

Effectiveness of Tribal Welfare Administration among PVTGs in Karnataka: An Empirical Assessment of Koraga and Jenu Kuruba Communities

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Abstract:

Tribal welfare administration is a key instrument for promoting the socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in India. Despite various welfare interventions, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) continue to face challenges related to poverty, low literacy, livelihood insecurity, and limited access to public services. This study evaluates the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities in Karnataka. The study is based on primary data collected from 679 respondents (468 Jenu Kuruba and 211 Koraga) using a descriptive and analytical research design. The findings reveal that welfare programmes have contributed positively to improving access to basic amenities, education, healthcare, food security, and women's empowerment. However, challenges such as administrative delays, procedural complexities, inadequate awareness, limited livelihood opportunities, and poor access to institutional credit continue to affect programme outcomes. The study concludes that strengthening administrative efficiency, outreach mechanisms, grievance redressal systems, and livelihood-oriented interventions is essential for ensuring sustainable and inclusive development among PVTGs.

Keywords: Tribal Welfare Administration, PVTGs, Koraga, Jenu Kuruba, Tribal Development, Welfare Governance, Karnataka

Introduction

Tribal communities constitute an integral part of India's socio-cultural diversity and represent some of the most historically disadvantaged sections of

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society. To address the challenges of social exclusion, economic deprivation, and geographical isolation faced by these communities, the Government of India has developed a comprehensive framework of tribal welfare administration. This framework encompasses constitutional safeguards, targeted development programmes, educational support, livelihood interventions, healthcare initiatives, and social protection measures aimed at improving the quality of life of Scheduled Tribes (STs). Over time, tribal development policy has evolved from a welfare-oriented approach towards a more inclusive and rights-based model that emphasizes empowerment, participation, and sustainable development.

Within the Scheduled Tribe population, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) occupy a unique position due to their extreme socio-economic vulnerability. PVTGs are characterized by low literacy levels, fragile livelihood systems, declining or stagnant populations, and limited access to basic services. Despite decades of targeted interventions, many PVTG communities continue to experience persistent poverty, inadequate educational attainment, poor health outcomes, and restricted access to government welfare programmes. These conditions highlight the importance of assessing the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration in reaching the most marginalized groups and ensuring equitable development outcomes.

Karnataka is home to a diverse tribal population comprising 50 notified Scheduled Tribes. According to Census 2011, the state's Scheduled Tribe population stands at approximately 42.5 lakh, accounting for 6.95 % of the total population. Nearly four-fifths of the tribal population resides in rural areas, often in remote settlements with limited access to infrastructure and public services. Among these communities, the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba are recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups due to their socio-economic backwardness and historical marginalization. Studies indicate that Karnataka has around 50,000 persons belonging to PVTGs, highlighting their relatively small demographic presence but significant developmental vulnerabilities.

The Government of Karnataka has implemented several welfare initiatives through the Department of Tribal Welfare, Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs), Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ashram Schools, scholarship programmes, housing schemes, health interventions, and livelihood development initiatives. These programmes are intended to enhance educational opportunities, improve health indicators, generate employment, and strengthen social security among tribal communities. However, evidence from field studies and community organizations suggests that challenges such as lack of awareness, administrative delays, documentation barriers, inadequate outreach, and limited institutional

responsiveness continue to affect the delivery of welfare benefits to vulnerable tribal households. Recent demands from tribal representatives have also highlighted concerns regarding the inadequate reach of welfare schemes among Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

The Koraga community is primarily concentrated in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi and has historically faced severe social exclusion and occupational marginalization. Traditionally engaged in basket making and other menial occupations, the community continues to experience educational and economic disadvantages. In contrast, the Jenu Kuruba community inhabits the forested regions of Mysuru, Kodagu, and Chamarajanagar districts. Traditionally known for honey collection and forest-based livelihoods, the community has undergone significant socio-economic changes due to forest regulations, relocation processes, and changing livelihood opportunities. Although both communities are categorized as PVTGs, their developmental experiences and interactions with welfare institutions vary considerably.

