

2024

OUR SHIKVAN

MAGZINE



CONTENTS

Page no.

| | |
|---|----|
| ◆ About us | 3 |
| ◆ Editorial board | 4 |
| ◆ The Role of Tribal Wisdom in Sustainable Forest Management: A Case Study of Gadchiroli | 5 |
| ◆ Malaria-Free Slum Policy: A Strategic Plan for Malaria Eradication in Slums by 2026 | 6 |
| ◆ Study of Policy Paralysis in Tribal Districts of Maharashtra with Special Reference to Gadchiroli District | 7 |
| ◆ Institutional Structure for Skill Development in Tribal Policy: Issues and Challenges | 8 |
| ◆ Sense of Human Security versus Tribal Education | 9 |
| ◆ Impact of the New Education Policy (NEP) on Tribal Education in India | 10 |
| ◆ Analysis and Monitoring of Tribal and Women's Nutritional Health in Gadchiroli District | 11 |
| ◆ project satark | 12 |
| ◆ Gadchiroli district, particularly Dhanora taluka, faces numerous issues and challenges. These challenges are multifaceted, ranging from social and economic to environmental and infrastructural. | 14 |
| ◆ Impact of Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita on the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Indian Constitution | 15 |

ABOUT US

About Us:

Shikvan Magazine is a dedicated platform that shines a light on the transformative social activities taking place in the often-overlooked rural and slum areas of India. With a mission to bridge the gap between perception and reality, we delve deep into the challenges, triumphs, and untold stories of communities striving for a better future.

Rooted in the values of empathy and awareness, Shikvan serves as more than just a publication—it is a voice for the voiceless and a lens into the realities that shape the lives of millions. We aim to foster a deeper understanding of the socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental dynamics of these regions, highlighting the tireless efforts of grassroots organizations, volunteers, and change-makers who work relentlessly to uplift underprivileged communities.

Our content is curated to inspire action and provoke thought. Through compelling articles, in-depth interviews, vivid photography, and firsthand accounts, Shikvan offers a holistic view of rural and urban marginal realities. Whether it's exploring education initiatives in remote villages, showcasing self-help groups empowering women, or documenting struggles for basic amenities in slum areas, our magazine captures the essence of human resilience and community spirit.

We believe that awareness is the first step toward change. By presenting the realities of rural and slum life, Shikvan seeks to educate and engage readers from all walks of life—students, professionals, policymakers, and socially conscious citizens. Our stories not only inform but also inspire collaboration and innovation in addressing the issues at hand.

Shikvan Magazine stands as a testament to the belief that every voice matters and every effort counts. Join us as we celebrate the power of collective action and shed light on the realities that often go unnoticed. Together, we can create a ripple effect of awareness, understanding, and sustainable change.

Welcome to Shikvan—where stories inspire action and reality ignites hope.

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THE ROLE OF TRIBAL WISDOM IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF GADCHIROLI

Introduction

Gadchiroli, a district located in the eastern part of Maharashtra, is often referred to as the "lungs of Maharashtra" due to its vast forest cover, which are part of the larger Dandakaranya forest area, accounts for over 75% of its geographical area. The district is home to a significant tribal population, primarily belonging to the Gond and Madia tribes, who have lived in harmony with nature for centuries. Their traditional knowledge and practices in forest management, resource use, and biodiversity conservation have played a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of this region. This article explores how the tribal wisdom of Gadchiroli's indigenous communities is key to sustainable forest management, particularly in the face of modern environmental and economic challenges

Tribal wisdom in forest Management

1. Traditional Knowledge of Biodiversity

The tribal communities in Gadchiroli possess a deep understanding of local flora and fauna, which has been passed down through generations. Their intimate knowledge of the forest ecosystem includes identifying medicinal plants, understanding animal behavior, and recognizing seasonal patterns in biodiversity. This knowledge helps in the sustainable harvesting of forest produce without depleting resources, ensuring the preservation of the ecosystem.

Medicinal Plants and Herbs: The Gonds and Madias use a wide range of medicinal plants for healthcare. For instance, the use of the Mahua tree (*Madhuca indica*) for its flowers and seeds in food, medicine, and oil extraction is a common practice that ensures the tree's protection and sustainability.

Sustainable Harvesting Practices: Tribals have a deep respect for forest resources and follow rotational harvesting techniques that allow plants and trees to regenerate. For example, while collecting bamboo, they avoid cutting young shoots to ensure future growth.

2. Community-based Resource Management:

Unlike modern, profit-driven exploitation of forests, tribal communities view the forest as a shared resource that must be protected for future generations. The practice of community-based resource management in Gadchiroli ensures that forest resources are harvested equitably and sustainably.

- **Collective Decision-Making:** Many villages in Gadchiroli follow a PESA (Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas))** system, where resource management decisions are made collectively by the community. This ensures that no single person or group over-exploits the forest.

- **Sacred Groves:** Certain patches of forest are treated as sacred, with strict prohibitions on cutting trees or hunting animals. These sacred groves act as biodiversity reservoirs, preserving rare species of plants and animals.

3. Agroforestry and Shifting Cultivation:

The tribal communities in Gadchiroli practice agroforestry and shifting cultivation (jhum farming), which integrate agriculture with forest conservation. Rather than clearing large areas for permanent agriculture, they cultivate small patches of land for a few years before allowing the forest to regenerate naturally. This system reduces soil erosion and maintains soil fertility.

- **Integration of Agriculture and Forestry:** The cultivation of crops like rice, millets, pulses, and tubers in forested areas allows for minimal disruption to the ecosystem. Additionally, the planting of trees like neem and bamboo around agricultural fields creates a buffer that protects crops and encourages reforestation

Commercial Exploitation:

Gadchiroli's rich forest resources, particularly timber and bamboo, have attracted the interest of commercial logging companies. These external forces often prioritize short-term economic gains over long-term ecological sustainability. The commodification of forest resources undermines the traditional, sustainable methods practiced by the indigenous communities.

- **Illegal Logging:** The illegal felling of trees for timber trade is a significant issue in Gadchiroli. While the tribals use timber for personal and community use, the large-scale commercial extraction by outsiders threatens the ecological balance.

- **Mining Activities:** The discovery of mineral resources in Gadchiroli has led to mining activities that not only degrade the environment but also displace tribal communities, severing their connection to the forest.

2. Lack of Legal Recognition and Land Rights:

Although the Forest Rights Act (2006) aims to recognize the rights of forest-dwelling communities over their land and resources, its implementation in Gadchiroli has been slow and incomplete. Many tribal communities still struggle to secure legal ownership of the forest land they have traditionally managed.

- **Incomplete Implementation of FRA:** Despite the FRA, there are instances where tribal land claims are not fully recognized, or they face bureaucratic delays, leading to a sense of insecurity about their rights.

- **Conflict with Government Policies:** Often, the government's emphasis on large-scale afforestation projects and commercial exploitation conflicts with the tribal philosophy of minimalistic and need-based resource use.

3. Modernization and Changing Lifestyles:

With the increasing influence of modern consumerism, some younger members of tribal communities are shifting away from traditional practices, favoring more intensive resource use for economic benefits. This gradual departure from tribal wisdom could disrupt the delicate balance between humans and nature.

4 **Urban Migration:** As youth migrate to urban areas for better opportunities, the knowledge of sustainable forest practices risks being lost. This generational disconnect is a growing concern for the long-term preservation of tribal wisdom.

Challenges to Tribal Forest Management

Despite their sustainable practices, tribal communities in Gadchiroli face several challenges in maintaining control over their forest resources

1. Community Forest Management Programs:

Strengthening Community Forest Management (CFM)** programs, where local tribal communities actively participate in forest conservation alongside government agencies, is essential. These programs should focus on empowering tribals to take lead roles in decision-making about resource use and conservation.

Capacity Building: Providing training to tribal communities on modern sustainable practices and integrating them with their traditional knowledge can enhance the effectiveness of forest management efforts.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): Introducing PES schemes where communities are financially compensated for protecting and maintaining forests can provide economic incentives for sustainable practices.

2. Eco-Friendly Livelihood Opportunities:

Promoting eco-friendly and forest-based livelihoods such as bamboo handicrafts, herbal medicine production and sustainable tourism can help reduce the reliance on destructive economic activities like logging and mining. Ensuring that tribals benefit directly from these initiatives is crucial to their success.

3. Policy and Legal Reforms:

The government needs to ensure the full implementation of the Forest Rights Act and recognize tribal communities' rights to manage their forests. Additionally, policies should prioritize sustainable development models that respect traditional wisdom and promote conservation.

