

The Tribal Sub Plan intends for the over all development of the Scheduled Tribes. There are 6 Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands viz. two Mangoloid Tribes i.e. Nicobarese and Shompens and four Negrito Tribes i.e. Onges, Andamanese, Sentinelese and Jarawas. The total population of the Scheduled Tribes as per 1991 Census is 26,770 which constitutes 9.5% of the total population of the U.T. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Nicobarese is the largest group having the population of 26,000 while the total population of the remaining 5 tribes is about 770.

The main occupation of the Nicobarese is horticulture. They raise the coconut plantations in extensive areas. The other 5 Scheduled Tribes constitutes the Primitive Tribal group subsisting on hunting and gathering activities. However, two Tribes viz the Andamanese and Onges have been settled by the Administration and are provided with the coconut plantations, etc, for their livelihood and other developmental benefits are also extended to them.

The Nicobarese inhabit the 12 islands in the Nicobar District while the Shompens inhabit the interior of Great Nicobar Island. The 4 Negrito Tribes inhabit the different islands in the Andaman District. There is an Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) to implement various developmental activities for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes living in Nicobars District. The Deputy Commissioner of the District is the Chairman of ITDP who has been entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordinating the implementation of various schemes of different sectors of the Administration. For the welfare of the Primitive Tribes, an autonomous organisation known as AAJVS is constituted since 1976 under the Chairmanship of the Lt. Governor, with the Chief Secretary as the Vice Chairman