

CHAPTER 14

SOCIAL WELFARE

Welfare of Senior Citizens

“Andaman & Nicobar Administration Old Age Assistance Rules, 1981” which is applicable through out the UT of A & N Islands, came into force w. e. f. 3/6/1982. The aim of these rules is to provide social security by way of financial assistance to destitute, old and disabled persons who are without any means of subsistence and having nobody to give financial support to them for their livelihood.

Two continuing schemes exclusively merged together as one scheme for the welfare of senior citizens. It also includes NOAPS and NFBS from 2002-03 onwards. National Old Age Pension Scheme in which Rs.200/- per month is being given to beneficiaries who are above 60 years of age and belonging to the BPL families. They are also being given Rs.300/- from UT Plan scheme.

An amount of Rs.271.62 lakhs was spent on the scheme during the 10th Plan period and a total number of 4420 beneficiaries were provided pension as on 31/3/2007.

Welfare of Disabled Persons

To provide absolute benefit to the handicapped people of these islands, this scheme envisages providing scholarship to handicapped students, financial assistance under self-employment venture, unemployment allowance, financial assistance for better treatment at mainland hospital, purchase and repair of aid and appliances, permanent disability allowance etc.

An expenditure of Rs.157.42 lakhs was incurred during 10th Plan and a total number of 1512 handicapped persons were benefited through different programs/schemes.

One Rehabilitation Center under NPRPD (National Programme for Rehabilitation of Person with Disabilities) has been set up as per the direction of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India. One District Disabled Rehabilitation has also been established and functioning in collaboration with NIOH.

Welfare of Juveniles

This Scheme envisages maintenance of home for Delinquent Juvenile (Boys, Girls, Children Home) established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000.

One Children's Home and one Observation and Special Home for Boys were maintained during 10th Plan.

At present there are 10 inmates in special & observation home for Delinquent Juvenile and 20 in children home for the juvenile need in care and protection.

Juvenile Justice Board

One Juvenile Justice Board has been functioning at Port Blair for the entire district for the juveniles in conflict with laws. The matter regarding setting up of a commission for protection of children under the Child Rights Act is being examined by the Administration.

Drug Abuse and Alcoholism

Considering the gravity of the situation of alcoholism in these islands the present institutional arrangement and voluntary counselling is insufficient to meet the requirement for providing service to the affected persons. Therefore there is a need to provide a full fledged operational counselling centre with qualified staff, both as doctors and counselors. The social welfare department proposes to construct a de-addiction centre with qualified staff in the 11th Five Year Plan. Rs.14.90

lakhs was incurred during 10th plan period. 21 de-addiction camps were organized.

Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organizations

Social Welfare department has been providing grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations namely R. K. Mission, Port Blair & Seva Niketan, Port Blair for maintaining Orphan children. Rs.90.22 lakhs has been provided to the above institutions during Tenth Plan. A total number of 130 children have been benefited.

Women's Empowerment

a. Working Women's Hostel:

In order to promote greater mobility for women in the employment market, this Department has a scheme of establishing and running of Hostels for Working Women in order to provide safe and cheap accommodation to working women who come away from their homes for the sake of employment. At present two working women's hostel are functioning in the head quarter area, Port Blair. One Working Women's hostel at Car Nicobar is under construction. It is proposed to construct two Working Women's Hostel with 50 bedded capacities each at Rangat and Diglipur area.

b. Assistance to Widows:

This scheme envisages to provide financial assistance @ Rs.500/- per month to widows of these islands, irrespective of their age. All the widows who have no other source of income and not receiving any financial assistance from any other source are covered under this scheme.

Rs.369.44 lakhs has been spent under this scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan and 4404 widows were benefited.

c. Training cum Production Centre:

The objective of this Scheme is to provide training in different vocations to the economically backward women and girls in order to make them or enable them to adopt or undertake self-employment venture to improve their economic condition. Twelve Training cum Production Centres were maintained and an amount of Rs.31.49 lakhs spent during the Tenth Plan.

d. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:

The Department of Social Welfare is the nodal department for implementation of provisions under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Under this Act, the department appointed 5 Protection Officers under section 8 of the Act. The department is in the process of registering service providers as required as per Rule 11 of the Act. As there are very few credible NGOs engaged in the field of Women & Child Welfare, the registration of service providers has been delayed.

e. A & N State Social Welfare Board:

A & N State Social Welfare Board is being provided with 50 % of grant-in-aid for the establishment cost of Social Welfare Advisory Board. However for all other schemes of the Central Board, the A & N State Social Welfare Board is receiving the funds under the relevant scheme directly from Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi.