Against this backdrop, the present study empirically evaluates the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities in Karnataka. Based on primary data collected from 679 respondents (468 Jenu Kuruba and 211

Koraga households), the study examines awareness, accessibility, utilization, and perceived impact of welfare programmes. By analysing beneficiaries' experiences and administrative performance, the study seeks to contribute to evidence-based policymaking and provide insights for strengthening tribal governance, improving service delivery, and promoting inclusive development among Karnataka's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Review of Literature

The study of tribal welfare and development in India has attracted the attention of several scholars, policymakers, and committees. Early contributions by Verrier Elwin (1964) emphasized the need to protect tribal culture while facilitating gradual development. G.S. Ghurye (1963), however, advocated greater integration of tribal communities into mainstream society. Sachchidananda (1979) highlighted the socio-economic deprivation and developmental challenges faced by tribal populations despite government interventions. Similarly, Roy Burman (1986) examined issues of tribal identity, marginalization, and the role of state institutions in tribal development.

Studies on tribal welfare administration by Swaminadhan (2005) observed that although significant investments have been made through tribal welfare programmes, challenges relating to education, health, livelihoods, and service delivery continue to persist. Xaxa (2011;

2014) argued that tribal development must move beyond welfare provisioning and focus on rights, participation, governance, and social justice. The Xaxa Committee Report (2014) further documented persistent disparities in socio-economic indicators among tribal communities and highlighted weaknesses in implementation and administrative accountability.

Research on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) has consistently pointed to issues of geographical isolation, low literacy, livelihood insecurity, and social exclusion. Scholars such as Mahapatra (1994), Bose (1997), and Xaxa (2011) emphasized that PVTGs require community-specific development strategies due to their distinct socio-cultural and economic circumstances. In Karnataka, studies have examined welfare interventions among tribal communities; however, empirical evaluations of welfare administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities remain limited. Existing literature largely focuses on socio-economic conditions rather than administrative effectiveness, beneficiary experiences, and welfare outcomes. Therefore, a significant research gap exists in assessing the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among Karnataka's PVTGs through comparative empirical evidence.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the socio-economic profile of Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

2. To assess awareness and accessibility of tribal welfare programmes.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration.
4. To identify administrative challenges in welfare delivery.
5. To suggest measures for improving tribal governance and service delivery.

Research Methodology

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Karnataka. The research was conducted in five districts with significant PVTG populations, namely Mysuru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi. These districts represent the traditional habitats of the Jenu Kuruba and Koraga communities and provide a suitable setting for comparative analysis.

The study is based on a sample of 679 respondents, comprising 468 Jenu Kuruba and 211 Koraga beneficiaries selected from various tribal settlements. Primary data were collected through a structured household survey focusing on socio-economic conditions, awareness of welfare schemes, accessibility of benefits, and perceptions of administrative effectiveness. Secondary data were obtained from government reports, publications of the Department of Tribal Welfare, Census reports, Karnataka State

Tribal Research Institute (KSTRI) documents, and other relevant sources.

The collected data were analyzed using percentage analysis, comparative analysis, mean score analysis, and descriptive statistical techniques to assess welfare outcomes and administrative performance among the two PVTG communities.

Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents

An analysis of the socio-economic profile of respondents provides important

insights into the demographic characteristics, educational status, occupational patterns, housing conditions, and livelihood resources of the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities. Understanding these factors is essential for assessing the effectiveness of welfare programmes and identifying the developmental needs of these Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Respondents	Percentage
Age	Below 18 Years	45	6.6
	18–30 Years	209	30.8
	31–45 Years	213	31.4
	46–60 Years	192	28.3
	Above 60 Years	20	2.9
Gender	Male	327	48.2
	Female	352	51.8
Marital Status	Married	486	71.6
	Unmarried	134	19.7
	Widow/Widower/Separated	59	8.7
Total		679	100.0

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

The demographic profile indicates that the majority of respondents (62.2%) belonged to the economically productive age group of 18–45 years. Female respondents (51.8%) slightly outnumbered

males (48.2%), reflecting balanced gender representation in the survey. A large proportion of respondents were married (71.6%), indicating stable family structures within the communities.

