27	1146.48
4.	Border Area Development Programme	1118.98	-	-	-	1118.98
	Total	18819.21	428.50	47.50	533.28	19828.49

The data of table 2 shows that actual expenditure in economic services under state plan Rs. 9448.31 lacs, under special central assistance Rs. 399.92 lacs, Rs. 42.50 lacs under tribal pockets and, 366.19 lacs under dispersed tribes. The total amount expenditure was Rs. 10256.92 lacs. In social services actual expenditure under state plan Rs. 7110.71 lacs, Rs. 28.58 lacs under special central assistance, Rs. 5 lacs under tribal pockets and Rs. 161.82 lacs was under dispersed tribes. So the total actual expenditure in social services during year 2007-08 was Rs. 7306.11 lacs, under general services state was incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1141.21 lacs for state plan during 2007-08, and 5.27

lacs for dispersed classes, under border area development programme state plan Rs. 1118.98 lacs was expended. Government had spent a good amount during 2007-08 year to benefit more and more tribes. It shows the government determination towards the welfare of tribal people and their upliftment. This was the beginning year of tribal sub plan 2007-2012. The table 3 shows the anticipated expenditure on various sectors under annual plan 2008-2009.

**Table 3: Anticipated expenditure on various sectors under tribal sub-plan 2008-09.**

S.No.	Sectors	Sector Plan	SCA	Tribal Pockets	Dispersed Tribes	Total
1.	Economic Services	9706.27	377.30	46.00	356.50	10486.07
2.	Social Services	7256.94	32.70	6.00	124.50	7420.14
3.	General Services	2535.79	-	-	39.00	2574.79
4.	Border Area Development Programme	1297.00	-	-	-	1297.00
	Total	20796.00	410.00	52.00	520.00	21778.00

Table 3 indicates the total anticipated expenditure on various sectors under annual plan 2008-09. The total expenditure on economic services under state has been 9706.27 lacs, and special central assistance anticipated expenditure has 377.30 lacs. 46 lacs anticipated expenditure has been for tribal pockets, only 356.50 lacs anticipated expenditure has been for dispersed tribes. So the total anticipated expenditure on economic sectors Rs. 10486.07 lacs. In social services sectors state plan started up with Rs. 7256.94 lacs, Rs. 32.70 lacs for special central assistance, Rs. 6 lacs for tribal pockets and Rs. 124.50 lacs for dispersed tribes. The total anticipated expenditure on social services has been Rs. 7420.14 lacs. In general services sector state plan anticipated expenditure has been 2535.79 lacs. No amount has been released for special central assistance and tribal pockets in annual plan 2008-09 and Rs. 39 lacs anticipated expenditure has been for dispersed tribes. The total amount Rs. 2574.79 lacs has been anticipated for general services sectors. Border area development programme under state plan anticipated expenditure Rs. 1297 lacs because there has been no amount allotted for SCA, tribal pockets and dispersed tribes. This is a good amount for 2008-09 and the benefits of more and more tribes would depend on good co-ordination between government agencies and tribes. The table 4 shows the approved outlays on various sectors under annual plan 2009-2010.

**Table 4: Approved outlays on various sectors under annual plan 2009-10.**

S.No.	Sectors	Sector Plan	SCA	Tribal Pockets	Dispersed Tribes	Total
1.	Economic Services	12198.50	450.00	179.70	561.80	13390.00
2.	Social Services	7776.50	-	20.00	64.50	7861.00
3.	General Services	1752.00	-	-	-	1752.00
4.	Border Area Development Programme	1297.00	-	-	-	1297.00
	Total	23024.00	450.00	199.70	626.30	24300.00

The data of table 4 shows that the approved outlays for economic services under state plan Rs. 12198.50 lacs and Rs. 450 lacs has been approved outlays under special central assistance and Rs. 179 lacs under tribal pocket and under dispersed tribes Rs. 561.80 lacs approved outlays. The total Rs. 7861 lacs approved outlays for social services under annual plan 2009-10. In general services there is only Rs. 1752 lacs approved outlays. No approved outlays under SCA, tribal pockets and dispersed tribes. For border area development programme approved outlays Rs. 1297 lacs under state plan. The government of both, centre and state are trying hard to integrate tribals with the mainstream of the society. Government has also started various programmes of development to connect tribes with the mainstream of the society through modernization and development of various fields of tribal society (Aiyar, 1973). The researcher thus made attempt to see whether these huge sums of money were of any benefit for Bodh tribe or not. Because the researcher is on the view that any person of any tribal society can get benefit only if he is aware about the policies and programmes run by the government for the welfare of the people of any tribal society. To know

about the awareness level of Bodh people regarding various policies and programmes the responses of the respondents is given in table 5.