Stronger Land Rights: Providing legal backing to tribal claims over their land will strengthen their role as stewards of the forest.

Collaborative Policymaking: Engaging tribal leaders in the creation of forest management policies ensures that their perspectives are incorporated into conservation efforts.

Conclusion

The tribes of Gadchiroli hold a wealth of knowledge that has sustained the district's forests for generations. Their understanding of the local ecosystem and their commitment to conserving nature is an invaluable asset in the fight against deforestation and environmental degradation. By integrating tribal wisdom with modern conservation efforts, Gadchiroli can serve as a model for sustainable forest management, balancing development with the preservation of its rich ecological heritage



The Way Forward: Integrating Tribal Wisdom with Modern Conservation Efforts

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MALARIA-FREE SLUM POLICY: A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MALARIA ERADICATION IN SLUMS BY 2026

Introduction

Malaria remains a significant public health challenge, particularly in densely populated urban slums where conditions often facilitate its spread. With poor sanitation, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and limited access to preventive measures, these communities bear a disproportionate burden of the disease. Recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, the 'Malaria-Free Slum Policy: A Strategic Plan for Malaria Eradication in Slums by 2026' has been developed. This policy outlines a comprehensive approach to eliminate malaria in slum areas by focusing on targeted interventions, community engagement, and strengthened healthcare systems. Our goal is to create sustainable, malaria-free environments by 2026, improving the quality of life for those most vulnerable to the disease while setting a blueprint for malaria eradication in similar settings worldwide.

Objective:

To create malaria-free slums by 2026 through a comprehensive, community-driven, and sustainable approach. This policy focuses on preventing malaria transmission in densely populated, underdeveloped urban areas, where malaria poses a significant health risk due to poor sanitation, stagnant water, and limited access to healthcare.

key component of malaria free slum policy

1. Surveillance and Early Detection:

Active Surveillance: Implement active surveillance systems that identify malaria cases quickly in slums. Local health workers and volunteers will regularly visit households to screen for symptoms and conduct rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs).

Mapping High-Risk Areas: Use GIS technology to map slum areas with high malaria transmission rates. Focus resources and intervention efforts in areas identified as "malaria hotspots."

Mobile Health Clinics: Deploy mobile clinics in slums for frequent malaria testing, especially during peak transmission seasons (monsoon periods). These clinics will provide immediate diagnosis and treatment.

2. Improved Sanitation and Environmental Management:

Stagnant Water Management: Work with local municipal bodies to eliminate stagnant water, which is the primary breeding ground for malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Efforts include:

- Filling potholes and open drains.
- Promoting proper waste disposal to prevent waterlogging.
- Installing drainage systems in high-risk areas.

Regular Fogging and Larvicidal Spraying: Conduct regular fogging and larvicidal spraying in slums, especially during and after the rainy season. Community engagement is critical in informing residents about the schedule and precautions during spraying.

Community Clean-Up Campaigns: Engage local communities in cleaning campaigns to remove trash and stagnant water around homes. Provide financial incentives or recognition to slum areas that maintain mosquito-free environments.

3. Access to Healthcare and Treatment:

24/7 Access to Anti-Malarial Medications: Ensure slum residents have access to free or affordable anti-malarial medications. Set up health kiosks or tie up with local pharmacies to distribute medicines.

Training Local Health Workers: Train slum-based health workers and community volunteers to diagnose malaria with RDTs and administer treatment protocols, ensuring timely care.

Strengthening Public Health Centers (PHCs): Equip local PHCs with adequate testing kits, medications, and trained personnel to manage malaria cases effectively, especially during outbreaks.

4. Community-Led Initiatives and Empowerment:

Malaria-Free Task Forces: Form local malaria task forces made up of community leaders, youth, and health volunteers who will monitor hygiene and water management in the area and conduct awareness drives.

Community Health Councils: Establish councils in slum areas to gather feedback from residents, discuss ongoing malaria prevention efforts, and adapt interventions based on local needs.

Incentivizing Participation: Introduce reward systems for communities that consistently demonstrate low malaria cases or contribute to environmental cleanliness. This could be in the form of public recognition, financial grants, or enhanced infrastructure services.

5. Public Awareness and Education Campaigns:

Behavior Change Communication (BCC): Launch mass media and community-based campaigns to educate slum dwellers about malaria prevention, symptoms, and the importance of early diagnosis. This can include posters, radio broadcasts, and door-to-door outreach.

Use of Mobile Technology: Leverage mobile phones to send regular SMS alerts about malaria prevention tips, upcoming fogging schedules, and reminders for health check-ups during peak transmission seasons.

School-Based Health Programs: Introduce malaria education in local schools to teach children about prevention measures such as using bed nets, removing stagnant water, and recognizing symptoms early.

Insecticide-Treated Bed Nets (ITNs): Distribute free or subsidized insecticide-treated bed nets to all households in slums. Bed nets should be prioritized for pregnant women, children under five, and other vulnerable populations.

Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS): Conduct IRS in slum dwellings, especially before the rainy season, to eliminate mosquitoes inside homes.

Mosquito-Repellent Distribution: Provide slum residents with affordable mosquito repellents (creams, coils, and vaporizers) and promote their regular use during peak mosquito activity times (dusk and dawn).

6. Improved Housing and Infrastructure Development:

Slum Upgradation Programs: Partner with urban development authorities to upgrade housing in slums, ensuring proper ventilation, waterproofing, and drainage systems to reduce mosquito breeding.

Building Mosquito-Proof Homes: Promote the use of affordable window and door screens in slum homes, reducing the risk of mosquito entry.

Promoting Green Spaces: Encourage the development of community gardens or green spaces in slums to reduce unkempt vacant lots that may become mosquito breeding grounds.

Data-Driven Monitoring and Evaluation:

Real-Time Data Collection: Use mobile applications for real-time data collection on malaria cases and mosquito breeding sites. Health workers can use these tools to report new cases and environmental risks immediately.

Regular Impact Assessments: Conduct quarterly assessments to measure the impact of various interventions, including reductions in malaria incidence, hospital admissions, and community engagement levels.

Independent Audits: Engage independent public health experts to audit the program's effectiveness and ensure that resources are being used efficiently.

9. Collaboration with Private Sector and NGOs:

Public-Private Partnerships: Partner with pharmaceutical companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local businesses to provide resources like anti-malarial drugs, diagnostic kits, and insecticide-treated nets at subsidized rates.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Involvement: Encourage companies to include slum sanitation and malaria eradication in their CSR agendas. Corporate sponsorship could fund health camps, fogging operations, or infrastructure improvements.

NGO Collaborations: Work with NGOs to provide community-based health education, support local health infrastructure, and engage in environmental cleanliness campaigns.

Sustainable Funding and Government Support:

Dedicated Budget Allocation: Allocate a specific budget under urban health and housing schemes for malaria eradication in slums, ensuring sustained funding through 2026.

International Funding Support: Explore grants and funding opportunities from international organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Government Accountability: Set up a Malaria-Free Slum Committee at the municipal level to oversee the implementation of the policy and ensure transparency and accountability in its execution.

conclusion

This Malaria-Free Slum Policy is designed to eradicate malaria from slum areas by 2026 through a multi-pronged approach involving community participation, improved healthcare access, environmental management, and public-private collaboration. By focusing on prevention, treatment, education, and infrastructure development, the policy aims to create healthier and safer living environments in slums, ensuring long-term malaria eradication and enhancing the quality of life for urban poor populations.

timeline and milestone 2024 - 2026

Timeline and Milestones (2024-2026):

1. 2024: Initial Phase (Assessment and Early Intervention)

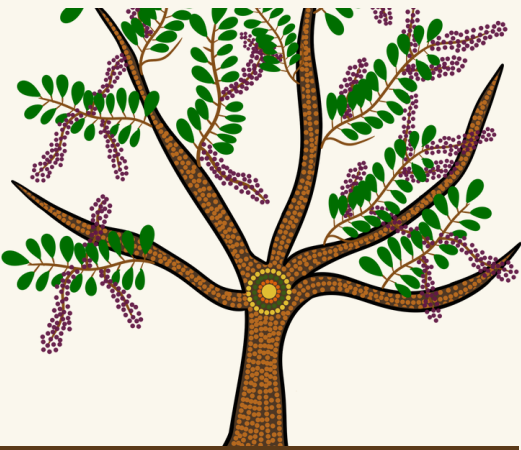
- Comprehensive mapping of slum areas prone to malaria outbreaks.
- Establishment of local malaria task forces and initiation of surveillance systems.
- Distribution of bed nets and basic health education campaigns.