Table 2: Educational Status of Respondents

Educational Level	Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	242	35.6
Literate without Formal Schooling	158	23.3
Primary Education	106	15.6
SSLC	93	13.7
PUC/Diploma/ITI	49	7.2
Graduate	26	3.8
Postgraduate and Above	5	0.8
Total	679	100.0

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

Educational attainment remains low among the respondents. More than one-third (35.6%) were illiterate, while only 4.6 percent had attained graduate or higher education. The findings suggest

that despite educational welfare programmes, significant gaps continue to exist in higher educational attainment among PVTGs.

Table 3: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage
Daily Wage / Agricultural Labourer	389	57.3
Unemployed	143	21.1
Traditional Occupation	35	5.2
Homemaker	34	5.0
Construction Work	29	4.3
Student	29	4.3
Contract Employee	20	2.9
Total	679	100.0

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

The table shows that a majority of respondents (57.3%) were engaged in daily wage or agricultural labour, indicating a strong dependence on low-income and informal employment. Unemployment was reported by 21.1 percent of respondents, reflecting economic vulnerability. Traditional occupations accounted for only 5.2

percent, while homemakers (5.0%), construction workers (4.3%), students (4.3%), and contract employees (2.9%) constituted smaller proportions. The findings suggest limited livelihood diversification and continued dependence on insecure sources of income among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

Table 4: Housing, Basic Amenities and Land Ownership

Variable	Category	Respondents	Percentage
Housing Type	Kutcha	111	16.3
	Semi-Pucca	151	22.2
	Pucca	417	61.5
Land Ownership	Own Land	261	38.4
	Landless	418	61.6
Drinking Water Access	Available	589	86.7
Electricity Access	Available	612	90.1

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

The findings indicate that a majority of respondents (61.5%) lived in pucca houses, reflecting the positive impact of housing welfare programmes. However, 38.5 percent continued to reside in kutchra or semi-pucca houses. Land ownership remains limited, with 61.6 percent of households being landless, indicating continued economic vulnerability. Access

to basic amenities was relatively high, as 86.7 percent of respondents reported access to drinking water and 90.1 percent had electricity connections. Overall, while improvements in housing and infrastructure are evident, landlessness remains a significant socio-economic challenge among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

Table 5: Annual Income of Respondents

Annual Income (₹)	Respondents	%
Less than 20,000	135	19.9
20,001 – 50,000	290	42.7
50,001 – 1,00,000	239	35.2
1,00,001 – 3,00,000	15	2.2
Above 3,00,000	0	0.0
Total	679	100.0

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

The income profile reveals that a majority of respondents belonged to low-income households. About 42.7 percent reported an annual income between ₹20,001 and ₹50,000, while 35.2 percent earned between ₹50,001 and ₹1,00,000. Nearly one-fifth (19.9%) had an annual income below ₹20,000, indicating severe economic vulnerability. Only 2.2 percent earned between ₹1,00,001 and ₹3,00,000, and none reported an income above ₹3,00,000. The findings highlight the limited earning capacity of the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities and their continued dependence on low-income livelihood sources.

The socio-economic profile indicates that the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities continue to face challenges related to low education, limited income, landlessness, and dependence on wage labour. Although welfare interventions have improved housing and access to basic amenities, economic vulnerability remains significant. These findings highlight the need for targeted measures to enhance livelihoods, education, and overall socio-economic development among PVTGs.

Awareness and Access to Welfare Programmes

Awareness and accessibility are critical determinants of the effectiveness of welfare administration. Welfare schemes can achieve their intended objectives only when beneficiaries are adequately informed about available programmes and are able to access them without significant administrative, procedural, or geographical barriers. In the context of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), awareness assumes greater importance due to low literacy levels, remote habitation, limited communication facilities, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. The present study assessed the level of awareness and access to various welfare programmes among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities in Karnataka.

