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Q7(c)

Describe how various tribal development programmes and plans have impacted the process of social transformation among tribes

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · 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

- Describe how various tribal development programmes and plans have impacted the process of social transformation among tribes
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

ITDPs, sub-plans, and schools created a small tribal salariat.

The same development stack displaced many through mines and dams.

Panchsheel set the ethic; delivery favoured targets.

FRA and PESA try a rights-based transformation.

Culture changes via school and Sanskritisation faster than mass income.

Introduction

Tribal plans from Community Development to ITDPs, TSP, and FRA-linked schemes try to transform tribes into schooled, healthy, and market-ready citizens. The social result is a split generation more than a uniform new society.

Body

Programme stack

- Nehruvian **Panchsheel** promised genius-respecting development. Five-Year Plan tribal sub-plans and **ITDPs** delivered hostels, wells, and some cooperatives.
- **PESA**, reservations, and **panchayati raj** added political office.
- **FRA 2006** tried to make transformation rest on recognised forest, not only on the hostel.

Impact on transformation

- A small ST middle class of teachers, jawans, and clerks is the clear success.
- Roads and mines under the same plans transformed many into displaced labour, the **Jharkhand** pattern.
- **Vidyarthi** would call forest loss a transformation of the whole cosmos, not a welfare upgrade.
- **Srinivas-like** Sanskritisation and church education ride the school, so custom changes faster than income.

Balance

- Plans did transform. They stratified. They rarely met Panchsheel's human-quality test for the majority.

Flow diagram

ITDP TSP school -> ST middle class
ITDP TSP school -> Displacement mines
FRA PESA PESA -> Rights-based path

Conclusion

Programmes transformed tribes by creating an educated layer and by opening land to the market. Social transformation is therefore class split plus cultural speed-up, not simple uplift.

Facts & figures

ITDP

Area programme meant to bundle tribal development.

Tribal Sub-Plan

Plan device to earmark funds; leakage is a known impact failure.

Nehru Panchsheel

Benchmark against which social transformation should be judged.

FRA 2006

Attempts to ground transformation in forest title rather than in eviction.

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