2. 2025: Scale-Up Phase

- Expanded implementation of indoor residual spraying and sanitation projects.
- Full-scale operation of mobile health clinics and regular fogging schedules.
- Strengthened partnerships with private sector and NGOs for broader outreach.

3. 2026: Achievement of Malaria-Free Status

- Significant reduction in malaria incidence, with slum areas reporting near-zero cases.
- Continuation of community empowerment efforts for sustainability.
- Full integration of malaria-free measures into public health systems to ensure the policy's long-term success.



Highlights of the Museum's Collection

Case Studies Highlighting Policy Paralysis in Gadchiroli

1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) – Poor Implementation:

- **Policy:** EMRS were designed to provide quality education to tribal children in residential schools.

- **Issue:** In Gadchiroli, many EMRS have been set up, but they are underfunded and understaffed. Teachers are reluctant to work in remote areas, leading to poor educational outcomes.

- **Result:** Despite the existence of a strong policy framework for tribal education, the ground reality is far from satisfactory due to implementation gaps and lack of adequate infrastructure.

2. Forest Rights Act (FRA) – Slow Implementation:

- **Policy:** The Forest Rights Act (FRA) was introduced to recognize the rights of tribal communities over forest lands and resources.

- **Issue:** In Gadchiroli, the process of granting land titles to tribals has been slow and bureaucratic. Many eligible families have not received their land titles, leading to frustration and unrest.

- **Result:** Despite the progressive nature of the FRA, its slow implementation has resulted in continued land insecurity for tribal populations.

3. Healthcare Services in Naxal-Affected Areas:

- **Policy:** The government has implemented various health programs, including Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) and Primary Health Centers (PHCs) to improve healthcare access in remote tribal areas.

- **Issue:** In Naxal-affected areas of Gadchiroli, healthcare services are often disrupted due to violence and the withdrawal of health workers from conflict zones.

- **Result:** The inability to deliver basic healthcare services in conflict zones has led to high rates of maternal and infant mortality in the district.

STUDY OF POLICY PARALYSIS IN TRIBAL DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GADCHIROLI DISTRICT

Introduction

Policy paralysis refers to a situation where decision-making and the implementation of government policies are delayed or ineffective due to bureaucratic, political, or systemic hurdles. In the context of tribal districts like **Gadchiroli** in Maharashtra, policy paralysis manifests as the inability to address the deep-rooted socio-economic challenges despite numerous policies aimed at improving education, health, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities for tribal communities.

Gadchiroli district is one of the most prominent examples of a region where despite several policies being designed for tribal welfare, the ground reality remains grim due to implementation gaps, governance issues, and contextual challenges like Naxalism.

key area concern in gadchiroli district

Gadchiroli, being one of the most underdeveloped districts in Maharashtra, has a unique set of challenges. It is predominantly inhabited by tribal populations who rely on agriculture, forest resources, and traditional livelihoods for survival. The district faces several governance and policy-related issues that have led to policy paralysis.

1. Geographical Isolation and Poor Infrastructure:**

- **Problem:** Gadchiroli is geographically remote, with dense forests and difficult terrain. This has led to the isolation of many tribal villages from mainstream development efforts. Poor road connectivity, lack of transportation, and limited access to markets have hindered the implementation of development projects.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** Several policies related to education, healthcare, and employment have failed to reach remote areas because of the lack of basic infrastructure. For example, **government health centers and schools** often remain understaffed and under-resourced due to the difficult living conditions in the district.

2. Bureaucratic Delays and Inefficiencies:**

- **Problem:** Slow decision-making and inefficient bureaucratic processes have delayed the implementation of many central and state government schemes meant for tribal welfare. This includes delays in the release of funds for various programs under the **Scheduled Tribes Component Plan (STCP)** and **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)**.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** Many development schemes, such as housing, healthcare, and skill development programs, are not implemented on time, leading to wasted resources and frustration among the local population. Bureaucratic inefficiencies often result in funds lapsing without being utilized effectively.

3. Political Instability and Conflict with Naxalism:

- **Problem:** Gadchiroli is a Naxal-affected district, and the presence of left-wing extremism has severely disrupted the governance structure. The district has been a conflict zone for decades, with Naxalites targeting government institutions, schools, and infrastructure projects.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** The threat of Naxal violence has led to the withdrawal of government officials and agencies from several areas. Schools and health centers have been shut down or occupied by security forces. As a result, crucial policies related to education, healthcare, and employment generation are left unimplemented in areas controlled by Naxal forces.

4. Lack of Coordination Among Different Agencies:

- **Problem:** Multiple agencies, including central and state government bodies, NGOs, and private institutions, operate in Gadchiroli, but there is often a lack of coordination between them. This results in overlapping efforts, duplication of schemes, and inefficient use of resources.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** The absence of a clear coordinating mechanism between various stakeholders has led to confusion at the local level. For example, several educational programs meant to improve literacy rates among tribal children are implemented by different bodies, but without coordination, the outcomes are poor, and dropout rates remain high.

5. Inadequate Tribal Participation in Governance:

- **Problem:** Tribal communities often have limited representation in decision-making processes related to policy formulation and implementation. Their unique socio-cultural practices and livelihoods are not adequately considered in policy design.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** Policies that do not take into account the local realities and traditional knowledge of tribal communities tend to fail. For instance, agricultural policies focused on modern farming techniques have not been successful in Gadchiroli because they overlook the traditional farming practices and the dependence of tribals on forest produce.

6. Corruption and Leverages in Welfare Programs:

- **Problem:** Corruption at various levels of government has led to significant leakages in the funds allocated for tribal development programs. This includes manipulation in the distribution of resources such as food grains under the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and funds for infrastructure development.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** Corruption severely limits the impact of welfare schemes. Even when policies are formulated with the best intentions, the benefits do not reach the intended beneficiaries due to mismanagement, bribery, and collusion between local officials and contractors.

7. Education and Health Deficits:

- **Problem:** The literacy rate in Gadchiroli is lower than the national average, and dropout rates among tribal children are alarmingly high. Additionally, the district faces severe healthcare challenges, with malnutrition, maternal mortality, and infant mortality being significant issues.

- **Impact on Policy Implementation:** The lack of a skilled workforce due to poor education outcomes hampers the effective implementation of many government schemes. Moreover, the inability to provide basic healthcare services undermines efforts to improve human development indices in the district.

Recommendations to Address Policy Paralysis in Gadchiroli

1. Strengthening Governance and Local Participation:

- **Increased Tribal Representation:** Greater involvement of local tribal leaders in policy formulation and implementation would ensure that policies are more relevant to the needs of the community. Gram Sabhas (village councils) should play a more significant role in deciding local development priorities.

- **Decentralized Governance:** Empowering local bodies through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and ensuring that they have control over local resources can help reduce bureaucratic delays and make policies more effective.

2. Improving Infrastructure and Connectivity:

- **Infrastructure Development:** There is a need for sustained investments in roads, electricity, and digital connectivity to ensure that development schemes can reach remote tribal areas. This would improve access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

- **Mobile and Digital Solutions:** In areas where physical infrastructure is difficult to develop, mobile-based healthcare and digital education solutions could help overcome geographic isolation.

3. Addressing the Naxal Issue:

- **Dialogue and Conflict Resolution:** The government needs to focus on resolving the Naxal conflict through dialogue and development. Ensuring the security of government officials and service providers in conflict zones is essential to maintaining the continuity of policy implementation.

- **Development as a Counter-Insurgency Strategy:** The government should prioritize development initiatives as part of its counter-insurgency strategy, focusing on improving the living standards of tribals and addressing the root causes of discontent.

4. Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms:

- **Reducing Corruption:** Establishing transparent mechanisms for the allocation and distribution of welfare resources is crucial. This could be done through direct benefit transfers (DBT) and real-time monitoring of program implementation.

- **Citizen Participation:** Encouraging social audits and involving local communities in monitoring development projects would enhance accountability and reduce corruption.

5. Tailoring Policies to Local Realities:

- **Culturally Relevant Education:** Policies related to education should be tailored to respect tribal languages and cultural practices. This would improve retention rates in schools and lead to better educational outcomes.

