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used iron, which they got from ship-wrecks or from raids on neighbouring colonies to make implements and hunting weapons. As they do not get iron through these channels any more, administration has started providing a variety of tools and implements on a regular basis. Their argument is that "once contact has been established and we have introduced them to certain articles, we cannot turn back." They also say that in order to maintain the isolation of the Jarawa, it is necessary to provide them with these articles, which they have now started demanding, within their Reserve.

Supply driven dependency is extremely dangerous as it can change the lifestyle of the Jarawa and make them dole dependent like the Onge and Great Andamanese. While it is true that due to changed circumstances certain services and goods need to be provided to the Jarawa, this process should be entirely demand driven and should ensure minimal intervention. For instance, instead of providing tools, iron can be supplied so that the Jarawa can make their own equipments. Similarly, agriculture based food security is dangerous as the Jarawa are not farmers.

Demand driven interventions also need to be evaluated by a panel of experts to ensure that they do not create undesired and undesirable dependencies. The Jarawa have been demanding vehicles to transport them from one place to another within the Reserve. This is because they have become used to the administration herding them in vehicles and taking them to different points on the ATR for 'sightings.' Such a dependency will however reduce their physical activity and might impact their metabolic processes.

Minimum Intervention

The Jarawa policy of the MHA prescribes maximum autonomy (for the tribals) and minimum intervention (by outsiders). However, both these phrases have not been defined; even within the administration the interpretations of these terms, which are the essence of the entire policy, differ. Their view is that minimum equals 'life'. So intervention should be limited to areas which are essential for 'life' i.e. to ensure survival. This includes health, food security and supply of tools, clothes and utensils. There is little clarity, however, on the extent of intervention desirable in these areas.