This work is an attempt of an Anthropologist's/Communication's inquiry into the performance of students from Government and Voluntary Organisations Ashram School in a tribal context, through a communication approach.

Centuries of stagnation has made tribal culture and life appear to be 'freezed' for ever. It was believed that tribal people would remain 'safe' and 'unexploited'. But the time has changed fast enough, now it has become one of our responsibilities to bring tribal communities within the vast Indian family.

This problem of educating the tribals is very delicate issue. The term "tribal" refers to territorial communities, many of whom live in relative isolation of hills and forests. Their partial isolation has kept them apart from the main stream of Indian society and culture. Their distinct cultural focus gives them a separate identity. Their values, attitudes and motivation system are different from those of other people. All these make the social, economic and cultural adjustment difficult. The technological development and general economic backwardness had made the tribals, a special concern of the nation.

"Biologically man has five sense organs combining these five at the socio-cultural level, the sixth sense organ is education".
The gazetter of India 1978 speaks about the importance of education. "The high value attached to education through the whole span of life and deep respect for learning were firmly enshrined in the traditional culture of India". This traditional system was mainly designed to transmit culture from one generation to other generation and preserve the hierarchical character of society. "Education will help in the socialisation of a child and development of human personality, social mobility, occupational change and rise of professions ---" (S.M.Dubey --- "Education, occupational mobility and the rise of professions in a developed city).

When we come to the situation of educating the tribals, if we are really serious about bringing together all those heterogeneous cultures to coexist and allow them to develop as they want it, we should stop our 'big brother' attitude and "I give, you take " policy. "We should help the tribal people to develop along the lines of their own tradition and genius, teaching them not to despise their part but to build up on it" (Elwin 1963:7)

What do we really want the tribals to be ? Is there any clear government policy on tribal education ? Do they really need the type of education which is typical 'Bookish' and classroom oriented, leading to produce more and more jobless youths? What is the result of the present day education in a tribal set-up? Why is there a high rate of drop-outs among tribal children ? Are they given the type of knowledge which will help strengthen their traditional occupation and culture ? How many schools are available for them ? What are the
views of parents, teachers and students regarding the ever increasing trend of drop-outs? What are the alternatives? ------Such is the endless list of questions any sensible academician would address himself to if he happens to visit any remote tribal area.

Through the following pages of this research an attempt has been made to present the performance of students from Government and voluntary organisation's Ashram School, through a communication approach.

Culture and communication are two of the basic attributes of all human societies. Communication cannot bring development by itself, it can only accelerate it if properly administered. Every culture evolves certain means of communication with which its participants are informed and educated. Starting from an African tribal culture where "Talking drums" are used as a medium of distant communication, modern societies have evolved different modes of communications. While the process of communication might be complicated the basic idea and the aim of Communication has not changed as we move from the talking drums to the modern innovative Communication techniques.

Communication media are an inseparable part of socio-cultural life of the people. People can communicate only through the five senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. If more senses are used to communicate there are greater chances that it will be understood.
Government and voluntary organisation's Ashram School are set up in the tribal areas to give education to the tribal children and tribal adults through adult education programmes organised through Ashram School, etc. Here Ashram Schools are used as effective media of Communications for tribal development. Communication is not only an essential element to the persistence of social order but to look at it more positively, one may say that Communication can be an effective means to developmental changes. Aristotle had defined the study of Communication as "the search for all the available means of persuasion". By this he meant that the Prime goal of Communication has contributed enormously to the acceleration of developmental processes. Ashram Schools (both Government and voluntary organisations) plays an important role in the developmental process of tribal people, since it is used as an effective media of Communication to educate the tribal children and tribal youth.

In this research, the investigator has done a comparative study of the performance of students from Government and voluntary organisation's Ashram School.

The chapterisation in this work is briefly outlined here to present the major vistas under consideration.