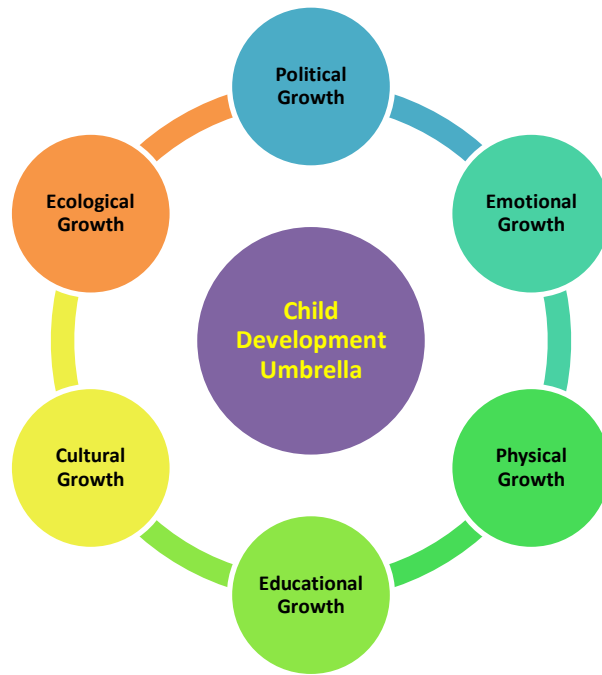


Umbrella Programme for Tribal Community Development



VAAGDHARA, Banswara

BACK DROP

According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes (STs) population in India comes to 104.28 million representing **8.6 per cent** of the country's population. They concentrate mainly in isolated and remote forest and hilly regions of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West-Bengal, Rajasthan, Gujarat and North Eastern states. Most of these areas are poor in many aspects be it infrastructure, education, health, livelihoods and participation in mainstream development. The democratic processes in these areas are more or less symbolic and concentrated in the hands of few political leaders only remaining communities are mere spectators of the whole democracy and development.

Indian constitution provides for their protection and development and safeguard through promotion of educational and economic interests and their protection from social injustices and all forms of exploitation. Even than impacts of developmental efforts in such regions over communities are meager and these regions are still facing the basic problems of nutritional status, education, health, livelihoods and social justice. One can find distinct division in terms of tribal and nontribal areas on account of development impacts particularly tribal communities.

Like other tribal regions in South Rajasthan also various agencies both GOs and NGOs have been working ever since independence. Consequently the situation has improved considerably from what it was earlier - in terms of infrastructure, incomes etc. But Human Development index (HDI), in these districts like Dungarpur, Udaipur, Banswada, and Pratapgarh are at the bottom in state. In other neighboring states as well, the tribal regions are most backward. With this back drop, the main purpose of the workshop has been to develop an integrated and comprehensive programme approach in which different components can be brought together and provide synergy to all the interventions. It is strongly felt that efforts in isolated mode would not lead to holistic development. There are large numbers of GOs and NGOs which are focusing on nutrition, livelihood, health and education but more or less in isolated manners.

Considering the strong need to think for integrating efforts for ensuring overall development of a poor family in tribal region a process was initiated by likeminded institutions operating in south Rajasthan namely WHH, SCF, AFH, and VAAGDHARA. The process included study of existing developmental effort, HDI situation, consultation with various stakeholders and representative consultation with community leaders. The process has recommended evolving a framework for UPTCD with comprehensive approach with common objectives and indicators ensuring health, education and livelihood.

The process of economic development must focus on the social issues of the tribal area and should lead to shared prosperity, protected natural resources and secured social system. The mono-goal approach will no more lead to a total solution to the problem. The need for an integrated approach with a wider horizon for addressing malnutrition, ill-health, illiteracy, distress migration, poor infrastructure and other issues in the tribal belt from the crux of **Umbrella Programme for Sustainable Development** in general and child development in particular. Investment in human resource development focusing on children's right to health, nutrition, education, skill development and sustainable livelihood must begin with early childhood and also from most disadvantaged families.