- **Sustainable Livelihood Programs:** Skill development and livelihood programs should be designed to enhance the traditional knowledge of tribals, such as forest management and organic farming, and provide them with access to modern markets.

conclusion

Policy paralysis in tribal districts like Gadchiroli is a complex issue rooted in geographic, administrative, political, and socio-economic factors. While many policies exist on paper to address tribal welfare, their implementation is often hindered by a lack of coordination, bureaucratic delays, corruption, and the ongoing Naxals.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN TRIBAL POLICY: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Introduction

Skill development is a critical aspect of empowering tribal communities, as it enhances employability, improves livelihoods, and fosters economic independence. Tribal communities in India, particularly in remote and marginalized regions, often face multiple barriers to accessing skill development programs. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and government schemes like Skill India Mission and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) emphasize the need for skill development in tribal areas, but institutionalizing such programs presents unique challenges.

Below is a comprehensive analysis of the institutional structure for skill development in tribal areas, focusing on the issues, challenges, and potential solutions.

existing institutional framework for tribal skill development

Existing Institutional Framework for Tribal Skill Development

Several government institutions and programs focus on the skill development of tribal populations:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA): Plays a key role in formulating and implementing tribal policies, including skill development programs. MoTA also runs schemes like the Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas (VTCs) which aim to provide job-oriented skill training to tribal youth.

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE): Implements the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and works closely with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide skill training. MSDE is responsible for designing and managing skill development policies across India, including tribal areas.

- State Tribal Development Departments: At the state level, various departments coordinate with central ministries to implement skill development schemes in tribal regions.

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED): Focuses on promoting tribal products and handicrafts by providing training and market access to tribal artisans.

- NGOs and Civil Society Organizations: Various non-governmental organizations work at the grassroots level to implement skill development programs tailored to tribal communities.

- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives: Many private companies, under CSR obligations, invest in tribal skill development projects, especially in sectors like agriculture, handicrafts, and tourism.

Challenges in Institutionalizing Skill Development for Tribal Communities
Despite the policies and frameworks in place, there are several challenges in effectively implementing skill development programs for tribal communities:

Geographic Isolation and Infrastructure Gaps

- Challenge: Most tribal regions are located in remote and geographically challenging areas, making it difficult to establish and maintain skill development centers. Poor connectivity, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate access to basic services (electricity, internet, etc.) hinder the effective delivery of training programs.

- Solution: Investment in infrastructure, particularly in digital connectivity, transportation and energy access, is crucial to ensuring that skill development programs can reach remote tribal populations. Mobile training centers or e-learning initiatives could be effective in overcoming geographic barriers.

Cultural Sensitivity and Language Barriers

- Challenge: Skill development programs often fail to recognize the cultural and linguistic diversity of tribal communities. Programs designed in mainstream languages and using culturally irrelevant materials can alienate tribal students.

- Solution: Incorporating tribal languages and cultural contexts into training programs is essential. The curriculum should be adapted to local conditions and traditional knowledge systems, particularly in areas like agriculture, handicrafts, and forest-based livelihoods, which are often core to tribal economies.

Mismatch Between Skills and Employment Opportunities

- Challenge: Skill development programs often train individuals in skills that are not aligned with the local job market or economic opportunities in tribal areas. This leads to underemployment or migration to urban areas in search of jobs.

- Solution: There needs to be a focus on locally relevant skills that are aligned with the regional economy, such as skills in forestry, handicrafts, eco-tourism, and agriculture. Additionally, entrepreneurial training and market linkages should be strengthened to promote local enterprise development.

Inadequate Representation and Participation

- Challenge: Tribal communities are often underrepresented in the decision-making processes of skill development programs. As a result, the specific needs and aspirations of tribal youth are overlooked in policy design and implementation.

- Solution: Tribal leaders, community members, and local governance structures (Panchayats) should be involved in the planning, monitoring, and implementation of skill development programs. Community-driven models are more likely to succeed, as they will be tailored to the unique socio-economic conditions of tribal areas.

Low Awareness and Participation

- Challenge: Many tribal communities have limited awareness of the available skill development programs, and low literacy levels further inhibit participation. Additionally, socio-cultural factors, including early marriage, gender biases, and migration for seasonal work, reduce participation in formal training programs.

- Solution: Awareness campaigns tailored to tribal communities should be conducted to inform them about the opportunities for skill development. Incentives such as stipends, transportation support, and post-training job placement should be offered to increase participation. Gender-sensitive approaches are also needed to address barriers faced by tribal women.

Lack of Post-Training Support

- Challenge: Many skill development programs lack follow-up mechanisms to provide tribal youth with support after training, such as job placement, entrepreneurship assistance, or mentorship. Without such support, the impact of skill training is limited.

- Solution: Programs should offer post-training support, including job placement services, access to financial resources for entrepreneurship, and ongoing mentorship. Partnerships with the private sector and NGOs can be instrumental in providing these services.

Limited Integration with Traditional Livelihoods

- Challenge: Many skill development initiatives focus on modern skills (IT, manufacturing, etc.), which are often irrelevant to tribal communities that depend on traditional livelihoods like agriculture, fishing, and forest-based activities.

- Solution: Skill development programs should emphasize traditional knowledge systems** and enhance the value of tribal skills through modernization, branding, and market access. For instance, handicrafts, organic farming, and forest produce collection can be improved through technical training, entrepreneurship development, and better market integration.

Strategies for Improving Tribal Skill Development

To address the issues and challenges in tribal skill development, a multi-pronged approach is required:

Decentralized and Community-Based Training Models

- Establish community-driven skill development centers that are managed by tribal leaders and local organizations. This would allow for more relevant, culturally sensitive, and accessible training programs.

Vocational Training Integrated with Formal Education

- Integrating vocational education with formal schooling can ensure that tribal youth acquire practical skills alongside academic knowledge. Schools like Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** can serve as hubs for both education and skill development.

Promotion of Tribal Enterprises and Market Linkages

- Encourage the formation of tribal cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs) to promote entrepreneurship among tribal communities. TRIFED and other institutions should focus on providing market access for tribal products, such as handicrafts, organic produce, and forest-based goods.

Digital and Mobile-Based Learning Solutions

- Use mobile training units or digital platforms to deliver skill training in remote tribal areas. With proper investments in digital infrastructure, e-learning solutions can provide flexible and scalable training programs.

Special Focus on Tribal Women

- Tribal women face additional challenges in accessing skill development due to gender biases and socio-cultural norms. Specific programs focusing on women's empowerment through skills like tailoring, healthcare, and micro-entrepreneurship should be prioritized.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- Encourage partnerships between the government, private companies, and NGOs to ensure that skill development programs are well-funded, job-oriented, and scalable. **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives can play a crucial role in enhancing skill development programs for tribal communities.

Conclusion

Institutionalizing skill development within tribal policy is crucial for the holistic development of tribal communities. However, the challenges of geographic isolation, cultural disconnect, limited job opportunities, and lack of post-training support must be systematically addressed. By creating a decentralized, community-driven, and culturally relevant skill development structure, tailored to the unique needs of tribal populations, these barriers can be overcome.

Skill development has the potential to transform the socio-economic landscape of tribal regions by enhancing employability, fostering entrepreneurship, and improving overall human development, but it requires sustained investment, community engagement, and a culturally sensitive approach to succeed.



ki policy initiative for tribal skill development

2. Key Policy Initiatives for Tribal Skill Development**

- National Skill Development Mission (NSDM): Launched in 2015, NSDM focuses on vocational education and training to enhance employability, with a special focus on underrepresented groups, including tribal communities.

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY): This scheme is aimed at rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35, including those from tribal communities. It focuses on job-oriented skills and placement-linked programs.

- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): These schools focus on providing quality education and vocational training to tribal students, ensuring they are equipped with market-relevant skills.

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): PMKVY provides short-term skill training courses aimed at equipping youth, including those from tribal areas, with employable skills. Special focus is given to regions with significant tribal populations.

SENSE OF HUMAN SECURITY VERSUS TRIBAL EDUCATION



Highlights of the Museum's Collection

Challenges and Recommendations

1. Addressing Structural Inequities:

- Tribal education needs to go beyond simply providing access to schooling. Structural inequities related to geography, poverty, discrimination, and health must be addressed to ensure that tribal students can fully benefit from education. This requires a holistic approach that integrates health, nutrition, economic support, and protection from violence.

2. Strengthening Local and Context-Specific Solutions:

- Community Involvement: Engaging tribal leaders and communities in the design and implementation of educational policies ensures that the content and delivery of education are culturally relevant and accessible.

- Local Language Support: Expanding resources for education in tribal languages and ensuring the recruitment of local teachers who understand the culture and context is crucial for fostering a secure learning environment.