**Table 5: Distribution of respondents regarding their awareness about welfare policies of the Government for the tribes.**

S.No.	Response	Number of Respondents in Lahaul Region	Number of Respondents in Spiti Region	Total
1.	Aware	128 (85.33)	119 (79.33)	247 (82.33)
2.	Not Aware	21 (14.00)	28 (18.67)	49 (16.34)
3.	No Response	1 (0.67)	3 (2.00)	4 (1.33)
	Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)

Note : Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

The data of above table reveals that 85.33 percent respondents from Lahaul region and 79.33 percent respondents from Spiti region are aware about the policies formulated and initiated by the centre and state government for the welfare and upliftment of tribal people and 14 percent respondent from Lahaul region and 18.67 percent from Spiti region are not aware about the tribal welfare policies.

The analysis of the data shows that more than half percent Bodh are aware about these schemes. All respondents are almost educated and they also admit that their education helped them to know about the policies and programmes run by the government for their welfare. It can be understood that modern equipments of change and transformation are playing good role in the Bodh society of Lahaul and Spiti of Himachal Pradesh. 85 percent awareness about tribal policies by the tribal people of Bodh Community can be considered good but if we see the geographical situation of Bodh tribal community area of Lahaul and Spiti then it is not exaggeration to say that it is much better situation than any other tribal community of Himachal Pradesh. The table 6 also depicts the level of benefit drawn by the Bodh tribe from the government welfare programmes.

**Table 6: Distribution of respondents regarding the benefit drawn from development policies being run by the Government for tribal welfare.**

S.No.	Response	Number of Respondents in Lahaul Region	Number of Respondents in Spiti Region	Total
1.	Benefitted from Policies	113 (75.33)	105 (70.00)	218 (72.67)
2.	No benefit from the policies	36 (24.00)	42 (28.00)	78 (26.00)
3.	No Response	1 (0.67)	3 (2.00)	4 (1.33)
	Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)

Note : Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

The analysis of the above table indicates that 75.33 percent respondents from Lahaul region and 70 percent respondents from Spiti region saying that they got benefit from the policies being run by the government. More than half percent of respondents have received benefit of development policies of the government. When researcher made enquiry about difference respondents responded that there are two big hurdles in their way. The first one is limited time period to work in a year, as we know that district Lahaul and Spiti is the biggest district of Himachal Pradesh and the climate of the district is quite chilled during the winter so that it remains cut from the other part of Himachal Pradesh almost four to six month in a year due to heavy snow fall. The people of Bodh community are also scattered all over the district and for most of the time these people not connected with the other areas of the state. Due to heavy snow fall and glacier sliding they remains cut from various policies and programmes of tribal welfare. Another problem is that, the working system of administration and bureaucracy is very rigid and complicated from the point of view of tribal people. These problems made things difficult and benefit cannot be drawn at proper time.

However, Bodh tribe are always fighting for their rights. Although Bodh people are struggling for their benefit from government policies but at the panchayat level they are easily getting their benefit like financial help and subsidies on various goods. They are getting awareness through T.V., Dish T.V., Radios, Mobiles and Telephones, Communication System, moreover through the gram sabha meeting. The table 7 shows the number of Bodh people who are getting benefit of other policies and programmes of government in form of financial help and subsidy.

**Table 7: Distribution of respondents regarding getting financial help and subsidy from the Government.**

S. No.	Response	Number of Respondents in Lahaul Region	Number of Respondents in Spiti Region	Total
1.	Yes	122 (81.33)	109 (72.67)	231 (77.00)
2.	No	28 (18.67)	39 (26.00)	67 (22.34)
3.	No Response	0	2 (1.33)	2 (0.66)
	Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)

Note : Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

As we know that Centre Government and State Government have run various policies and schemes for the welfare and upliftment of tribal people of different communities to integrate them with the mainstream of the society. To achieve these motives Government has made strong efforts for good implementation of these schemes and policies. When an enquiry was made to know that the people of Bodh community of Lahaul and Spiti have any knowledge about such schemes and either they are getting any benefits of these schemes or not then 81.33 percent of respondents from Lahaul region and 72.67 percent of respondents from Spiti region responded that they have drawn such benefits and financial helps to build their houses under Indira Awas Yojna and Rajiv Awas Yojna and subsidies on seeds of various cash crops they have grown in their fields. 18.67 percent of respondents from Lahaul and 26 percent of respondents from Spiti region replied that they did not get such type of benefits and 1.33 percent respondents from Spiti did not reply the quarry.

The analysis of data of table reveals that 77 percent of Bodh people have got benefits of government schemes, because they have proper awareness of such schemes but it does not mean that the remaining 23 percent Bodh people have no awareness. The remaining Bodh people admitted that they are also aware about such schemes and at the right time according to their needs they shall also have these benefits. Researcher observed that these various schemes are helping good in the transformation of Bodh people from traditional society to modern society and mainstream of the society. When one another enquiry was made by researcher to know the awareness about the reservation policy, the responses of the respondents are given in table 8.