Table 6: Awareness of Government Welfare Schemes

Welfare Scheme	Aware Respondents	%
Anna Bhagya	616	90.7
Gruha Jyothi	605	89.1
Gruha Lakshmi	602	88.7
Shakti Scheme	601	88.5
Residential Education (Ashrama Schools/EMRS)	562	82.8
Scholarships & Financial Assistance	523	77.0
Ayushman Bharat	371	54.6

& NHM		
Competitive Examination Coaching	169	24.9
Skill Development & Employability	119	17.5
Educational Incentives for PVTGs	103	15.2
Forest Rights Act (FRA)	67	9.9
PM-JANMAN	45	6.6
PESA Act	14	2.1

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

The findings reveal substantial variation in awareness levels across welfare schemes. Awareness was highest for universal and direct-benefit programmes such as Anna Bhagya (90.7%), Gruha Jyothi (89.1%), Gruha Lakshmi (88.7%), and the Shakti Scheme (88.5%). Educational programmes, including Ashrama Schools, EMRS, and scholarship schemes, also recorded relatively high awareness levels. However, awareness declined considerably for livelihood-oriented programmes, skill development initiatives, land rights programmes, and tribal rights-based legislations such as the Forest Rights Act (9.9%) and the PESA Act (2.1%). This indicates that respondents were more familiar with schemes providing immediate household benefits than with programmes aimed at long-term empowerment and self-governance.

Table 7: Difficulties Faced While Availing Welfare Schemes

Response	Respondents	%
Yes	402	59.2
No	277	40.8
Total	679	100.0

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

A majority of respondents (59.2%) reported experiencing difficulties while accessing welfare schemes. This indicates that administrative and procedural barriers continue to affect the effective utilization of welfare benefits among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

Table 8: Major Difficulties Faced by Respondents*

Difficulty	%
Delayed approval/sanction	13.1
Lack of transparency	13.0
Geographical barriers	12.8
Inaccessibility of funds	12.7
Inadequate information/guidance	12.2
Lengthy documentation process	11.9
Unclear eligibility criteria	11.9
Unresponsive officials	11.0
Corruption/bribery demands	10.3
Complex application procedures	10.2

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

*Multiple responses recorded.

The most common challenges reported were delayed approvals, lack of transparency, geographical isolation, inadequate guidance, and lengthy documentation procedures. These findings highlight persistent administrative

inefficiencies that limit access to welfare benefits and reduce programme effectiveness.

Table 9: Redressal and Satisfaction with Official Assistance

Indicator	Respondents	%
Approached officials for assistance	202	50.2
Did not approach officials	200	49.8
Satisfied with assistance received	98	48.5
Dissatisfied with assistance received	104	51.5

Source: Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

Among respondents who faced difficulties, only half approached officials for assistance. More importantly, a majority (51.5%) expressed dissatisfaction with the support received. This suggests limited confidence in grievance redressal mechanisms and highlights the need for greater responsiveness and accountability among implementing agencies.

The findings indicate that awareness of welfare programmes among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities is relatively high for schemes related to food security, housing, education, and social assistance. However, awareness of rights-based, livelihood-oriented, and empowerment-focused programmes remains limited. Although a majority of respondents have benefited from basic welfare services and essential documents,

significant barriers such as administrative delays, inadequate information, documentation requirements, geographical isolation, and procedural complexities continue to restrict effective access to benefits. The study highlights a noticeable gap between awareness and actual utilization of welfare schemes. Therefore, strengthening outreach activities, simplifying procedures, improving grievance redressal mechanisms, and enhancing last-mile service delivery are essential for improving the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among Karnataka's PVTGs.

