

INCLUDING THE NOMADIC & 'DENOTIFIED' TRIBES IN THE 12TH FIVE YEAR PLAN

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Who are the Nomadic People...

- **2,000 yrs of evidence** that Nomadic people have been Occupying important symbiotic relationship with other Human groups - providing variety of goods – specialized services – entertainment and fortune-telling – providing herbal medicines – keeping genealogies of some castes and much more - (P.K.Misra).
- Nomadism is part of their life – Predetermined and Systematic - undertaken to fulfill a definite purpose
- NT-DNT communities constitute **10% of India's total population**. An Estimated 313 Communities across India are under this categorization, 650 communities by NT-DNT commission (2008) – Exactly How many??
- **Total DNT and NT Population in 2001 (Category 1 + 2 + 3):**

1. DNT (SC & ST) 2001 Population	=	1, 36, 05,034
2. Nomadic (SC & ST) 2001 Population	=	4, 49, 59,058
3. Nomadic (OBC) 2001 Estimated Population	=	4, 88, 85,926
		TOTAL = 10, 74, 50,018



The 'Denotified' communities...

- The term 'Denotified Tribes' stands for - all those communities who were notified under the several versions of Criminal Tribes Acts enforced during the British Rule in between 1871 and 1947 (Dr. S. Panda). These Acts repealed post independence and communities 'Denotified' – Burden of this Stigma still deeply etched
- Habitual offenders Act was brought in place of CTA & continued to be used by police against them
- Legally 'Denotified' but still 'Marked' and Socially still 'Branded'



NT-DNT Communities - The Crisis they Face

- Constitutional protection – Non-existing - Fragmented Existence – shunted between SC-ST-OBC schedules – Many are 'Invisible'
- Missing from Demographic Analyses – because missing from census enumeration – Maharashtra State 11th five year plan doc. also notes this as a cause for no budgetary allocation – but no corrective in place
- Out of sight hence out of Mind – missing from State Development plans – Missing from National Five Year plans since the 6th Five year plan (1980-'85). Planning Commission parted ways by quoting Tagore - "**The day will dawn. Hold thy faith firm " (foreword of 6th five year plan. Till the 11th plan no mention)**
- *Rehabilitation of NT-DNT is a process not a milestone*



NT-DNT – The Crisis they Face

- Documentary evidences for enjoying Citizenship Entitlements missing – Primary Residence not Recognised – Not Registered, Poor but not part of BPL lists.
- No/negligible ration cards, no/negligible voter id cards and other relevant documentary evidences – Denied access to available documentary evidences – resulting in NO ACCESS to development programmes. Rights Trampled.
- Social discrimination from sedentary population – create hurdles/stalls process of creation of documentary evidences to establish citizens of a particular village –Gram Panchayats also culpable
- Environment to practice traditional livelihood practices vanishing – no support for new livelihood options
- Nomadism looked down upon as a 'problem' while it is part of Culture and Livelihood strategy VS Hijacked by pleasure travelers



NT-DNT – The Crisis they Face

- 'Ex-Criminal' tag - Hounded by sedentary population and Police machinery with equal if not more vengeance – A scenario of Exploitation – Oppression – Discrimination further affecting Livelihoods.
- Human Rights violations – arbitrary arrests, illegal detention, illegal raids on hamlets & settlements, custodial death, confiscation of goods while traveling during nomadic trade – Nowhere recorded hence easily 'dispensable' - an environment of fear and atrocities looms large. Dignity? Justice?
- Sexual assault during illegal raids – sexual harassments – detention of women & children in absence of men-folk is common (e.g. Umred village - Nagpur case) Custodial deaths of Women
- Legal protection similar to Atrocities Act of SC-ST – Those already under SC-ST lists rigorous implementation. At present no legal protection despite the vulnerability



NT-DNT – The Crisis they Face

- No tenure security over homestead land and land they cultivate
- Human Dev. Indicators abysmal – Education irrelevant and disconnected with livelihood options - Hygiene and sanitation at settlements very poor – Health esp. of Women very vulnerable & at high risk



Including NT-DNT Communities in the 12th Five year plan

- A Special Action Plan for NT-DNT communities with Earmarked funds Ensured: (Education, Livelihood, Health, Community Development)
- TOP PRIORITY - Guideline to State Governments for – Time bound action plan to issue relevant documentary proofs¹ for accessing Development Prog. At doorstep.
- Access to Dev. Programme cannot be refused due to no documentary proof for NT-DNT communities
- TOP PRIORITY – Recognising and Establishing 'EXISTENCE' which is lost in the SC-ST-OBC schedules. A Nationwide exercise to Reorganise and extend Constitutional Protection. Unity Not at the Cost of Diversity, Dignity, Justice.
- Nomads following Islam to be recognized as Nomads irrespective of their religious following. Sachar committee categorically recognizes Muslim communities as marginalised - Muslim Nomads are Minority within Minority - Marginalised within the marginalised e.g..

¹residence proof, birth certificate, caste certificate, voter id, BPL-ration card



Including NT-DNT Communities in the 12th Five year plan

- Security of Tenure on - Land in urban, semi-urban areas where temporary settlements are pitched for Generations – basic amenities of Drinking water, Health, Sanitation – Budgetary allocation for ensuring this on the lines of Min. of Tourism's Guidelines for tented accommodation. Urban-Semi urban Land Policy to be amended accordingly. Community specific Settlement/Hamlet Integrated development Plans to be developed
- Mapping of Primary Residence Settlements/houses/place of permanent residence – many fall on boundaries of Two villages, Talukas, railway lines etc – Development extension programmes would be effective if this is in place.
- Access to Education – Issuance of necessary documents to ensure admission, Punitive action against schools and relevant authorities for Discrimination incidents e.g. serving food v/s throwing food
- Monetary incentive to parents for sending children to schools. Whenever Nomadic - admission to schools ensured nearest to the settlements.