3. Improving Access to Services:

- Building Infrastructure: Tribal regions require significant investments in infrastructure—schools, roads, health centers, and digital connectivity—to create the conditions for secure education.

- Integrated Health and Education Programs: Coordinating health services with schools ensures that tribal students not only get an education but are also healthy and well-nourished, reducing absenteeism and improving academic outcomes.



Introduction

Human security refers to the protection of individuals from chronic threats like poverty, hunger, disease, and political instability, as well as the safeguarding of their rights and dignity. Tribal education, on the other hand, is focused on providing educational access and improving outcomes for indigenous and tribal communities, who often face systemic barriers due to socio-economic, cultural, and geographic factors.

In the context of tribal education, human security encompasses multiple dimensions that go beyond just physical safety to include access to basic services like education, healthcare, food security, and social inclusion. Analyzing the relationship between human security and tribal education reveals that both are deeply interlinked, with education acting as a cornerstone for improving human security among tribal populations.

Dimension of human security and their relationship of tribal education

1. Economic Security

- Tribal Communities' Economic Challenges: Tribal communities often face economic marginalization due to geographic isolation, lack of resources, and limited access to markets. Economic insecurity, in turn, impacts the ability of tribal families to prioritize education for their children, as many rely on their children for household or agricultural labor.

- Impact on Education: A lack of economic security often leads to high dropout rates in tribal areas as children are forced to work instead of attending school. Without access to quality education, tribal individuals find it difficult to break out of the cycle of poverty, perpetuating economic insecurity across generations.

- Policy Interventions: Scholarships, free school meals, and incentives for school attendance can improve both educational outcomes and economic security by alleviating some of the financial burdens on tribal families.

2. Food Security

- Malnutrition and Its Effects on Learning: Malnutrition is a significant issue in many tribal areas. Without adequate nutrition, children suffer from stunted growth and impaired cognitive development, leading to poor educational performance and high absenteeism.

- Link to Education: School-based programs like the Midday Meal Scheme aim to improve both food security and education by providing meals to students, which can also incentivize school attendance. However, in many remote tribal areas, these programs are not consistently implemented due to logistical challenges.

- Policy Needs: Strengthening the implementation of nutritional programs in tribal schools and integrating education with other food security initiatives, such as community gardens, can simultaneously address hunger and improve learning outcomes.

3. Health Security

- Health Disparities in Tribal Areas: Tribal populations often suffer from poor health due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure, high levels of poverty, and environmental factors. Diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and malnutrition are common, and these health issues significantly impact school attendance and performance.

- Impact on Education: Poor health among tribal children directly affects their ability to attend school and focus on learning. Health security, therefore, is a critical factor in improving educational outcomes for tribal students.

- Holistic Approaches: Providing healthcare services in schools, including regular health check-ups, vaccinations, and nutritional support, can address both health and education challenges. The NEP 2020 also stresses the need for integrating health education into school curricula, which could be particularly beneficial for tribal regions.

Environmental Security

- Dependence on the Environment: Tribal communities often rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, including agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Environmental degradation, deforestation, and climate change directly threaten their way of life, contributing to both economic and food insecurity.

- Educational Access: Environmental insecurity often forces tribal families to migrate or divert children's time away from education to focus on survival activities, such as farming, collecting forest produce, or water fetching.

- Sustainable Education Models: Integrating environmental education and sustainable livelihood skills into tribal education can not only improve educational relevance but also empower tribal communities to protect and manage their natural resources effectively.

5. Personal and Political Security

- Conflict and Naxalism: Tribal areas, especially in districts like Gadchiroli, are often affected by left-wing extremism (Naxalism) and other forms of conflict. The constant threat of violence creates a sense of insecurity and deters both students and teachers from attending school. Additionally, the presence of militarized zones can disrupt educational services.

- Impact on Education: The presence of conflict diminishes the educational infrastructure in tribal regions, causing schools to shut down or be repurposed for military use. Fear and insecurity often lead to high dropout rates, especially for girls.

- Building Trust and Safe Educational Spaces: Ensuring the safety of students and teachers is crucial. Community-based schooling models, where local leaders and tribes are involved in managing education systems, can help build trust and protect schools from becoming targets of violence.

6. Cultural Security

- Cultural Alienation in Education: Tribal communities have distinct cultures, languages, and knowledge systems that are often sidelined in mainstream education. This creates a sense of cultural alienation among tribal students, making education less relevant and, at times, oppressive.

- Need for Culturally Sensitive Education: Education systems that do not respect tribal languages, traditions, and worldviews can contribute to the erosion of cultural identity. This, in turn, makes tribal students feel disconnected from their education and can contribute to higher dropout rates.

- Multilingual and Culturally Relevant Education: NEP 2020's emphasis on "mother tongue-based education" can enhance cultural security for tribal students, helping them stay connected to their roots while pursuing modern education. Additionally, integrating tribal knowledge systems into curricula can make education more meaningful for tribal students.

7. Social Security

- Exclusion from Mainstream Society: Tribal populations often face systemic social exclusion due to their distinct cultural practices, geographic isolation, and socio-economic status. This social insecurity can translate into limited access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

- Discrimination in Education: Many tribal children face discrimination and prejudice in schools, both from peers and teachers, which contributes to higher dropout rates and poor educational performance.

- Inclusive Education Policies: For education to contribute to social security, there must be policies aimed at inclusion, such as sensitizing teachers to tribal cultures, ensuring the availability of tribal language resources, and promoting the social integration of tribal students into mainstream education.

Tribal education as a pathway of human security

Education as a Right and a Tool for Human Security:

- Educational Empowerment: Education plays a key role in empowering tribal individuals to claim their rights, access healthcare, participate in democratic processes, and improve their socio-economic status. A well-rounded education system that addresses the specific needs of tribal communities can be a tool for enhancing human security by providing better economic opportunities, improving health outcomes, and fostering social inclusion.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: For tribal communities, education can be a critical tool in breaking the cycle of poverty and insecurity. Well-educated tribal individuals are more likely to secure jobs in government, NGOs, or private sectors, reducing dependence on unstable livelihoods like subsistence farming or daily wage labor.

Conclusion

The sense of human security and tribal education are deeply interconnected. Education plays a central role in improving various dimensions of human security, such as economic empowerment, health, social inclusion, and cultural preservation. Conversely, human security is essential for creating the right conditions for effective tribal education. For educational policies like the NEP 2020 to succeed in tribal areas, a holistic approach that simultaneously addresses the basic needs, cultural identity, and security concerns of tribal populations is necessary.

IMPACT OF THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) ON TRIBAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

Introduction

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to overhaul the Indian education system and address long-standing challenges such as equity, access, and quality. For tribal communities, particularly in remote areas like **Gadchiroli** district and other tribal regions, the policy has the potential to create significant changes. However, these communities also face unique challenges that may affect the successful implementation of the NEP. Below is an analysis of how the NEP can impact tribal education and what considerations are necessary for its effective implementation.

key provision of NEP 2020 relevant to tribal education

1. Equitable and Inclusive Education

- NEP emphasizes universal access to education and proposes measures to reduce drop-out rates, especially in socio-economically disadvantaged areas like tribal regions.

- It acknowledges the unique educational needs of tribal communities and aims to address them through localized content and multilingual education.

2. Mother Tongue/Multilingual Education

- The policy promotes education in the mother tongue/local language at least until Grade 5, and preferably until Grade 8. This is highly relevant to tribal students, as learning in their native language can improve comprehension and retention.

- Tribal languages and dialects, often sidelined in mainstream education, will be integrated into the curriculum, potentially boosting literacy rates and preserving indigenous cultures.

3. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

- ECCE aims to provide a strong foundation for children, particularly from disadvantaged communities. For tribal children, starting education early with a focus on nutrition, care, and cognitive development can help reduce the learning gap they often face when entering formal schooling.

4. Vocational Education and Skill Development

- The NEP proposes integrating vocational education from the school level to higher education. This is crucial for tribal regions where traditional knowledge and skills (like forest-based livelihoods, handicrafts, and agriculture) can be formalized into vocational courses, enhancing employability and economic empowerment.

5. Digital and Online Education

- The policy supports the expansion of digital infrastructure for education, including the use of technology for remote learning. This could help address some of the accessibility challenges in tribal areas. However, the digital divide in terms of connectivity, electricity, and availability of devices remains a significant hurdle in tribal regions.

