

**THE ROLE OF KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT IN RELOCATION OF  
TRIBES - A STUDY IN MYSORE DISTRICT****Nagendrakumar P.**

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**Abstract**

This paper discusses the role of Karnataka Forest Department in bringing relocation of tribes of Mysore. The Karnataka Forest Department has been supporting relocated tribals to find suitable alternatives after relocation. The Government of Karnataka has come up with several initiatives through Forest Department to support relocated tribes. The implementation of Van Dhan Tribal Start Ups, Van Dhan Yojana, Iravatha scheme, Vana sri Pradhana Manthri yojana, Chitanya vikas, Krushi aranya protasa yojane, etc have been very successfully supporting forest tribals. The state government has been urged to implement Forest Rights Act to protect the tribal population from eviction and other forceful actions. The Forest Department recognizes the rights of tribals in self cultivation and recognizes tribal community's rights. TRIFED had implemented several initiatives as a part of central government's Atma Nirbhar Bharath to support tribals. There are plenty of programs for their support, but issues of exploitation and prejudicial growth aspects still haunt many of these schemes. A need for a periodical review of the schemes with feedback analysis will support a clear assessing of the impact on beneficiaries.

**Key words:** Mysore District, Relocation of Tribes, Role of Karnataka Forest Department

**Introduction:**

Mysore district tribes were relocated under several development projects. At first 280 families were resettled by providing alternate agricultural land in nearby areas. Later remaining families were relocated under the **Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development** scheme. Totally 3418 families were relocated after Nagarahole was declared as a **Tiger Reserve** under the **Wildlife Protection Act**. Karnataka government announced relocation package with financial support from **Project Tiger** for **Nagarahole Reserve** in 1997. Each beneficiary got Rs one lakh while the family also got five acres of land to cultivate on. The figures were later revised to Rs 10 lakh and three acres of land. Now it is revised to 15 lakh per beneficiary. Since 1997, 792 families have been relocated from **Nagarahole Tiger Reserve**. There are still over 1000 families living in various parts of the reserve forest area seeking relocation.

**The Forest Rights Act-** The Forest Rights Act protects the tribal population from eviction without rehabilitation and settlement. But several forest acts prior to this Act have failed to recognize the symbiotic relationship of the tribal people with the forests. The Forest Rights Act reflected dependence of the tribal people on the forest. The Forest Rights Act gives maximum attention and pays credit to the traditional tribal wisdom regarding conservation of the forests and ecology.



**Karnataka Forest Department** - Karnataka Forest Department recognizes the rights of tribals in self cultivation and habitation, recognizes tribal community rights with regard to grazing, fishing and access to water bodies, and also recognizes the habitat rights of tribals.

**The Karnataka Forest Department initiatives**-The forest department helps tribal community to access traditional seasonal forest resources and tribal traditional knowledge. The department emphasises on recognition of traditional customary tribal rights to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage community forest resources towards sustainable use. Through FRA the Karnataka Forest Department also keeps the right to allocation of forest land for developmental purposes to fulfil basic infrastructural needs of the tribal community.

**Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED)** Improving the livelihoods of the tribal people, and under privileged tribal population is the key objective of **TRIFED Ministry of Tribal Affairs**. **TRIFED** had implemented several initiatives as a part of **Atma Nirbhar Bharath**. It spearheads implementation of the **Van Dhan Yojana** in 27 states and 307 districts with availability of MFPs and significant forest dwelling tribal population collection and sale of MFPs and significant forest dwelling tribal population. Collection and sale of MFPs contribute 40-60 percent of tribal annual earnings and further value addition helps in tripling or doubling their income.

1. **Van Dhan Tribal Start Ups**- and the mechanisms for marketing of **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** through **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** an development of value chain for MFP scheme that provides MSP to gatherers of forest produces and introduce value addition an and marketing through tribal groups and clusters. These programmes have gained widespread acceptances across the country.

2. In less than 18 months 37,259 **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** divided into 2224 **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK)** clusters of 300 forest dwellers each have been sanctioned by TRIFED as of date. A typical **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra** includes 20 tribal members of the region. As per TRIFED, 50 lakh tribals have been impacted by the **Van Dhan start ups** programmes.

Sl. No.	Place	Name of the VDK
1	Hunsur	Vana Spandana VDK, Hunsur
2	Sarguru	Sanjeevini Srigandha VDK Sargur
3	T Narasipura	Thriveni Sanjeevini VDK, T Narasipura
4	Nanjangud	Kadhali Sanjeevini VDK, Nanjangud
5	Piriyapattana	Vriksha mathe VDK, Piriyapattana
6	Mysuru	Adavi Sanjeevini VDK, Mysuru
7	KR Nagara	Vana Moulya VDK Kr Nagara

The programme addresses the formidable problems that the tribals face such as;

1. Delay in distribution of possession of land rights,
2. House with no possession rights
3. Restrictions in the collection of MFP,
4. Exploitation by middlemen,
5. Displacement from national parks and wild sanctuaries



**Iravatha scheme** – this scheme envisages partnership with corporate aggregators like OLA / UBER to facilitate self employment of rural youth through Radio Taxi and other successful cab transport ventures. Rural youth belonging to SCST communities will be provided training, mentoring and other enhanced financial assistance. This supports self employment among relocated tribes of Mysore district.

**Krusha Aranaya Protaha Yojane**- this scheme was started in the year 2011 to promote the cooperation of farmers and general public in the task of increasing forest and tree cover. The dept will provide seedlings at subsidized rates and a monetary incentive for tree plantation.

**Hunsur Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Cluster** – The Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Cluster in Hunsur taluk in Mysore district has been working towards supporting tribal population of the region.

**Need for analytical study of initiatives** - There is a need to systematically analyse these schemes and assess the impact of schemes on beneficiaries.

1. **Need for transparent policy**-The need to examine the process of selection of beneficiaries needs to be transparent and appropriate. The relocated tribes of Mysore region are spread across various HAADI meaning resident zones; there are several customary and sociological differences among them. Hence, selection of relocated tribes of Mysore district needs special examination.

2. **Need for assessment**- There is a need to assess the total coverage of the schemes across different regions , categories and gender within relocated tribals of Mysore district

3. **Suitability Of Schemes to Local Conditions** - There is a need to scrutinize the suitability of schemes to local conditions before launching. Karnataka forest dept need to address the issue of beneficiaries in relocated in different parts of Mysore district.

4. **Need for periodical review of the efficiency of schemes**- There is a need to review the efficiency and functioning of monitoring mechanism for the schemes

5. **Need for collection of opinions and feedback responses**- There is a need to note the opinions and feedback responses from beneficiaries before initiating new measures. The effectiveness or the lacuna of the scheme needs to be addressed before going for other schemes

6. **Need for comparative analysis of the impact of schemes** - There is a need to make a comparative analysis of the impact of schemes across all relocated tribal communities. This will provide relatively clear information about the pros and cons of the scheme. Making a periodical review of the schemes of the forest dept will help in assessing the impact on the beneficiaries. **The Karnataka State Evaluation Authority Report** on Terms of Reference of Joint Forest Planning and Management Programme in Karnataka (JFPM) indicated that there is a need to conduct regular monitoring of the schemes in order to comprehend the impact on beneficiaries.

### **Conclusion:**

Karnataka forest department has launched several schemes for the relocated tribes, but a need for a periodical review of the schemes will support in assessing of the impact on beneficiaries more collectively. The Government organizations as well as Ministries of tribal welfare need to consider evaluation of schemes on top priority.



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