

with the mainstream population, the drastically reduced hostility has emboldened both sides of the populations into frequent meetings and interactions of friendly as well as frictional kinds. There is, therefore, a situation of conflict, which does not pose that much of a problem but the friendly interaction are resulting in inculcation of undesirable knowledge and habits as well as injection of race impurity. Present policy (of isolation) may cause total annihilation of the Jarawa entity if it continues..

MP, ANI has proposed that Quick and drastic steps be taken to bring the Jarawa up to the basic mainstream characteristics. Example can be taken from the treatment given to Bihore and Sabar tribals of Jharkhand in Singhbhum and Khunti districts. In a nutshell, children in the age of 6 to 12 years were weaned away from the tribe and kept in a normal school atmosphere, where they were very quickly trained in personal hygiene, use of clothes and basic reading and writing skills. They were also exposed to eating habits of simple mainstream people and modern amenities such as television and motor vehicles. After 6 months they were returned to the tribes and re-contacted after a month when they were found to have lost some of their clothes and mainstream habits, but it was also observed that members of the tribe had also acquired some of the mainstream characteristics such as personal hygiene and use of clothes. They exercise of schooling the same children were repeated, this time over a longer period. Over time, trainers were able to infiltrate into the main pockets of tribes and inculcate skills of personal hygiene, wearing of clothes and their maintenance, partaking of cooked food and basic agricultural and horticultural activities. The final result was training the entire population into a village identical with any other village of ST population in Jharkhand.

A similar drastic mainstreaming treatment be given to the Jarawa population to ensure their survival against the adverse effects of unregulated contacts with the mainstream.

Views of A&NI Administration

As per the Jarawa policy Under Clause VI (e), the Policy envisages periodic review so that the policy remains dynamic and takes into account the changing needs and circumstances.

The Jarawa tribe comes out from the Tribal reserve areas and interact with the modern world. A symbiotic relationship has developed with neighboring settlements in some cases, while in other cases, situations of conflict have arisen. This interaction takes place not only along the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) but also in Tirur and Kadamtala areas. The battle for isolation of the Jarawa was lost about 50 years ago when a decision was taken to construct the ATR and create settlement villages in and around Jarawa habitat. There can be no going back on these developments and there is only one way forward (i.e) increasing exposure and interaction of Jarawa with the modern world. Jarawas cannot be put back into the time capsule of Stone Age civilization, even if we desire to do so.

Field visits suggest that Jarawas are not a homogenous group and there are several subgroups in different parts of the Jarawa reserve with different levels of interaction with the outside world. Jarawas from Middle Strait and Tirur have picked up local languages including Hindi, are familiar with the outside world and have started wearing modern clothes. They have started chewing tobacco and eating rice and