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A Study on Constraints Faced by Tribals in Availing Benefits from Different Tribal Development Schemes in Jammu and Kashmir State

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors TI and RN designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author RP managed the analyses of the study. Author SP managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to find out the constraints faced by gujjars and bakerwals in availing the benefits of tribal developmental schemes in Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir State. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed for the selection of districts, blocks, villages and ultimate respondents. The total sample size was 112. Pretested interview schedule was used for the collection of data. The major finding of the study revealed that lack of proper awareness followed by lack of knowledge of government intervention (66%), adequacy of funds (41%), High illiteracy rate among the respondents and living in the far-flung area are the major constraints which are faced by tribal in availing the benefits from Tribals developmental schemes.

Keywords: Gujjars; Bakerwals; tribals; constraints; benefits.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of India, Article 366 (25) defines scheduled tribe as "Such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to the scheduled tribes (S.T) for this constitution. In article 342, the procedure to be followed for the specification of a scheduled tribe is prescribed. However, it does not contain the criteria for the specification of any community as a scheduled tribe. An often-used criterion is based on attributes such as geographical isolation, distinctive culture, shyness of contact with the community at large and socio-economic backwardness. The constitution also assigns special status for scheduled tribes [1]. The scheduled tribes constitute 8.2 per cent of the Indian population as per 2011 Census. There are 533 scheduled tribes as per notified schedule under Article 342 of the Constitution of India in different states and union territories of the country with the largest number of 62 in the state of Orissa. India is the second-largest country after South Africa having a large population of scheduled tribes. The total population of scheduled tribes in India is 84,326,240 out of total population of 1,21,01,93,422 as per (Census 2011 [2]). In Jammu and Kashmir State there are 12 scheduled tribes namely- Balti, Shin, Changpa, Garra, Beda, Boto, Mon, Purigpa, *Gujjar*, *Bakerwal*, Gaddi, and Sippi. The total population of the scheduled tribe is 1,105,979 which constitute 10.9 per cent of the total population of the state. *Gujjar* and *Bakerwals* lived between alpine pastures and the low altitude of Shivalik and the Jammu plain [3]. The *Gujjar* and *Bakerwals* are the third-largest ethnic groups in Jammu and Kashmir constituting more than 14 per cent of the population of the state. They are the most populous scheduled tribe having a population of 1756849 (Census 2011 [2]) but still, a major percentage of them are socially and educationally backwards. *Gujjars* are an ethnic group of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. These *Gujjars* are mainly concentrated in Gangetic Plains, foothills of the Himalayas, and eastern parts of Afghanistan. In India, *Gujjar* populations are found mainly in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Western Utter Pradesh, Uttarakhand, northern Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh [4]. The semi-nomadic Muslim *Gujjar* groups are found in the states of Jammu and Kashmir. The concentration of *Gujjars* is observed in the districts of Rajouri and Poonch, followed by, Anantnag, Udhampur and Doda districts. According to 2001 census *Gujjars* constitute 10.8

per cent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir, but according to *Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation*, *Gujjars* constitute 20 per cent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir. *Gujjars* are rich in terms of cultural heritage [5-7]. They have an edge over other communities of the state so far as a distinct cultural identity is concerned. *Gujjars* have their own language Gojri which is an offshoot of the Indo-Aryan school. They have their own costumes, traditions, food habits, lifestyle, and arts and crafts which vary from area to area [8]. The term "*Bakerwal*" is derived from the combination of two Gojri/Urdu/ Punjabi/Dogri terms "Bakri" meaning goat/sheep and "wal" meaning "one who takes care of". Essentially the name "*Bakerwal*" implies high-altitude goat and sheepherders. *Bakerwals* are primarily pastoral nomads rearing goat and sheep in high altitudes of Greater-Himalayas during summer and spend their winter in plains and foothills of Shiwaliks. They are special nomadic tribes mainly found in the Peerpanjal range of mountains located between the two states of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. In Jammu and Kashmir *Bakerwals* are stretched out in all the three regions viz. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. In the Kashmir Valley, they are mostly found in the districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Budgam, Kupwara etc. *Bakerwals* plan their activities into four major segments of time: winter, spring, summer and autumn. Secondly, they act on space and plan their activities in outer hills (winter pastures) on migratory routes and Dhoks (summer pastures). They stay in the outer hills from December to mid-April. They plan their activities in this zone according to the demands of the winter season. They are migrating with their flocks (goat and sheep) towards alpine pastures of the Greater Himalayas from the last quarter of April till the first week of July. During this time they cross different topographic zones successively on the route of migration and their activities are controlled both by the passing of time as well as crossing over the space zones in regulating their daily marches according to environmental conditions. From June to September they graze on the Greater Himalayas alpine pastures from a fixed location and the activities of the transhumant's are controlled both bypassing of time and utilization of space. They again start returning to the winter bases in October with the same route of migration and reach the outer hills zone by November every year. The nature of their oscillation, the planning of annual and diurnal activities over space and through time is