The issues of the tribal belt to be focused included the poor implementation of government programmes like MGNREGA, SGSY, NRLM, Watershed Development and inadequate contextualization of government programmes to tribal culture and local needs. The food habits of tribal people are still dependent on carbohydrate rich food stuffs which lack protein, vitamins and other nutrients. The low productivity of land leads to food insecurity in terms of physical and economic access. The mothers and pregnant ladies in this belt are anemic and weak. The inter-generational illiteracy, poor quality of education, low productivity of land, poor access to credit, lack of opportunities for vocational skill development and other issues are to be dealt with an integrated approach by focusing the development of next generation of tribal society. Vibrant and Resilient local institutions to manage the process of development through participating approach are the needs of the hour. Therefore, collaboration, cooperation and

consultation for integration and collective efforts by GO, NGO and local voluntary organizations have to be evolved so that instead of a single theme goal approach multi-theme goal approach for sustainable livelihood and social development becomes a reality.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

Umbrella approach may cover establishment of a corruption free society, promotion of equity, accountability mechanism, creation of institutional space and end of discrimination. Therefore, UPTCD will work for the ultimate goal of “**all round growth of indigenous tribal community**” and to achieve this it has identified following as specific objectives.



- To develop an integrated program approach for the tribal area including 3 main components i.e. Health, Education and Livelihood where the Community Institutions are the cross cutting theme
- To evolve and pilot projects within UPSTD programme for sustainable development towards Child Rights with Agriculture and Nutrition
- To identify successful models for sustainable development and come out with steps for up-scaling
- To facilitate development processes such that well meaning programs and projects reach their objectives

STRATEGY

The UPCTD programme require focus on developing and nurturing vibrant institutions of people- which are sensitive towards child development and which can also work on livelihood, education, health and nutrition. The vibrant institutions will be the key for sustainability of the interventions. Though there is a need for investing in the community

and community institutions in tribal areas, but equally important is the fact that the tribal community should not be dependent on grants and subsidies forever.

To address this issue, it will be very important that community based finance/micro finance is also weaved in the approach; so that after the project period, community can take up the complete responsibility of managing their own affairs. Another critical aspect is that there will have to be greater coordination and collaboration within and among government and civil society efforts in tribal region.

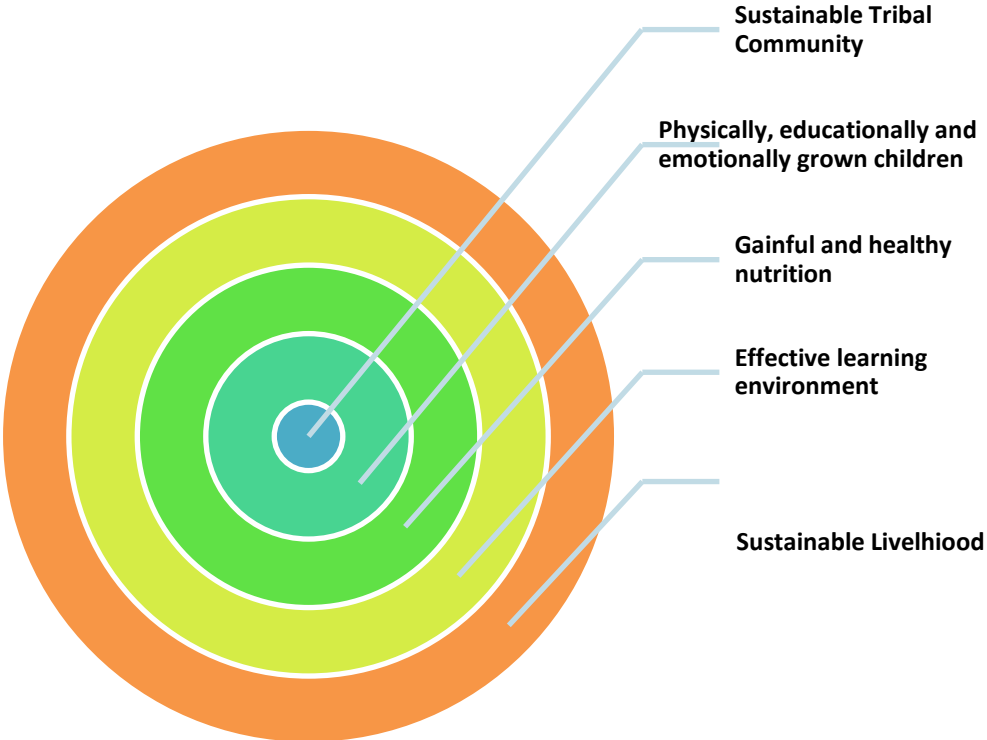


Figure 1: Strategies within Umbrella Program

The concept of following umbrella approach must take into account all basic needs like quality food, safe house, education, essential health facilities and a dignified livelihood. Prevention of alcohol and addictives, sensitization and collectivization of citizens, promotion of safe and secure homes, protection of rights of the under privileged classes, protection of environment, prevention of tax evasion by corporate, protection of workers right including minimum wages & social security, gender equity and safety in public places. The possible challenges toward this approach include issues like scaling, mainstreaming, influencing, demonstrating and qualifying. However, when hands and minds are put together, a supplementary and complementary mechanism may arise which helps not only to resolve today's problem of the deprived, but can make a better tomorrow for them.

