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Q4(b)

Examine in detail the role of anthropology in planning for tribal development

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Role of anthropology in tribal and rural development.

9.2 Role of anthropology in tribal and rural development.

Core demand of the question

- Examine in detail the role of anthropology in planning for tribal development
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

Anthropology maps tribal land, forest, and custom before schemes are written.

Elwin, Haimendorf, Majumdar, and Vidyarthi supplied that applied archive.

Plans need PESA, FRA, and **Fifth Schedule** as design, not decoration.

ITDPs and mother-tongue education are anthropological correctives to uniform packages.

- **The limit is political:** field notes still lose to mining targets.

Introduction

Anthropology enters tribal planning as field knowledge of custom, land, and language. Its role is to make schemes fit the people **Nehru's** Panchsheel named, not to decorate a budget.

Body

Diagnosis before the scheme

- Village studies and tribal monographs map shifting cultivation, clan land, and the **nature-man-spirit** complex of **L. P. Vidyarthi**.
- **Verrier Elwin** and **Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf** showed planners why forest and bride-price are not leftovers.
- **D. N. Majumdar** and later applied anthropologists sat on **tribal research institutes** that feed state plans.

Design of programmes

- Anthropology argues for **ITDP** blocks, mother-tongue teachers, and gram sabha consent under **PESA** and **FRA**, against a one-size irrigation package.
- It flags land alienation, so **Fifth Schedule** regulations enter the plan as a legal input, not an afterthought.
- Gender and health modules fail if they ignore tribal women's forest work.

Limits

- Plans still arrive as targets. The anthropologist is often a note in the annexure.

- Role in detail is research, impact warning, and translation between ministry and hamlet.

Flow diagram

Anthropology -> Diagnose land custom
Anthropology -> PESA FRA ITDP design
Anthropology -> Warn alienation

Conclusion

Anthropology's role in tribal development planning is to supply social structure and consent tools. Without it, Panchsheel stays a preface and the mine stays the plan.

Facts & figures

Nehru Panchsheel

Policy ethic that anthropologists use as the test of tribal plans.

L. P. Vidyarthi

Nature-man-spirit complex used to warn against forest-blind development.

ITDP

Area development blocks meant to bundle tribal schemes with local ecology.

Tribal research institutes

State bodies where anthropologists feed ethnography into official plans.

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