

Title of the Project: Capacity building and skill development of tribal people in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.

Funding agency: University Grants Commission, New Delhi

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The project entitled “Capacity building and skill development of tribals in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu” is undertaken for a period of two years viz., 2010 to 2012. The required information was collected through a well structured questionnaire and the respondents were asked to rate it on a five point scale. Five tribes of Nilgiris were identified for the study namely. the Kotas, Todas, Irulas, Kurumbas and Paniyans. 200 respondents from each tribe were chosen through convenient sampling technique. The questionnaire was divided into three parts that is leadership style profile, management action profile and decision making skill profile. The study reveals that Toda and Kotas do show some inclination towards higher education whereas in other tribes the respondents are either 10th or 12 qualified. The selected tribal population of Nilgiris have high tendency towards taking bold decisions exploring new ideas. Lack of transportation and communication in the tribal areas especially the Paniyans and the Kurumbas face this type of problems.

The result of the study reveals that the life of the tribals living in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu needs a very special attention from the government as well as other private

partners. The tribes are an integral part of our society and that they need not to be seen as a separate group of people. We need to respect their identity, skills and knowledge that each tribe posses. Meticulously planned programmes and plans for the prosperity of the selected population may help them and save them from becoming extinct.