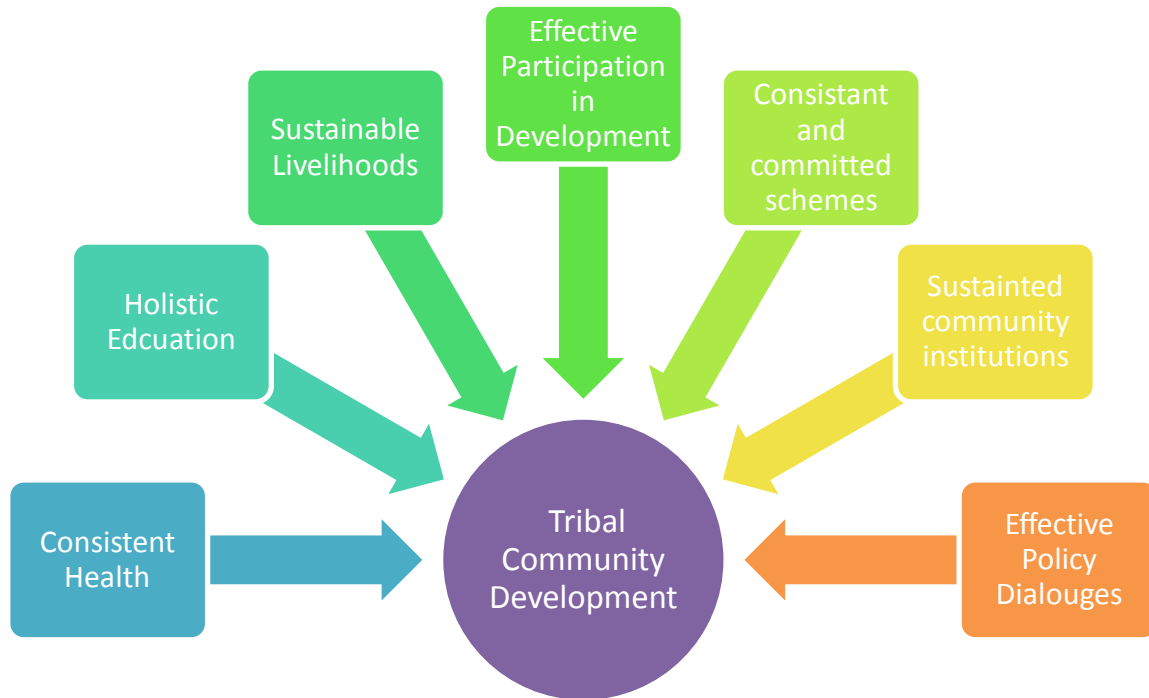


Figure 2 Umbrella Program Approach

A paradigm shift from **on-behalf of planning to community led planning and implementation** must emerge with total inclusion of the marginalized. The umbrella that is envisaged must be held by the community and the role of various institutions must be confined to make the voices of the marginalized more loudly.

- Even though tribal development is considered as priority area, most of the development interventions by GOs, NGOs and private are more or less in isolation. The approach by government is more on just making separate allocation and monitoring how much money has been spent on tribal development under TADA and MADA area. There is wider need for broader collaboration and coordination among various agencies and evolving separate programmes under umbrella approach by maintaining specific interventions made by different agencies.
- There is a vital requirement of coordination at problem analysis, and planning for sustainable development of tribal community and tribal area.
- Depending on tribal resource pattern area specific Sustainable Integrated Farming System-SIFS need to be evolved and adopted with nutritional security and child development consideration
- Needs of tribal communities be focused under umbrella approach and location specific technologies and local resource based interventions must be given priority

Present joint operational area for most of agencies which are presently part of this process is south Rajasthan, which is one of the most backward regions of Rajasthan, but have similar and somewhat more demanding region of Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh) and similar situation in Dahod (Gujarat). One component of strategy could include piloting some projects and programs within UPTCD

