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Q7(b)

Discuss the nature of social change in tribal India under the impact of developmental programmes

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Social change and contemporary tribal societies

7.2 Social change and contemporary tribal societies: Impact of modern democratic institutions, development programmes and welfare measures on tribals and weaker sections.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the nature of social change in tribal India under the impact of developmental programmes
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

ITDPs and reservations create a tribal salaried layer.

Roads and mines displace forest custom even as clinics arrive.

Elwin and Vidyarthi named the cultural cost of that bargain.

Change is incorporation plus internal class.

FRA tries to tie programmes to remaining resource rights.

Introduction

Developmental programmes pull tribal India toward schools, clinics, roads, and markets. Social change is real, uneven, and often bought with land.

Body

Intended change

- **ITDPs**, hostels, and reservations raise a small salaried layer. That is **Srinivas-like** mobility, sometimes with Sanskritisation or church education.
- Health and PDS cut some mortality. Panchayati raj and **PESA** create new offices.

Unintended change

- Dams, mines, and plantations under the same "development" displace the **nature-man-spirit** world **Vidyarthi** described.
- Cash and liquor, already feared by **Elwin**, follow the road. Clan land becomes a plot.
- Youth out-migrate; elders lose ritual authority. Change is not only uplift.

Nature of the shift

- **The nature is dual:** incorporation into the Indian state and market, plus internal stratification.

- **Ghurye** would call it Hindu-national joining. Fieldwork shows ST lists, churches, and mines as rival joiners.
- **FRA** tries to make development rest on recognised forest rights rather than on erasure.

Flow diagram

Development programmes -> Salaried minority
Development programmes -> Land forest loss
Development programmes -> Internal class split

Conclusion

Programmes change tribal society by adding a small middle class and by breaking forest custom. The nature of change is incorporation with stratification, not simple progress.

Facts & figures

ITDP

Integrated Tribal Development Project, the classic area programme.

L. P. Vidyarthi

Warned that development which kills forest kills the tribal social cosmos.

Verrier Elwin

Fearred roads and contractors as social solvents unless land was shielded.

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA)

Seeks to make local development pass through the gram sabha.

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