Including NT-DNT Communities in the 12th Five year plan

- Bridge Schools at settlements/hamlets for creating an environment of education, facilitating re-entry of dropouts
- Quality Primary Education – Evolving into strong linkage with Vocational Training – strengthening Livelihood practices, both existing & future ones
- Children from NT-DNT communities missing/negligible in Residential Schools of NT-DNT – Corrective in form of linking this with Budgetary allocations to these schools + Repeal Maharashtra State GR related to admission for non Nomads in Ashram schools. Special efforts to admit children of Muslim Nomads with an Earmarked quota in the Ashram schools of NT-DNTs.
- Residential schools for NT-DNT community children in all States.
- LIVELIHOOD : Budgetary provision in State Plans to conduct Livelihood Analyses in order to ascertain – changing patterns of livelihood practices, support requirements etc. Caste census in June 2011 opportune time to generate population figures for this study.
- Livelihood Support Programmes for Entrepreneurship development – e.g. Livestock rearing, Nomadic Trade and more
- Women Empowerment Prog. – Skills training, Entrepreneurship dev., Skill based livelihood support.
- Security of Tenure on – Land which they cultivate Debt ridden agriculture practices – skill building programmes for sustainable agriculture focusing on food security.



Including NT-DNT Communities in the 12th Five year plan

- Nomadism and Nomadic trade exists – Requires Credit support, Travel Concessions, Insurance of Self and Goods, Protection from arbitrary arrests and confiscation of goods during Nomadic Trade
- Health - Women's Health very vulnerable – lack of hygiene, overall burden of work is more – Needs a special programme of Awareness, Extension services
- Access to Health facilities like PHC – Denied due to not being registered residents of a particular village - linked with Primary Residence Proof – Directive that PHCs cannot refuse access to NT-DNT communities– Extension services not reaching Hamlets which are on periphery or between two villages – Directive to ensure that this changes.
- Mobile ration cards – Mobile Health Insurance facility
- National Rural Health Mission – special component for NT-DNT Communities – specially for Women
- Burial grounds for NT-DNT communities as denied access to existing ones



Including NT-DNT Communities in the 12th Five year plan

- Human Rights Violations alarmingly rampant – Arbitrary raids on settlements as part of police investigation procedure, Illegal detention, Custodial Deaths, Rape, Sexual assault/harassment during police raids – This has deep impact on – ***Life, Livelihood, Education, Health and Dignity – In short violation of all conceivable forms of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and Violation of UDHR***
- Imprisonment of Women and Children in absence of men folk standard procedure violations of all legal procedures and Human Right frameworks
- Due to changes in legal regimes – NT-DNT peoples' livelihood practices become 'illegal' – e.g. wildlife protection act, ban on use of animals for entertainment etc, Protection of Animals in place but no protection for Nomadic peoples' Livelihoods and Life, Vagrancy Act 1959, Beggary Act.
- Integrated Rehabilitation Plans to be designed – Min. of Tribal Affairs, Min. of Social Justice & Empowerment, Min. of Rural Dev., Min of Panchayati Raj, Min. of Urban, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Planning interface required– Special Cell on NT-DNT in Planning Commission can facilitate
- Legal protection similar to Atrocities Act of SC-ST – Those already under SC-ST lists rigorous implementation



Including NT-DNT communities in 12th Five year plan**SYSTEMIC CHANGES**

- Development planning is dependent on population and demographic analyses – both these dimensions are missing vis-à-vis NT-DNT Planning Commission should ensure this – Census concludes on 28th Feb 2011!!
- Another opportunity is Caste census in June 2011
- Socio – Economic Vulnerability analyses to be conducted – Planning Commission should direct National Sample Survey Organization to undertake these studies across the country. Special attention to the Muslim Nomads – as they invariably get recorded under their religious identity – leading to loss of their Nomadic Identity
- A Special Cell/Task Force for NT-DNT communities called **NT-DNT Inclusion & Implementation Task Force** should be set up under the Social Justice sector of Planning Commission – a corresponding cell in the State Planning Board for coordination and feeding into each other's systems
- Under the Project Appraisal and Management Division constitute a **NT-DNT Evaluation Team** for NT-DNT programmes and outlay utilization – corresponding State teams to be constituted in State Planning Boards
- Under Programme Evaluation Organisation Division of the Planning commission – Studies related to NT-DNT communities to be undertaken

Inclusion of NT-DNT communities in 12th Five year plan

- Cultural Protection and Promotion on the lines of Adivasi communities – Festivals, Awards, Museums of their Artifacts
- A dedicated **NT-DNT Support Desk** at the District Collector's office to address issues of NT-DNT communities – Also to address inter-jurisdictional aspects arising out of urban, semi-urban, (Municipal Corp. Municipal Council areas), Rural areas (PRI) - As roughly 30-40% population reside in such areas.
- Many committees/commissions have been set up by the Government of India – an Evaluation of what and how much has been implemented along with the impacts to be conducted by the Special cell set up under Social justice sector in the Planning Commission



Thank You