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TIRRUR JARAWA AREA PROBLEMS

In last one year the problems of Tirrur area have surfaced more blatantly. This is not a new development as the Jarawas from other two areas have always kept distance from Tirrur area and maintained a very fragile and calculated-diplomatic relationship (see report on Jarawa movement). The primary group associated with Tirrur also has strong internal divisions based on gender, age and contact with local villagers that in some way are particularly peculiar to Tirrur and historical and geographic predicaments of the Jarawas. What has been the case is that often the cases were suppressed or ignored and never 'made it out'. In last few months the dynamics of AAJVS staff and Jarawas vis-à-vis the settlers has undergone a major shift due to the shuffling of some field staff members.

May I request the concerned officers of TW and AAJVS to kindly take on board at least some of the points and implement them.

The problem and its dimension that has emerged and are of concerns and require immediate attention are as follows:

1. Steady rise in the relationship between settlers and Jarawas that involve exchange of items, visitations to the reserve territory and transaction of favors including sexual. Other area Jarawas along with some murmurings by villagers has reported this last issue frequently.
2. Tirrur is not a prominent area where the so-called poachers are relatively more active. But the problem is that the Jarawas have become 'too friendly' with settlers and eager to please each other.
3. As a result the settlers with dongees frequently visit the Jarawas in nighttime and the Jarawas come out to them for the collections of payments or to pay back in kind for what material they have received.
4. This two way movement between settlements and reserve territory at one level can be controlled among the Jarawas by talking and explanations as is the purpose of Hot Spots. But, more significant is the control of the settlers moving in via the creek leading to vicinity of Jhau Kona and Bada Balu. Jarawas on the other hand move with much ease using the trail from Collinpur side. The water way is more preferred and easier by the villagers who do have dongee. Jarawas on the other hand find it easier to move through the forest trails along with their individual loads to carry.