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POLICY OF ISOLATION AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

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***Abstract:** The colonial strategy of exclusion of tribal zones was mostly an outcome of the work of ethnographers, anthropologists, sociologists, historians and Christian missionaries studying tribal cultures in India. The most significant of these works comprises that of Verrier Elwin. Elwin's study on Baiga (1939) made him realize that exploitation of these tribes was severe and this community confidences to have a Baiga Raj, where they have their own leader and no interfering and exploitation by the others. This study led Elwin to assume leave them alone or national park approach or isolation approach.*

Keyword: *Colonial Policy, Tribal Areas, National Park Approach, Tribal Development*

INTRODUCTION

Verrier Elwin was an English self-trained anthropologist, ethnologist and tribal activist, who started his profession in India as a Christian missionary. He was a contentious figure who first **abandoned the clergy, to work with Mohandas Gandhi and the Indian National Congress**, then converted in Hinduism in 1935 after remaining a Gandhian ashram, split with the nationalists over what he felt was an impulsive process of transformation and assimilation for the tribals. Elwin is best known for his early effort with the **Baigas** and **Gonds** of central India.

Nehru appointed him as a consultant on tribal affairs for north-eastern India and advanced he was Anthropological Adviser to the Government of NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh). Through the 1940s, Elwin published a series of major books on distinct tribes.

After independence, Elwin was the first Englishman to be a citizen of the Indian republic. In 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru appointed him adviser on tribal affairs to the administration.

1. People should develop along the lines of their own genius and we should avoid imposing anything on them. We should try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and culture.

CLASSIFICATION OF INDIAN TRIBE

Elwin categorized Indian tribe centered on their level of improvement. Verrier Elwin planned a fourfold arrangement:

- a) Those who are primitive living in a joint communal life and encourage with axes. They are the cleanest as they live in the isolated areas and are least influenced by Hinduism.
- b) Those who, though similarly attached to their solitude and early traditions, are more peculiar, face a decline of shared sense, are less engaged with axe cultivation and are more used to outside life.
- c) Those who are under external impact and are on the way to drop their tribal culture, religion and social organization. They are in a unusual state of transition. This group creates the largest section of the tribal population which is around four-fifth of the same.
- d) Those who retain greatly of their original tribal life and tree of culture complete.

POLICY OF ISOLATION

The tribal groups were seen as too subdued and acquitted to appreciate the socio-economic processes and much more prone to the exploitation by the non-tribal and the moneylenders. Almost, the policy of isolation adopted by the British further estranged the tribal living on the hills, in forests and in other isolated zones. The tribal remained unaffected by the welfares of the developing measures started for the rest of the society. The current lack of growth among the tribal requirements to be understood in this historical viewpoint. The second point of view saw tribes as animists, on the ground that they fitted to a religious tradition other than that of main religions of India. Therefore, they were a society unto themselves and established a society diverse from the larger society. The concept of protecting the tribal communities from also fast integration into economy and polity was instinctive out of the direct nature of the British rule. It was a creation of calculation on the part of British on two major matters:

- a. Administration of the far-flung tribal zones would be problematic

CONCLUSION

In simple words, the method came to mean letting tribes live in their individual way, not overstepping on their economic space and allowing them to develop in their own self-created improvement design. Elwin's 'National Park Policy' of possession the tribals as "museums, specimens became the model for government. The British adopted two broad methods on tribal development. The first approach encouraged by the British was to isolate tribes from the larger society and, consequently, distinct tribal areas from the purview of normal management.

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