ACTION POINTS

1. Create a cadre of Tribal Development Volunteers (TDV)
2. Interlinking agriculture, nutrition, education, institution building, and livelihood for synchronizing them under **Children Development Umbrella and piloting**
 - a. Child centered Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement
 - b. Livelihood and Agriculture for fighting Malnutrition
 - c. Holistic education models including learning for sustainable livelihoods
 - d. Building cadre of tribal youth as torch bearers of development
 - e. Building Cadre of Development Volunteers as change agents
 - f. Ecologically sustainable indigenous solution to address malnutrition
 - g. Promoting SIFS as adaptation mechanism and sustainable livelihood in climate change scenario
3. Interaction with tribal farmers for effective and sustainable farm plan with diversified food basket/livelihood basket with crops, trees, kitchen garden, poultry and livestock.
4. Revisit to the strategies of developmental interventions in terms of HDI and MDG in the area
5. Evolving a Tribal Development Consortium for coordination under Umbrella approach
6. Identify agency that can take lead in playing the nodal agency role as institutional lead under Umbrella approach
7. Coordination between GOs and NGOs must get serious consideration and dialogue with government agencies can help to have more coordination
8. Advocacy for effective nodal agency for tribal development to deal with themes within UPSTD.
9. Organize Colloquium on Tribal Development to create a platform for interface among various stakeholders and tribal communities from different regions
10. Create “Tribal Development Reference Center” to play catalytic role for facilitating effective budget allocations and utilization on one hand and also to enhance
11. Exploring traditional know-how, blending with innovative technical knowledge and lay foundation for sustainability

Child Development

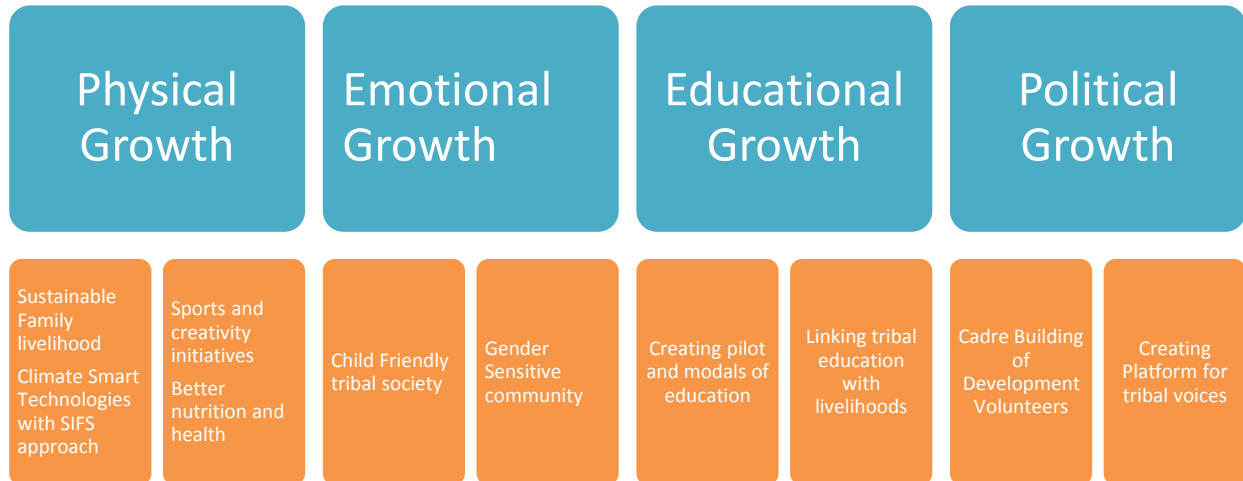


Figure 3 Child Development Umbrella

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The **Umbrella programme** for Sustainable Development is expected to improve investment tribal area in the field of health, nutrition, education and sustainable livelihoods focusing on young children and the most disadvantaged families. It is expected to create foundation for sustainable tribal development through positive growth and social cohesion that is expected to result in **Children** with emotional, social, physical and cognitive development. Some of the expected specific outcomes are as follow:

1. NGOs with common umbrella goal and different themes within would lead towards holistic development of community they are working with.
2. Sustainable Integrated farming System (SIFS) approach with nutrition focus is expected to result in advantage of having many products with minimized risk and reduced wastage, recycling.
3. Optimized use of 60-70% wasted land commons and family ownership thus sustaining livelihoods of poor families
4. Sustainable livelihood with Child development focus to ensure family and community investments (time, money and resources) for better physical, educational, emotional and political growth of coming generation.
5. Improved access to beneficial schemes through better and effective implementation of various government and non government programs and schemes
6. Advocacy and dialogue at national and international level with government agencies is important for umbrella programme
7. Synergy of various projects within umbrella approach is expected to multiply results as compared to isolated effects.
8. Vulnerable indigenous community move out from state of **mere recipient of development schemes and join mainstream development processes.**
9. Child Friendly tribal development