to be perceived in time-space continuum as their activities are correlated with the two most pronounced time cycles in the physical environment i.e. spring and autumn migration [8].

1.1 Support Schemes to Uplift Scheduled Tribes

Government of India has been continuously striving hard for the upliftment of these people and has launched the various schemes. A few to mention are:

1. Vocational training in tribal areas.
2. Strengthening of education among scheduled tribe girls in low districts.
3. Market Development of Tribal Products/Produces.
4. Schemes under Tribal Sub-Plan.
5. Schemes of hostel for scheduled tribe girls and boys.
6. Indra Awas Yojana (IAY).
7. Article-275 (1)
8. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MG.NREGA)
9. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
10. The mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
11. Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)
12. Rural sanitation
13. Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)
14. Border Area Development Programme (BADP)

Therefore, the study was undertaken to find out the problems faced by Tribals in getting benefits from these schemes. The study will provide the

empirical feedback to the government developmental agencies and provides a set of recommendations for policymakers and programme implementers who could help to improve the outcomes of these schemes.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the Jammu divisions of Jammu and Kashmir State. Multistage sampling plan was followed for the selection of ultimate respondents. Data regarding the population of schedule tribes available in "Digest of Statistics of J&K state" was referred and two districts Poonch and Rajouri with highest concentration of schedule tribe's population were selected. List of blocks, with a maximum population of both the tribes for each selected district, was prepared. Out of the prepared list of blocks, two blocks were selected randomly, from each selected district. Thus four blocks were selected. From each selected block list of villages was prepared from where a maximum population of ultimate respondents was selected. Out of the list of identified villages, two villages per selected block were selected randomly. Thus eight villages were selected out of two selected districts of Jammu division. From each selected village, 7 *Gujjars* and 7 *Bakerwals* were selected randomly. Thus, 112 respondents were selected for the study from two selected districts. The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of a structured interview from July 2015 to September 2015.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the study revealed that constraints reported by the *Gujjars* and *Bakerwals* for

Table 1. Constraints reported by the respondent in availing the benefits of the Government interventions

Constraints	{Sample size (n=112)}	
	Number	(%)
Lack of proper information	32	(29)
Lack of communication	45	(40)
Lack of proper awareness	76	(68)
Irresponsibility of government employee	33	(30)
Employee's selective nature towards people while providing Benefits	2	(2)
Illiteracy of respondent's	42	(38)
Lack of adequate fund	46	(41)
Plan is not prepared timely	13	(12)
Lack of proper utilization of fund	19	(17)
No proper management	25	(22)
Benefits are directed towards a known person only	29	(26)
Lack of training programmes to respondent's	8	(7)
Lack of knowledge of Govt. intervention's	74	(66)
Govt. developmental offices are far away from respondents' residence	25	(22)

Multiple responses

availing the benefits of the Government interventions were lack of awareness about different welfare schemes (68%), followed by lack of knowledge of government interventions (66%), lack of adequate fund from different development department of government (41%), lack of communication with government agencies (40%), illiteracy of the respondents (38%), irresponsibility of government employees (30%), lack of proper information (29%), benefits directed towards known person only (26%), no proper management and government developmental offices are far away from respondents' residence (22%), lack of proper utilization of funds (17%), plan is not prepared timely (12%), lack of training programmes for respondents (7%) and a employee's selective nature towards people while providing benefits (2%).

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Although several tribal development programmes and policies have been implemented in the tribal area for the improvement of socio-economic conditions of the tribal but till date they are in the last ladder of the development. Poverty is one of the factors and affects the life of people in general and tribal in particular. But insufficient awareness and lack of organized efforts seem to be the root cause of socio-economic backwardness and major problems of the scheduled tribe. As the majority of the respondents voted lack of proper awareness on rank 1st, followed by lack of knowledge of government intervention (66%), adequacy of funds (41%), High illiteracy rate among the respondents and living in the far-flung area.

CONSENT

As per international standard respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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