Evaluation of Tribal Welfare Administration

The effectiveness of tribal welfare administration can be assessed through its impact on the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries. To evaluate the outcomes of welfare interventions among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities, respondents were asked to assess changes in various dimensions of development, including education, healthcare, livelihoods, social empowerment, access to services, and overall living conditions. The responses were analysed using a five-point Likert scale, and the results are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Impact of Government Assistance on Different Dimensions of Tribal Development

Indicator	Mean Score	Rank
Access to Basic Amenities	3.52	1
Expenditure on Education and Children's Schooling	3.09	2
Empowerment of Women	3.05	3
Healthcare Access and Expenditure	2.99	4
Food Security and Nutritional Status	2.99	5
Overall Standard of Living	2.91	6
Participation in Decision-Making	2.82	7
Household Income and Livelihood Generation	2.81	8
Access to Government Institutions and Services	2.66	9
Social Status and Dignity	2.44	10
Ownership of Household Assets	2.33	11
Awareness of Welfare Schemes	2.31	12
Employment Opportunities	2.18	13
Reduction in Discrimination	2.16	14
Skill Development Programmes	2.14	15
Availability of Institutional Credit	2.13	16
Reduction in Dependence on Moneylenders	1.98	17
Overall Composite Mean Score = 2.62		

Source: Compiled from Primary Data Collected through Field Survey

The findings reveal that tribal welfare administration has produced a moderate positive impact on the socio-economic development of the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities. The highest mean score was recorded for access to basic amenities (3.52), indicating that government interventions have significantly improved housing, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and other essential services in tribal habitations. Educational expenditure and children's schooling (3.09), women's empowerment (3.05), healthcare access (2.99), and food security (2.99) also received relatively high scores, demonstrating the effectiveness of welfare programmes in addressing basic human development needs.

Moderate levels of improvement were observed in overall standard of living (2.91), participation in household and community decision-making (2.82), household income generation (2.81), and access to government institutions and services (2.66). These findings suggest that welfare interventions have contributed to enhancing social inclusion and improving the interaction of tribal communities with administrative institutions. However, the extent of improvement remains modest and has not translated into substantial socio-economic transformation.

The evaluation further indicates that welfare administration has been less

effective in promoting sustainable livelihoods and long-term economic empowerment. Employment opportunities (2.18), skill development programmes (2.14), institutional credit access (2.13), and reduction in dependence on moneylenders (1.98) recorded comparatively low mean scores. Similarly, the perceived reduction in discrimination and social exclusion (2.16) remains limited. These findings suggest that while welfare programmes have been successful in providing immediate support and basic services, they have not adequately addressed structural issues such as unemployment, financial exclusion, livelihood insecurity, and social vulnerability.

The overall composite mean score of 2.62 indicates that beneficiaries perceive the impact of tribal welfare administration as moderately positive. The results demonstrate that welfare programmes have achieved greater success in improving basic amenities, education, healthcare, food security, and women's empowerment than in generating sustainable livelihoods and economic self-reliance. Therefore, strengthening livelihood promotion, entrepreneurship development, skill training, institutional credit support, and social justice mechanisms is essential for enhancing the long-term effectiveness of tribal welfare administration and ensuring inclusive development among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

Challenges in Welfare Administration

Despite the implementation of numerous welfare programmes for the socio-economic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), several challenges continue to affect the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities. The study found that a majority of respondents (59.2%) experienced difficulties in accessing welfare benefits, indicating the persistence of administrative and procedural barriers.

One of the major challenges identified was delayed approval and sanction of benefits, which often discouraged beneficiaries from pursuing welfare assistance. Lack of transparency in beneficiary selection and implementation processes further contributed to dissatisfaction among respondents. Geographical isolation of tribal habitations, particularly in forest and hilly regions, also limited access to government offices and welfare services. Inadequate transportation and communication infrastructure compounded these difficulties.

The study further revealed that many beneficiaries faced problems related to lengthy documentation procedures, unclear eligibility criteria, and inadequate information regarding available schemes. Low literacy levels and limited awareness of administrative procedures restricted their ability to access welfare benefits

effectively. Respondents also reported insufficient guidance from officials and difficulties in obtaining essential documents such as caste certificates, income certificates, land records, and bank accounts.

Another significant challenge relates to livelihood-oriented interventions. Although welfare programmes have improved access to basic amenities and social services, their impact on employment generation, skill development, institutional credit, and entrepreneurship promotion remains limited. Many beneficiaries continue to depend on wage labour and informal sources of income, reflecting the limited success of welfare administration in fostering sustainable economic empowerment.

