

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN OF THE TEA COMMUNITY IN ASSAM – A RAY OF HOPE

In a nutshell: A set of scholarship schemes have been introduced to create opportunities to encourage children of the tea community to continue their education.

Nodal agency: Directorate of Tea Tribes' Welfare, Government of Assam

Although education is a fundamental right and is enshrined in the constitution, it continues to remain an elusive dream for many children in the tribal regions of the country. Without much access to the world outside their community, these children are deprived of a secure future due to lack of infrastructure and other facilities in their vicinity. The tribal communities in the Northeast State of Assam that are involved in the cultivation of tea are the most backward in the State, and their children are often at the receiving end of social exclusion as a result of illiteracy and unemployment.

The Directorate of Tea Tribes' Welfare of Assam launched a set of scholarship schemes to provide scholarship to students from class 9, to facilitate opportunities for encouraging children from the tea community to continue their higher studies, such as MBBS, B.Tech, Ph.D., and other job-oriented courses. Funded by the Government of Assam, the project covers all students belonging to the tea tribes' community in Assam, irrespective of the geographical area where they are pursuing their studies.

The project covers a number of scholarship schemes:

- Pre-matric scholarship to students of class 9 and 10
- Post matric scholarship to HS and normal TDC courses
- Simon-Singh Horo special post matric scholarship to students from the tribes community who have cleared HSLC and HSSLC during the current year
- Financial assistance for higher studies to tea tribes students pursuing technical/higher education like MBBS, B.Tech, PhD and other job-oriented courses
- Financial assistance for ANM/GNM/technical courses

To avail the scholarship, an online portal was set up in 2020, through which aspiring students can submit their application from wherever they are residing. They can also monitor the status of their application through this portal, thereby reducing the time taken to process the application and the chances of errors, such as applications getting lost or misplaced.

Impact


The shift from the earlier offline mode of submitting the application to the online mode has increased the number of applications. Students have been able to avail themselves of the benefits of the scholarships, and this has proven to be extremely beneficial in their pursuit of higher education.

Challenges

While the project has been largely successful, it has faced its own share of problems. Non-availability of documents, like bank account and caste certificates, especially of pre-matric students is a major issue resulting in many students not being able to apply.

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 **SIRISH**
ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM
TEA TRIBES WELFARE DEPARTMENT


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Welcome to SIRISH – The Online Application System of Tea Tribes Welfare Department, Assam.

Application process for the year 2022-23 has been closed

As power envisaged to the State Government under Sub section 6 of Section 25 of Assam Panchayat Act, 1994 and ir

The Directorate of Tea Tribes Welfare is the implementing body of Tea Tribes Welfare Department. The Directorate implements a variety of schemes across a wide spectrum ranging from scholarships for school/college going students, skills & entrepreneurship, start-up grants-in-aid for self-employment activities, grants-in-aid to women SHGs etc. These initiatives have been able to bring about significant improvements in the overall scenario. The Directorate, in order to avoid the time-consuming paper-works which were also prone to error, has since the financial year 2020-21, adopted the online application system through the <https://sirishassam.in> portal. With the transition to online application system, the process, right from filling forms to availing services, has become automated. The applicants are also able to track the status of their application and the entire process is transparent, error-free and time-bound.



Online portal for scholarship for students of Tea Tribe Community



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