6. Teacher Training and Local Recruitment

- NEP encourages the recruitment of teachers from local communities, including tribals, and advocates for special training programs for teachers in disadvantaged areas. This is critical for tribal regions, where the lack of culturally sensitive teaching and teacher shortages are persistent issues.

- Incentives for teachers to work in remote and tribal areas are also part of the NEP's plan

7. Scholarships and Financial Support

- NEP emphasizes financial aid and scholarships for disadvantaged students, particularly from Scheduled Tribes (ST). This will help reduce financial barriers to education, especially for tribal students who struggle with poverty and lack of resources

potential impact of NEP on tribal education

1.Reduction in Dropout Rates

- The NEP's emphasis on inclusive education, scholarships, and community-based approaches can reduce dropout rates, which are particularly high in tribal areas due to poverty, cultural disconnect, and a lack of resources.

- Early interventions through LCCE and addressing language barriers by teaching in the mother tongue can help improve retention, as children will be more engaged and connected to the curriculum.

2. Culturally Relevant Education

- By incorporating tribal languages, history, and culture into the curriculum, the NEP could foster a sense of pride and identity among tribal students. The policy also seeks to provide content that is sensitive to local contexts, thus avoiding the cultural alienation many tribal children experience in mainstream education.

- Tribal knowledge systems, particularly in areas like sustainable agriculture, forest management, and traditional medicine, could be integrated into vocational education, giving students the opportunity to engage in locally relevant professions.

3. Improvement in Learning Outcomes

- The focus on mother tongue instruction and multilingual education is likely to improve learning outcomes for tribal children. Studies have shown that children learn better in their first language, and this approach may significantly enhance literacy and comprehension among tribal students.

- The policy's emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy through ECCE will give tribal children a stronger start in formal education, helping to bridge the early learning gap.

4. Challenges of Digital and Online Education

- While the NEP's push for digital learning can potentially bridge the gap for some students, the digital divide remains a critical issue in tribal areas. Many tribal regions, including Gadchiroli, face issues such as lack of electricity, poor internet connectivity, and lack of access to devices like smartphones, tablets, or computers.

- Without addressing these infrastructural challenges, digital initiatives may widen the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal students, rather than closing it.

5. Vocational and Skill-Based Learning

- The inclusion of vocational education from an early stage will be beneficial for tribal students who often do not continue to higher education due to financial or social constraints. Skill-based training in agriculture, forestry, crafts, and trades can provide meaningful employment opportunities for tribal youth, reducing migration to urban areas in search of low-paying jobs.

- However, there needs to be a careful balance between vocational training and formal education, ensuring that tribal students still have the opportunity to pursue higher education if they choose.

6. Teacher Availability and Training

- One of the main challenges in tribal education has been the shortage of well-trained, culturally sensitive teachers. The NEP's provision for local recruitment of teachers, along with incentives to work in tribal areas, could help address this gap.

- However, teacher training programs must ensure that educators are equipped to handle the unique linguistic and cultural needs of tribal children, which requires continuous support and training

conclusion

The NEP 2020 presents a promising framework for addressing the longstanding challenges faced by tribal communities in education. By emphasizing inclusivity, multilingual education, vocational training, and digital learning, the policy has the potential to significantly improve educational outcomes in tribal regions. However, successful implementation will require overcoming several key challenges, particularly in terms of infrastructure, teacher training, and access to digital resources. Continuous monitoring and targeted interventions will be necessary to ensure that the benefits of NEP reach even the most remote and marginalized tribal communities



key challenges for NEP implementation in tribal areas

1. Infrastructure Gaps

- Basic infrastructure, including schools, roads, and digital connectivity, is still lacking in many tribal regions. Unless these gaps are addressed, the full potential of the NEP may not be realized in tribal areas.

- The success of mother tongue education also depends on the availability of textbooks and learning materials in tribal languages, which are often underdeveloped or unavailable.

2. Digital Divide

- The push for digital education must be accompanied by significant investments in digital infrastructure, including affordable internet access and devices for students in tribal regions. Without this, the transition to digital education could further marginalize tribal students.

3. Monitoring and Implementation

- Effective monitoring of NEP initiatives in tribal regions is crucial. The government must collaborate with local tribal leaders, NGOs, and community organizations to ensure that the policy is implemented in a way that addresses local needs and challenges.

- There is also a risk that vocational education could be seen as an alternative to formal education, leading to a reduction in higher education aspirations among tribal students. Balancing vocational training with opportunities for academic advancement is essential.



ANALYSIS AND MONITORING OF TRIBAL AND WOMEN'S NUTRITIONAL HEALTH IN GADCHIROLI DISTRICT



Key challenges in monetary nutritional health

Key Challenges in Monitoring Nutritional Health

Geographical Isolation: The remote and forested terrain of Gadchiroli makes it difficult to monitor and assess the nutritional health of tribal populations, particularly in the interior villages of Dhanora taluka and similar areas.

Inadequate Healthcare Infrastructure: There is a shortage of healthcare facilities, trained healthcare workers, and nutritional rehabilitation centers in Gadchiroli. Many villages lack Anganwadi centers (rural child care centers) or have poorly functioning ones, which hampers the implementation of nutrition-focused schemes like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

Data Collection Issues: Monitoring nutrition requires robust data on growth indicators (weight, height, body mass index) and dietary intake. However, in many parts of Gadchiroli, accurate data collection is hampered by a lack of infrastructure, inadequate training of local healthcare workers, and logistical challenges.

Cultural Factors: Nutritional health assessments often do not account for cultural and traditional practices that influence the dietary habits of tribal communities. Many traditional foods are not part of the standardized food and nutrition surveys, leading to gaps in data and understanding.



Introduction

Gadchiroli district, being predominantly tribal, faces unique challenges in ensuring adequate nutritional health, especially among women and children. This analysis focuses on the nutritional issues in the district, primarily driven by socio-economic, geographical, and cultural factors, and the efforts needed for better monitoring and improvement.

Nutrition status of tribal community in gadchiroli district

Nutritional Status of Tribal Communities in Gadchiroli

High Prevalence of Malnutrition: Malnutrition is a persistent issue in tribal communities of Gadchiroli. The district has one of the highest rates of malnourishment in Maharashtra, particularly among children and women. Protein-energy malnutrition, stunting, wasting, and underweight are common issues due to limited dietary diversity.

Dietary Deficiencies: Traditional diets of the tribal population consist largely of rice, foraged forest products, and limited access to vegetables, fruits, and protein-rich foods. This results in deficiencies in micronutrients such as iron, iodine, vitamin A, and folic acid, leading to conditions like anemia, especially in women and children.

Heavy Reliance on Forest Produce: While forest resources like mahua, tendu leaves, and bamboo shoots are part of the tribal diet, seasonal variations and loss of forest cover limit the availability of food throughout the year. This leads to food insecurity during lean periods.

2. Women's Nutritional Health

Maternal Malnutrition: A large proportion of women in Gadchiroli, especially in tribal areas, suffer from malnutrition and anemia due to poor dietary intake, early marriage, frequent pregnancies, and lack of healthcare access. Anemia rates among women of reproductive age are alarming, impacting their overall health, pregnancy outcomes, and the health of their children.

Impact on Maternal and Child Health: Malnourished mothers give birth to low birth-weight babies, which further perpetuates the cycle of malnutrition across generations. The district reports high rates of infant and maternal mortality, which are linked to inadequate nutrition and healthcare facilities.

Lack of Nutritional Awareness: Cultural norms and lack of awareness among women about nutritional requirements, especially during pregnancy and lactation, exacerbate the problem. Traditional beliefs and restricted access to healthcare services limit women's intake of essential nutrients.

3. Government Initiatives and Gaps

ICDS Program: The ICDS scheme is the government's main initiative for improving child and maternal nutrition. It operates through Anganwadi centers, providing supplementary nutrition, immunization, and health education. However, due to the remoteness of the district, many centers are understaffed, under-resourced, and lack community engagement.

National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan): POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce stunting, undernutrition, and anemia among women and children. Gadchiroli is part of this mission, but the implementation is often hampered by logistical challenges, lack of awareness, and the difficulty in reaching remote populations.

Healthcare Interventions: The district has seen some success with initiatives like Shikvan NGO has implemented home-based care models for maternal and child health, with a strong focus on addressing malnutrition.

4. Recommendations for Better Monitoring and Improvement

Strengthening Data Collection Systems:

Use digital platforms (e.g., mobile-based applications) to regularly collect and monitor data on nutritional indicators in collaboration with Anganwadi workers and local healthcare staff.