Scheme for beggars

A & N Islands is free from the menace of beggars. Administration is keeping a close vigil on the floating population from the mainland to stop the practice of begging in this UT.

Development of Children

a. Home for orphan girls:

This scheme envisages providing, shelter and education to abandoned, neglected and helpless orphan girls. Inmates of the home are provided with all basic amenities, care and protection, education and vocational training. An expenditure of Rs.87.70 lakhs incurred under Tenth Plan. At present 20 inmates are in the home. An amount of Rs.1500/- is provided to each child as their maintenance charges per month.

b. Day Care Centre:

The aim of the Scheme is to provide services to the Children of unprivileged working parents when both of them go out to work. It also provides health and nutrition education. These children are also provided with nutritious food at day time through 17 Day Care Centres.

c. Child Welfare Committee:

One Child Welfare Committee has been constituted and functioning for entire District and constitution of separate CWC for North & Middle Andaman District and Nicobar District is under process.

d. Construction of Anganwadis:

It is proposed to construct 10 model Anganwadis in Middle and North Andaman district during 2008-09 to provide early childhood care and education to the children.

Integrated Child Development Scheme(Supply of Supplementary Nutrition)

The ICDS services in A & N Islands is being implemented through 5 ICDS projects i.e.

1. ICDS Urban Project.
2. ICDS Ferrargunj Project.
3. ICDS Rangat Project.
4. ICDS Diglipur Project.
5. ICDS Nicobar Project.

The following services are being extended through ICDS.

a. Supplementary Nutrition

The Department of Social Welfare is the implementing agency of one of the components of ICDS Programme i.e. the Supplementary Nutrition. The main aim of the scheme is to reduce prevalence of malnutrition among children under six years of age, pregnant & lactating mothers & adolescent girls irrespective of their economic status. This also envisages prevention of micro nutrient malnutrition / deficiency. This programme is being implemented through Anganwadi Centres of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The scheme covering target beneficiaries of 30,000 including children upto age of 6 years as well as pregnant and nursing mothers, adolescent girls in all 672 Anganwadi centres. Supplementary nutrition is provided @ Rs.5/- to all beneficiaries per day for about 300 days in a year.

b. Immunization

Below given national schedule of immunization is followed in ICDS.

I) For Children	II) For Mother
a) Triple vaccine (DPT) against diphtheria	
b) Polio vaccine	
c) BCG Vaccine	a) TT 1 st dose
d) Measles vaccine	b) TT 2 nd dose
e) DPT booster	
f) Oral polio booster	
g) Booster DT	

c. Health checkup

This programme includes ante-natal care of expectant mothers, post-natal care of nursing women and children under 6 year of age. In addition, the services of ANM, LHV and Medical Officers are utilized.

d. Referral Service

Under this programme, ladies and children at risk are referred to the Medical Officer of the Community Health Centre or to the other Referral Hospital.;

e. Nutrition & Health Education

This service is being extended to enhance the mother's awareness about basic health, child needs and capacity to look after the children.

f. Pre-school Education

One hour non-formal education is given to the children of 3-6 years in Anganwadi Centres to improve their physical, emotional, social and intellectual development.

WELFARE OF STs/OBCs/MINORITIES

As per 2001 Census, out of the total population of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (3,56,152), the Scheduled Tribes (ST) population was 29,469 (8.27% of Andaman & Nicobar Islands total population). Six of the tribes are notified as Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Nicobarese form the major tribal group having the population of 28,653 while the total population of the remaining five primitive tribes is about 816 (namely Great Andamanese – 43, Onges – 96, Jarawas – 240 *{estimated}*, Sentinelese – 39 *{estimated}*, Shompens – 398). So far, the A&N Islands Other Backward Classes Commission has notified 5 communities [i.e. (1) Pre-1942, (2) Moplas, (3) Post 1942 Bengali Settlers, (4) Bhandus and (5) Karens] as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, but no authentic estimate is available regarding the OBC population in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

