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attending Jarawas visiting the Hospital for treatment of skin and digestive disorders expressed that empowerment of Jarawas through education just like Nicobarese is the best action for addressing the problem of maintaining the culture and identity of Jarawas within their tribal reserve. ✓

On the other hand, it was evident from Kiran Dhingra's analyses that it has become necessity to have land route for settling land-loving people in land scarce oceanic islands not only to serve as social and cultural connectivity across the settlements but serves as livelihood; it is also an economic instrument for 50% of the islands' total population. Consequently, it has become an important infrastructural component that has become lifeline of the islands.

The argument is that sea route is more cost effective than the land route. This may be true but the present sea transport network is too inadequate and is weather dependent (Annexure 26). The weather of Andaman is unpredictable, and storms are frequent. Further, it is not known what changes have been brought by 26 December earthquake and tsunami in the seas close to the islands. Above all, any large scale increase in sea transport system involves the risk of polluting sea. Improvement of present helicopter service requires heavy investment and also weather dependent. Consequently, there is a necessity for land route for connectivity across the Great Andaman not only to meet the cultural, social and economical aspirations of settlers but also to meet the security of islands as poaching by Srilankans and Burmese is rampant on the west coast.

Professor Sahay, who had spent a major part of his life in understanding cultural aspects of ethnic groups particularly the Nicobarese, and an authority on tribes, has expressed that the protection of culture and identity of Jarawas is a necessity and empowerment of Jarawas through education ensure the survival of their culture and identity.

Meena Gupta's view is that there are other alternatives for settlers but there is no alternative for Jarawas and hence priority should be given to the protection of culture and identity of Jarawas.