

ANKUR BARDHAN | Prof. Smitha M V

Sustainable Tribal Development Plan For Vithura With Focus On Housing And Livelihood

Vithura is a village in the Western Ghats region of Thiruvananthapuram district in the Kerala state. (Census, 2011) Vithura acts as a node to various tourist, cultural, and religious activities. Surrounded by the Sahyadri range, Vithura is rich with scenic beauty, good climate and natural resources. Vithura is also the largest Panchayat in Kerala and has the highest tribal population in the district. (Franke T. M., 2002) There were many development schemes and rural housing programmes that were launched in subsequent five year plans for this village by the Government as an instrument of poverty alleviation. Currently major focus in the area is being given to PMAY (G) scheme which is in effect from 1st April, 2016.

Today the tribal communities in Vithura have become progressively incapable of self-help. They have become dependent on supporting agencies for the execution of their housing projects. And in case of absence of professional agencies to take up such roles, more unfortunate situations have been created like mismanagement of funds, poor access to infrastructure, irreversible damage to environment only to name a few. In other words the tribal community of Vithura faces an absence of options to deal with such problems and is locked into a persistent degraded condition.

However, a Comprehensive Plan can act as road map to better future in such conditions. A plan intended for the people in which the community's vision is expressed through their participation. Therefore this thesis is anticipated to act as a model for the tribal communities of Vithura and is intended to be used as a decision making tool to achieve a systematic, socially equitable, environmental friendly and economically stable community.

Keywords: *Scheduled tribes, Community development, Advocacy planning, Sustainable development, Tribal housing, livelihood generation, Inclusive growth.*