- Train community health workers (ASHAs) and Anganwadi workers to track growth monitoring in children and identify malnourished individuals for early intervention.

Conduct regular surveys that focus on food consumption patterns, seasonal food insecurity, and access to nutrition services in tribal areas.

Community-Based Nutrition Programs:

Implement community nutrition programs that focus on promoting dietary diversity using locally available foods, emphasizing nutrition education for women, especially during pregnancy and lactation.

- Encourage kitchen gardens and other locally sustainable food systems to enhance access to fresh vegetables and improve dietary diversity.

- Engage tribal women as community leaders and advocates for nutrition programs to ensure better outreach and culturally sensitive interventions.

Improving Access to Health and Nutrition Services:

- Expand the network of Anganwadi centers and Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) in remote areas, ensuring adequate staffing, resources, and supplies.

- Strengthen the distribution of fortified foods through public distribution systems (PDS), ensuring that women and children in tribal areas receive essential micronutrients such as iron, iodine, and vitamin A.

Promote mobile health clinics to provide healthcare and nutritional services in remote areas.

Addressing Maternal and Child Health:

- Increase the focus on maternal nutrition through prenatal and postnatal care services, ensuring regular check-ups and the provision of nutritional supplements (iron, folic acid, etc.) to pregnant and lactating women.

- Enhance the role of ASHAs and Anganwadi workers in educating mothers about breastfeeding, complementary feeding practices, and hygiene to reduce malnutrition in children under five.

Leveraging Technology for Real-Time Monitoring:

- Use mobile-based applications like POSHAN Tracker** to monitor the nutritional status of children and women. Real-time data collection can enable timely interventions and help in addressing malnutrition hotspots in the district.

- Implement Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map the most affected areas, identifying regions where malnutrition and food insecurity are highest.

Culturally Appropriate Nutrition Education:

- Develop culturally sensitive nutrition education programs that incorporate traditional foods and practices, ensuring the community is open to adopting new practices without feeling disconnected from their cultural roots.

Conclusion

The nutritional health of tribal populations and women in Gadchiroli, especially in areas like Dhanora taluka, is severely affected by socio-economic challenges, geographic isolation, and cultural factors. Effective monitoring and intervention strategies, tailored to the district's unique context, are crucial for tackling malnutrition and improving overall health outcomes. Collaboration between government agencies, local NGOs, and community leaders is essential for sustainable progress.



Introduction

is an initiative designed to enhance safety and security in areas affected by human-wildlife conflict, particularly focusing on regions with tiger populations. Such conflicts often occur in forested and rural areas where human habitation overlaps with wildlife habitats, leading to encounters that can be dangerous both for humans and animals. In areas like "Gadchiroli" and other forested tribal regions in Maharashtra, where tigers are found in proximity to human settlements, measures like Project Satark are crucial for mitigating risks to

Objectives of project satark

1. Ensuring Human Safety: The primary aim is to safeguard human populations living in areas prone to tiger or other wildlife encounters, especially in regions near national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and forest reserves.
2. Protection of Livestock: Another important goal is to protect the livestock of rural and tribal communities, which are often targeted by tigers. Loss of livestock can have a severe impact on the livelihood of local populations, particularly in economically vulnerable regions.
3. Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict: By employing early-warning systems and other mitigation strategies, the project aims to reduce the frequency and severity of human-wildlife conflicts, particularly encounters with tigers.
4. Conservation of Tigers: Protecting tigers is another crucial aspect of the project. It promotes coexistence by ensuring that retaliatory killings of tigers are minimized and by fostering a greater understanding among local communities of the importance of wildlife conservation.

key feature of project satark

1. Early Warning Systems:
 - The project utilizes sensor-based technology and camera traps to track tiger movements in areas near human settlements.
 - These systems send out alerts when a tiger is detected in the vicinity, allowing local communities to take precautions and avoid potentially dangerous encounters.
2. Community Engagement and Awareness Programs:
 - Workshops and training programs are conducted to educate local communities, especially in tribal areas, about the behavior of tigers and how to reduce the chances of encounters.
 - Information campaigns are run to create awareness about how to react during a tiger sighting and the steps to take to ensure safety.
3. Physical Barriers and Infrastructure Development:
 - Fencing, trenches, and other physical barriers are constructed around critical areas to prevent tigers and other wild animals from entering villages or livestock areas.
 - Lighting systems, especially solar-powered ones, are installed in vulnerable areas to deter tigers during night hours, as human activity typically decreases at night, increasing the risk of encounters.
4. Livestock Insurance and Compensation:
 - The project provides livestock insurance to farmers in areas prone to tiger attacks, ensuring that they receive compensation in case of livestock loss.
 - A prompt compensation mechanism is established to reduce the financial impact of tiger-related incidents on local communities, fostering goodwill towards wildlife conservation efforts.

5. Rapid Response Teams:
 - Mobile teams are trained to respond quickly to reports of tiger sightings or encounters, minimizing the chances of injury or fatality to both humans and animals.
 - These teams also conduct patrols during high-risk periods, such as early mornings and late evenings when tigers are more active.
6. Use of Drones for Monitoring:
 - **Drones** equipped with infrared cameras are used for monitoring tiger movements, especially in dense forest areas where on-ground surveillance is difficult.
 - Drones help identify potential areas of conflict and allow for more effective deployment of resources, such as setting up temporary fencing or issuing early warnings
7. Rescue and Relocation of Straying Tigers:
 - In cases where tigers stray into human-dominated areas, wildlife experts and veterinarians are deployed to safely **tranquelize** and **relocate** the animals to prevent harm to both humans and tigers.

challenges face by project satark

1. Geographical and Logistical Difficulties
 - In remote areas like Gadchiroli, it can be difficult to establish and maintain communication systems and infrastructure for early warnings. Poor road connectivity can also slow down the response of wildlife authorities and rapid response teams.
2. Resistance from Local Communities
 - Tribal communities, often dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods, may be reluctant to fully cooperate with conservation measures due to the immediate economic impact of wildlife presence. Efforts to educate and involve these communities in the project are crucial for its success.
3. Insufficient Resources
 - Managing human-tiger conflicts requires significant resources, including technology, personnel, and funds. Ensuring that Project Satark is sufficiently funded and staffed is a key challenge, especially in areas with high conflict rates.
4. Habitat Fragmentation
 - Human encroachment into forests and deforestation increase the chances of tiger encounters. Project Satark also has to contend with the broader environmental issue of **habitat loss**, which drives tigers into human-inhabited areas

conclusion

"Project Satark" represents a holistic approach to ensuring the safety of both humans and tigers in areas of human-wildlife conflict. Through a combination of technological interventions, community engagement, and rapid response systems, the project aims to create a balance between human development and wildlife conservation. By focusing on early warnings, community involvement, and habitat protection, Project Satark seeks to address the complex issue of human-tiger conflict, especially in districts like Gadchiroli where such encounters are frequent. It serves as a model for future initiatives aimed at mitigating human-wildlife conflict in other parts of India

Successes and Impact of Project Satark:

Successes and Impact of Project Satark:

1. Reduced Fatalities:
 - In areas where Project Satark has been implemented, there has been a significant reduction in human and livestock fatalities due to tiger attacks. Early-warning systems and rapid response mechanisms have helped avoid many dangerous encounters.
2. Increased Conservation Awareness:
 - The project has helped foster a greater understanding of the importance of tiger conservation among local communities. This has reduced instances of retaliatory killings of tigers after livestock or human deaths.
3. Strengthened Community-Wildlife Coexistence:
 - By integrating local communities into the process and providing them with tools to manage tiger encounters, Project Satark has contributed to a more harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife in tiger-prone regions.
4. Data Collection for Better Wildlife Management:
 - The use of technology like camera traps and drones has also helped in collecting valuable data about tiger behavior, movement patterns, and population dynamics, which aids in the development of more targeted wildlife management strategies.





GADCHIROLI DISTRICT, PARTICULARLY DHANORA TALUKA, FACES NUMEROUS ISSUES AND CHALLENGES. THESE CHALLENGES ARE MULTIFACETED, RANGING FROM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL.

Introduction

Remote Location: Gadchiroli district is located in eastern Maharashtra and is known for its dense forests and hilly terrain. Dhanora, being one of the most remote talukas, suffers from poor connectivity, making it difficult to access services and opportunities.

2 Tribal Population and Socio-Economic Marginalization

- **Tribal Demographics:** Gadchiroli has a significant tribal population (Scheduled Tribes like Gonds and Madia). In Dhanora taluka, a large percentage of the population is tribal. Despite constitutional safeguards, these communities remain socially and economically marginalized.