The findings also indicate weaknesses in grievance redressal mechanisms. Among respondents who approached officials for assistance, more than half expressed dissatisfaction with the support received. This suggests the need for greater administrative responsiveness, accountability, and field-level support.

Overall, the challenges highlight the gap between policy provisions and actual implementation. Strengthening transparency, simplifying procedures, improving outreach in remote tribal areas, enhancing livelihood support, and ensuring effective grievance redressal mechanisms are essential for improving the effectiveness of tribal welfare

administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

Discussion

The findings of the study provide important insights into the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities in Karnataka. The analysis indicates that welfare interventions have contributed positively to improving access to basic amenities, education, healthcare, food security, and women's empowerment. High levels of awareness regarding direct-benefit schemes and improvements in housing, drinking water, sanitation, and educational support suggest that welfare administration has achieved notable progress in addressing immediate developmental needs of PVTG households.

However, the study also reveals significant limitations in the overall effectiveness of welfare administration. While respondents reported moderate improvements in living standards and access to public services, the impact on sustainable livelihood generation, employment opportunities, skill development, and financial inclusion remains relatively weak. The low mean scores recorded for institutional credit, entrepreneurship support, and reduction in dependence on moneylenders indicate that welfare programmes have been more successful in providing welfare assistance than in promoting long-term economic empowerment.

The findings further highlight a considerable gap between awareness and actual utilization of welfare schemes. Although many respondents were aware of government programmes, administrative delays, complex documentation requirements, geographical isolation, lack of transparency, and inadequate guidance often restricted access to benefits. These challenges reflect broader issues of governance, service delivery, and institutional responsiveness that continue to affect tribal development outcomes.

The study also underscores the importance of adopting a community-specific approach to welfare administration. The unique socio-economic conditions and cultural contexts of the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities require targeted interventions that go beyond uniform welfare delivery. Strengthening participatory governance, improving outreach mechanisms, enhancing livelihood promotion programmes, and ensuring timely and transparent implementation of schemes are essential for achieving meaningful development outcomes.

Overall, the findings suggest that tribal welfare administration in Karnataka has made measurable contributions to improving welfare and human development indicators. However, greater emphasis on livelihood security, economic empowerment, administrative efficiency, and beneficiary participation is necessary

to ensure sustainable and inclusive development among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The study evaluated the effectiveness of tribal welfare administration among the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities, two Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Karnataka. The findings indicate that welfare interventions have contributed positively to improving access to basic amenities, education, healthcare, food security, housing, and women's empowerment. Awareness of major welfare schemes was relatively high, and a significant proportion of respondents benefited from essential services and government assistance. These achievements demonstrate the important role played by tribal welfare administration in addressing the immediate developmental needs of vulnerable tribal households.

However, the study also identified several limitations. The overall impact of welfare programmes was found to be moderate, with an overall composite mean score of 2.62. While improvements were evident in basic welfare indicators, the programmes were less effective in promoting sustainable livelihoods, employment generation, skill development, institutional credit access, and economic self-reliance. Administrative delays, complex procedures, lack of transparency,

geographical isolation, inadequate awareness, and weak grievance redressal mechanisms continue to hinder effective access to welfare benefits. A significant gap remains between policy provisions and their actual implementation at the grassroots level.

Based on these findings, several policy measures are recommended. First, awareness campaigns should be strengthened through community-based outreach, local language communication, and regular field visits. Second, procedural requirements for accessing welfare schemes should be simplified, and documentation support should be provided to beneficiaries. Third, greater emphasis should be placed on livelihood promotion through skill development, entrepreneurship support, market linkages, and access to institutional credit. Fourth, administrative accountability and transparency should be enhanced through regular monitoring, social audits, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms. Finally, tribal welfare programmes should adopt a community-specific approach that recognizes the unique socio-cultural and economic conditions of the Koraga and Jenu Kuruba communities.

Overall, strengthening administrative responsiveness, improving livelihood opportunities, and ensuring inclusive participation are essential for achieving sustainable and equitable development among Karnataka's PVTGs.

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