**Table 8: Distribution of respondents regarding awareness of reservation policy.**

S. No.	Response	Number of Respondents in Lahaul Region	Number of Respondents in Spiti Region	Total
1.	Yes	139 (92.67)	131 (87.33)	270 (90.00)
2.	No	11 (7.33)	19 (12.67)	30 (10.00)
3.	No Response	-	-	-
	Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)

Note : Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

The table 8 shows that 92.67 percent respondents from Lahaul region and 87.33 percent respondents from Spiti region are admitted that they are quite aware about the reservation policy of government jobs. 7.33 percent of respondents from Lahaul region and 12.67 percent respondents from Spiti region replied that they have no knowledge about reservation policy. During the survey, researcher observed that the respondents who denied that they have no knowledge of reservation policy, maximum of these person are of the age of sixty or plus sixty and

majority of them were women. It clear that younger generation have complete knowledge of such schemes and they are also getting benefit of reservation policy.

In such a hilly terrain and rigid climate conditions, it was necessary to know about the hindrances which hurt or influence their progress and development. The responses of the respondents regarding this quarry are in the table 9.

**Table 9: Distribution of respondents regarding awareness about hindrances in their way of development.**

S.No.	Nature of Hindrance	Number of Respondents in Lahaul Region	Number of Respondents in Spiti Region	Total
1.	Lack of education	20 (13.33)	34 (22.67)	54 (18.00)
2.	Lack of Finance Facility	34 (22.67)	30 (20.00)	64 (21.33)
3.	Lack of awareness	25 (16.66)	18 (12.00)	43 (14.33)
4.	Corruption	12 (8.00)	27 (18.00)	39 (13.00)
5.	Political interference	16 (10.67)	13 (8.67)	29 (9.67)
6.	Winter Season	30 (20.00)	26 (17.33)	56 (18.67)
7.	No Response	13 (8.67)	2 (1.33)	15 (5.00)
	Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)

Note : Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

The table 9 indicates that 13.33 percent respondents of Lahaul region and 22.67 percent respondents of Spiti region responded that lack of education is the main obstacle in their way of development. Here one thing they mentioned that with the average education status like matric or below matric, one cannot fight for his rights. So they have good higher education status through which they can get clear knowledge of various schemes at proper time and can benefitted within the period. 22.67 percent respondents from Lahaul and 20 percent respondents from Spiti consider lack of finance one of the hindrance in the way of their development. They responded that there are no proper services in the government offices, in the schools, in the health centre of their area because if there are teachers then there is no school building to run the school, if there is a health centre then there is no doctor and if there is a doctor then there is no medicines, such and many others problems they have count. 16.66 percent respondents from Lahaul and 12 percent respondents from Spiti region admitted that lack of awareness is also one of the reason in their way of development. 8 percent of respondents of Lahaul region and 18 percent respondents of Spiti region consider corruption is another big cause in their way of development. 10.67 percent respondents from Lahaul region and 8.67 percent respondents from Spiti region responded that political interference is also a big hurdle in the way of progress and development. 20 percent respondent of Lahaul and 17.33 percent respondents of Spiti regarded winter as major culprit in their way of development. They said that the winter season disturb their life and various development work completely for a long period of six months. As we know that district of Lahaul and Spiti is a heavy snow fall area of Himachal Pradesh.

Only 8.67 percent respondents of Lahaul and 1.33 percent respondents of Spiti did not responded the quarry. The awareness about the hindrances in the way of development, counted by the Bodh people of Lahaul and Spiti shows that Bodh people have their own way of thinking and are trying to overcome these hindrances.

The analytical study about government policies given in a chapter illustrated that the government and its agencies are doing everything to integrate the tribal with the mainstream of the society. But after the analysis of the data the researcher can state that big scattered nature of district of Lahaul and Spiti and its main residents of Bodh tribe are also scattered all over the district is the biggest obstacle in the way of development. To sum up the discussion the researcher is of the view that centre government, state government and tribal development department should not merely concentrate on the allocation of funds for various scheme but also understood the problems and needs of any tribe before allocating the funds and implement the various schemes. The Government agencies should keep full knowledge of district of Lahaul and Spiti and the various problems of working period of this district. At last researcher is of the view that if government agencies and tribal people of Bodh community have good co-

ordination with each other than the results obviously will be good and Bodh tribe of district Lahaul and Spiti can get better facilities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Government has been trying its best for the socio-economic upliftment of the Bodh tribal community. The state government of Himachal Pradesh with the help of Central Government is running various schemes and policies for welfare of tribal people, but all these efforts are useless until these schemes cannot reached to the common person. Government agencies should prepare record of Bodh tribe people of Lahaul Spiti as we know that Lahaul-Spiti district is a big district and people of Bodh tribe are scattered all over the district. Without knowing their exact position it is difficult to provide benefit to the people of Bodh community. Government should guide its developmental agencies to plan and time bound work in this area because the working period is quite limited to four or five months otherwise this area covered under the snow for the rest of the year. So Government and tribal welfare agencies should prepared a special programme to work in this area. Government should ensure that each and every person gets the benefits of tribal welfare schemes. These benefits and schemes should reach the far-flung areas also. These schemes should become a practical reality for the people of the tribe of Bodh community of Lahaul and Spiti.

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