- **Lack of Access to Basic Services:** Many tribal villages in Dhanora lack basic amenities such as healthcare, quality education, and sanitation facilities. Malnutrition, child mortality, and poverty are major concerns.

- **Cultural Displacement:** Efforts at development often clash with traditional lifestyles and cultures of tribal communities. This leads to discontent and, at times, resistance from these communities.

3. Health and Education

- **Healthcare Deficiency:** Healthcare facilities are limited and of poor quality. The district suffers from a shortage of doctors, nurses, and medicines. Tribal populations are particularly vulnerable to diseases such as malaria and malnutrition.

- **Education Deficit:** Educational infrastructure is weak, especially in Dhanora taluka. Many children drop out early, and schools lack proper facilities, trained teachers, and resources. Girls, in particular, face challenges in continuing their education due to social and economic pressures

4. Economic Challenges

- **Agrarian Distress:** Agriculture is the primary occupation, but it is largely rain-fed. Frequent droughts, poor soil quality, and lack of irrigation facilities make farming unreliable.

- **Limited Industrialization:** There is almost no industrial development, and employment opportunities are scarce, forcing many young people to migrate to urban areas for work.

- **Forest-Based Livelihoods:** A large portion of the population depends on forest resources, such as collecting minor forest produce (tendu leaves, mahua, bamboo). However, exploitation, lack of market access, and low prices make this an unstable livelihood

5. Naxalism (Left-Wing Extremism)

- **Naxalite Activity:** Gadchiroli, including Dhanora taluka, has been affected by Naxalite (Maoist) insurgency for decades. This leads to fear, insecurity, and violence, affecting both civilians and security forces. Developmental projects often face delays due to the threat of Naxal attacks.

- **Impact on Development:** Due to the insurgency, many government officials, NGOs, and private organizations are reluctant to work in the region. This hampers socio-economic progress.

6. Environmental Degradation

- **Deforestation and Loss of Biodiversity:** Illegal logging and mining activities have led to environmental degradation. Forest depletion impacts both wildlife and tribal communities who rely on forests for their livelihoods.

- **Flooding and Drought:** Due to its geographical location, Gadchiroli often experiences erratic rainfall patterns. While some parts suffer from drought, others face flooding, affecting agricultural productivity and increasing vulnerability to climate change.

7. Lack of Awareness and Political Representation

- **Lack of Political Representation:** The interests of tribal communities in Dhanora are often neglected at the state level. The area lacks strong political representation to advocate for developmental projects and resources.

- **Limited Awareness and Information Access:** People in remote areas like Dhanora often lack awareness of government schemes and welfare programs due to poor communication infrastructure and limited education.

8. Water Scarcity and Irrigation

- **Water Issues:** Although surrounded by rivers and streams, the region suffers from inadequate water management. There is insufficient irrigation, and villagers often face difficulties accessing drinking water, especially during summer months.

9. Women's Issues

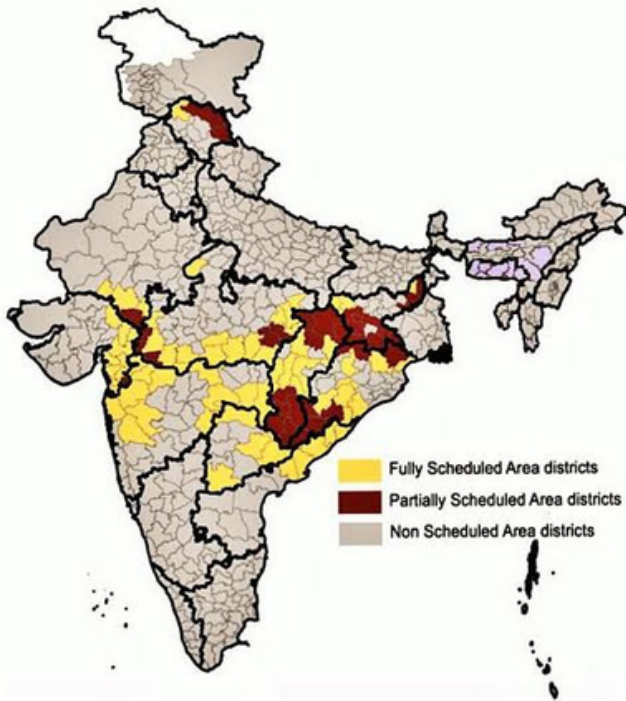
- **Gender Inequality:** Women in Dhanora taluka face social and economic challenges, such as lack of education, domestic violence, and early marriages. They have limited access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and financial independence.

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Maternal mortality and child malnutrition are significant issues, and healthcare services for women are inadequate

key solution recommendation

Key Solutions and Recommendations:

- 1. Improve Infrastructure:** Focus on improving road connectivity, transportation, and communication infrastructure in Dhanora to ensure better access to services.
- 2. Focus on Tribal Development:** Develop targeted schemes to improve the economic and social conditions of tribal populations, ensuring they have access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities.
- 3. Tackle Naxalism:** Continued efforts by the government to address the Naxalite insurgency through development initiatives, police reforms, and community engagement.
- 4. Agricultural Support:** Strengthen agriculture by providing irrigation facilities, modern farming techniques, and market access to farmers.
- 5. Education and Skill Development:** Enhance educational infrastructure, especially for tribal children, and provide vocational training to improve employment opportunities



IMPACT OF BHARTIYA NYAY SANHITA ON THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SCHEDULES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita: Key Features

Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita: Key Features

The BNS introduces a reformed framework for criminal law, replacing colonial laws like the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Some notable features include:

1. Simplification of legal language to improve accessibility.
2. Enhanced focus on victim rights and restorative justice.
3. Stricter penalties for heinous crimes and cybercrimes.
4. Elimination of provisions considered outdated or redundant.

Impact on Fifth and Sixth Schedules

1. Preservation of Tribal Customs vs. Uniform Legal Framework

The BNS may challenge the balance between tribal autonomy and national legal uniformity. Under the Fifth Schedule, customary laws often govern civil and criminal disputes among tribal populations. The codification of criminal law through the BNS might inadvertently dilute these customs, potentially leading to resistance from tribal communities.

In the Sixth Schedule, ADCs have legislative competence over criminal law under specific domains. The BNS could redefine the scope of this competence, raising concerns about the imposition of a central legal framework on distinct tribal traditions.

Introduction

The introduction of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) marks a significant overhaul of India's colonial-era legal framework. Aiming to modernize and contextualize the country's criminal justice system, this legislative reform intersects uniquely with the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Indian Constitution, which are integral to safeguarding the rights and governance of Scheduled Areas and Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) respectively.

The Fifth Schedule pertains to the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribes in mainland India. It mandates the Governor's oversight and the establishment of Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs) to ensure that tribal rights and customs are protected. The Sixth Schedule, on the other hand, applies to the Northeastern states, providing for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) to allow tribes greater self-governance, including the enactment of laws in specific areas like marriage, inheritance, and criminal justice.

Administration of Justice

The streamlined procedures and victim-centric approaches introduced by the BNS could improve the delivery of justice in Scheduled Areas. However, challenges might arise in integrating these reforms with existing systems. For instance, tribal courts established under ADCs might face procedural conflicts with BNS provisions.

3. Recognition of Tribal Identity

The tribal identity is closely linked to customary practices. The uniformity sought by the BNS may risk undermining cultural specificities, particularly in sensitive matters such as dispute resolution, punishments, and community-based restorative practices.

4. Periodic Review: Establishing a review mechanism to evaluate the BNS's impact on tribal autonomy and governance can ensure its alignment with constitutional objectives

Way forward

Way Forward

1. Inclusive Consultations: Engaging TACs, ADCs, and tribal leaders in the drafting and implementation phases of the BNS will be crucial to address their concerns.
2. Legal Pluralism: Allowing Scheduled Areas and ADCs the flexibility to adapt the BNS provisions to their customs can help balance national objectives with local needs.
3. Capacity Building: Training tribal courts and local administration in the nuances of the BNS can ensure its effective integration without compromising traditional practices.
4. Periodic Review: Establishing a review mechanism to evaluate the BNS's impact on tribal autonomy and governance can ensure its alignment with constitutional objectives

conclusion

The Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, while a progressive step towards modernizing India's criminal justice system, must carefully navigate its application in Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas. By respecting tribal autonomy and ensuring inclusive governance, the BNS can serve as a bridge between the aspirations of a modern legal framework and the preservation of India's diverse cultural heritage



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