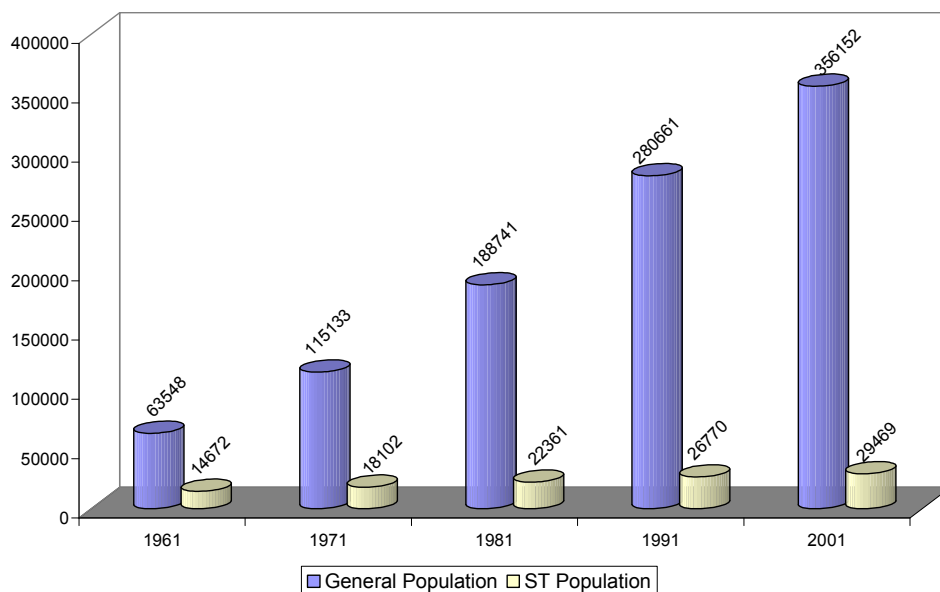
The ST population of A&N Islands is predominantly residing in rural areas. The ST population vis-à-vis the total population of A&N Islands between 1961 and 2001 is given below.

Statement 14.1
Population of A&N Islands since 1961

Sl. No.	Year	General Population	ST Population	Percentage
1.	1961	63548	14672	23.09
2.	1971	115133	18102	15.72
3.	1981	188741	22361	11.85
4.	1991	280661	26770	9.54
5.	2001	356152	29469	8.27

Chart 14.1

Comparison of ST population to total population



Sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males)

As compared to total population, the sex ratio scheduled tribes population is higher in the Union Territory as well as in the Nicobars district. This stands at 948 and 967 respectively in 2001 census. In Andaman District where the schedule tribe population is small, the sex ratio stands at 787.

The child sex ratio among the Scheduled Tribes population has increased in the Union Territory and also in the Nicobars district during last decade. These are 956 and 977 respectively in 2001 respectively. Percentage of population in the age group 0-6 among Scheduled Tribes population has declined from 17% in 1991 to 13% in 2001 Census.

Statement 14.2

Child Sex Ratio (Population 0-6 age group)

State/District	Total	General	ST
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	957	957	956
Andamans	960	961	781
Nicobars	937	868	977

Literacy status

A steady increase has been observed in the literacy rates of Scheduled Tribes during last decade. In 2001, it is recorded as 66.8% against 56.6% in 1991. Compared to all India literacy level of 64.8% for total population and 47.1% for the Scheduled Tribes, literacy scenario of the Union Territory is encouraging.

Statement 14.3

Literacy Rate of Total, General Scheduled Tribe Population

State/District	Total	General	ST
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	81.3	82.6	66.8
Andamans	82.5	82.6	72.9
Nicobars	72.3	83.0	66.1

The work participation rate has increased in 2001 Census compared to 1991 Census. The work participation rate among females is low though both male and female work participation rates have increased. Among the Scheduled Tribes, as in 1991 Census a very negligible proportion of total workers (0.4%) have been returned as cultivators during 2001 Census.

Among the Scheduled Tribes, the proportion of agricultural labourers is negligible at 0.1% in 2001 Census. A significantly high percentage of workers (43.4%) are engaged as household industry workers. This is however, a considerable decline from 61.7% recorded in 1991. Regarding other workers registered a steep increase from 37.3% in 1991 to 56% in 2001 Census. Conversely there has been reduction in percentage of cultivators, agricultural labourers and workers in household industry in the total as well as Scheduled Tribes population of the Union Territory in 2001 Census as compared to 1991 Census.

No Scheduled Castes have been notified in A&N Islands.

Workforce

The main thrust has been given to the planned development of the largest groups of the tribal population of these islands. The main occupation of the Nicobarese is horticulture. They raise coconut plantations in their land on community ownership. The other five Scheduled Tribes comprise namely - Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, and Shompens are Primitive Tribal Groups, which subsist on hunting, gathering and foraging activities. However, the two Primitive Tribes namely - the Andamanese and the Onges, having been assimilated to mainstream in have been settled by the Administration at Strait Island and Dugong Creek and coconut plantations-cum-orchards have been developed at the respective habitats so that they become self sustained.

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

The concept of Tribal Sub-Plan [TSP] for the welfare of STs is that all the departments shall take specific schemes for socio-economic development of STs. Its essence is that the schemes should be based on their developmental needs. The Administration of A&N Islands has been preparing Tribal Sub Plan [TSP] since 5th Five Year Plan. The size of TSP in 10th Five Year Plan and its Annual Plan 2002-03 to 2006-07 & Annual Plan 2007-08 is given here under: -

Statement 14.4
Flow of Fund under TSP

Sl. No.	Five Year/Annual Plan	Approved Outlay	Flow of TSP	Rs. in lakh]
				Percentage
1	X Five Year Plan	248300	36474.00	14.69
2	Annual Plan 2002-03	41000	4382.60	10.69
3	Annual Plan 2003-04	41000	6425.40	15.67
4	Annual Plan 2004-05	41000	5730.58	13.98
5	Annual Plan 2005-06	66129	7521.58	11.37
6	Annual Plan 2006-07	54707	6408.23	11.71
7	Annual Plan 2007-08	60483	8634.10	14.28
8	Annual Plan 2008-09	64262	6672.17	10.38

Educational Programmes

Following educational schemes have been introduced for the benefit of ST students in A&N Islands.

1.	Additional Scholarship	165 students were granted additional scholarship @ Rs. 500/- per month during the Annual Plan 2007-08.
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2.	Vocational Training	A batch of 15 trainees were enrolled in Computer Education and another batch of 10 trainees enrolled in stenography were paid stipend @ Rs. 300/- pm during the Annual Plan 2007-08.
3.	Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Post Matric Scholarship	Post Matric Scholarship to tune of Rs. 4.47 lakhs was sanctioned by Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2007-08. 321 ST students were granted Post Matric scholarship @ Rs. 140/- pm during the year 2007-08.
4.	Central Sector Schemes	Grant-in-aid to the tune of Rs. 1,29,862 sanctioned to NGO namely – RK Mission Centre, Port Blair for imparting training in Computer Education. 42 unemployed tribal youths were imparted training during 2007-08.

Developmental Activities

a) For the Development of Primitive Tribal Groups - Conservation-cum-Development Plan for PTGs are undertaken.

Grant-in-aid was sanctioned to AAJVS to the tune of Rs. 1,49,00,000/- for undertaking activities proposed under Conservation-cum-Development Plan (CCD Plan) during 2007-2008.

b) Construction work of Transit Tribal Hostel at Brookshabad, which is likely to be completed by 31.12.08.

Financial Assistance

During 2007-2008 financial assistance was granted to two serious tribal patients referred to Apollo Hospital, Chennai.

Socio Economic Development

For all socio economic development of PTGs different line departments have been involved under the direction of Hon'ble Lt.Governor to under take welfare oriented development projects like expansion of horticulture (coconut plantation), poultry farming, piggery, kitchen garden and such other self sustains activities.

Tsunami Rehabilitation

Under Tsunami Rehabilitation programme permanent shelters are under construction for all the affected ST families including PTG which are targeted to be completed and handed over to beneficiaries by 31.12.09.

New Initiatives

For the protection of the Primitive Tribes a unique human heritage the basic principle of – “minimum intervention, full proof protection and maximum autonomy is adopted. A Jarawa Policy has already been notified in December'2004 and similarly separate policies for other five Primitive Tribes namely - Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese and Shompens are in the offing and likely to be notified during the current financial year.