

Tribal Life and Culture in India

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ABSTRACT

India is home to the second largest tribal population in the world. Scheduled Tribes(st) comprise of about 8.61 per cent of the total population according to the 2011 census. The tribes of India are the oldest inhabitants of the country. They are vibrant, cultures, lifestyles, beliefs, food, languages rituals and a different in their fairs, festivals, music and dance tribal communities continue to practice their traditions and conserve the ancient wisdom inherited from their once starts. Today tribal groups are getting special attention from the government.

Key Words : Tribes, Holistic development, Provision, Recognised, Safeguards

INTRODUCTION

Development of tribes of India has remained a central theme in various perspective. India has a significant population of scheduled Tribes (ST) comprising of about 8.61 per cent of total population according to 2011 census. Madhya Pradesh has highest ST population followed by Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Chhattishgarh. Majority of these people live close to nature. In rural and remote habitat tribal community possess the most traditional and indigenous skill set. Ancient wisdom and access to great natural resources which need to be harnessed. Keeping in mind various factors like geographical location, culture, life-style and skill set which make the tribal community unique Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in October 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of social justice and Empowerment to provide more focused approach towards their integrated socio economic development in a coordinated and planned manner. The ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry for overall policy planning and coordination of programmes for development of STs. The ministry of Tribal Affairs functions as the umbrella unit for the overall development and well being of the

STs. However the sectors programmes and schemes for the development of these communities as well as their coordination fall under the ambit of the concerned central ministries departments state government and or union Territory administration, where each ministry/ department is responsible for its concerned sector (Annual Report (2021-22); <https://tribal.nic.in>, Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Eleventh Five year plan (2007-12).

India has the worlds second largest tribal population next only to the African continent. As per the census of 2011 STs population constitute 8.6 per cent (10.45 crore) of the total population of the country. There are 664 tribal communities of which 75 are categorized as primitive Tribal groups. The Tribal communities speak in about 105 native languages. It is estimated that the tribals in habit in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.

The tribe community in India is known as scheduled tribes or ST under article 366 of India. In India there are 212 tribes of 14 states. The Notification and specification of any tribe or Tribal community of any area as a scheduled Tribe has been made by president of India under article 342(i) following are the characteristics of Indian Tribe-

– They have a definite geographical and social

area.

- Lives on Hilly or forest area.
- An integrated social organization on the basis of primarily on blood relationships.
- Cultural homogeneity is the main characteristic of tribal community.
- They have a common Dialect with a shared folklore.
- Hierarchy among men and groups is absent.
- Instrument of social bonds among tribes is kinship.
- Absence or Lack of strong ,complex, Formal organization.
- Communitarian basis of land holding.
- Segmentary character.
- Little value on additional accumulation on the use of capital and on market trading.

Pre Independence:

Since evolution of human race human race humans were hunters and food gatherers. Many communities settled and started living decent and dignified life while the tribal's restricted their lives and livelihoods to forest and forest based livestock. The tribals before the invasion of India by Mughals and British were considered to be an equal part of society and were fully involved in kingship, land and forest politics, tributary relationships with other groups, particular occupational specialization and even in commerce and War. However colonization of India by Europeans transformed their life with outsiders exploiting them for their resources. Trees were cut down for timber, forestland was used for tea, rubber and coffee plantation. Railway lines and roads were built in forest areas. Routes from forest to sea coasts were built in forest areas, Routes from forest to sea coasts were built to transport goods.

The concept of private property began with the permanent settlement of the Britishers in 1793 and establishment of the Zamindari system gave control over vast territories, including tribal territories to feudal lords for the purpose of revenue collection by the British. The force evictor of tribal communities from forest was initiated resources. The Indian forest act came in to being 1927 which provided that any forest area or waste land that was not privately owned could be marked as reserved areas. No particular system or settlement rights were formulated for Tribal communities living in forests in India and large areas were not surveyed for this purpose.

Tribal people involved in agriculture continued to cultivate crops without official land ownership. The practice of logging hunting, foraging or agriculture by tribal and non tribal like under this system thus constituted encroachments. The British legislation and invasive policies affected tribal habitation in India particularly their livelihood posing a challenge for government of Independent India (Government of India (Planning Commission) (2001).

Post Independence:

The constitution of India provided several provision for welfare and overall development of scheduled tribes. The panchsheel policy of the that government in 1952 has provided five principles for guiding the administration of tribal welfare and they are as follows.

- Tribals should be allowed to develop according to their own genius.
- Rights of tribals in land and forest should be respected.
- Tribal teams should be trained to undertake administration and development without too many outsiders being inducted.
- Tribal development should be undertaken without disturbing tribal social and cultural institutions.
- The index of tribal development should be the quality of their life and not the money spent.

Table 1 show that the population of ST is more in eastern state than another state like Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland. In union territory Lakshadweep have 94.8 % st population in India. It means that tribal population are play a major role in India.

Table 2 explain that literacy rate of tribe is increasing in year by year. Literacy rate among tribes are 8.53% in 1961. While according to 2011 census the literacy rate of tribes in India 59%. Data show that in Indian tribes male literacy rate high than female. According to 2011 census male literacy rate in tribal community are 68.50% and female literacy rate is 49.40%.

Problems of Tribes in India:

- Land Alienation.
- Indebtedness poverty and unemployment.
- Health Nutrition and lack of health care services infrastructure and medical staff.
- Lack of educational services, Human Resources.
- Identity cultural problems and diffusion.
- Concept of private property.

Table 1 : State wise overall tribal population in India

Sr. No.	India/State	Total population	St Population	% sts in India/State
	India	12108.55	1045.46	8.6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	493.87	26.31	5.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.84	9.52	68.8
3.	Assam	312.06	38.84	12.4
4.	Bihar	1040.99	13.37	1.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	255.45	78.23	30.6
6.	Goa	14.59	1.49	10.2
7.	Gujrat	604.40	89.17	14.8
8.	Haryana	253.51	NST	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	68.65	3.92	5.7
10.	J@K	125.41	14.93	11.9
11.	Jharkhnd	329.88	86.45	26.2
12.	Karnataka	610.95	42.49	7.0
13.	Kerla	334.06	4.85	1.5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	726.27	153.17	21.1
15.	Maharashtra	1123.74	105.1	9.4
16.	Manipur	28.56	11.67	40.9
17.	Meghalaya	29.67	25.56	86.1
18.	Mizoram	10.97	10.36	94.4
19.	Nagaland	19.79	17.11	86.5
20.	Orissa	419.74	95.91	22.8
21.	Punjab	277.43	NST	NA
22.	Rajasthan	685.48	92.39	13.5
23.	Sikkim	6.11	2.06	33.8
24.	Tamil Nadu	721.47	7.95	1.1
25.	Telangana	351.94	32.87	9.3
26.	Tripura	36.74	11.67	31.8
27.	Uttarakhand	100.86	2.92	2.9
28.	Uttarpradesh	1998.12	11.34	0.6
29.	West Bangal	912.76	52.97	5.8
30.	A@N Islands	3.81	0.29	7.5
31.	Chandigarh	10.55	NST	NA
32.	D@N Haveli	3.44	1.79	52.0
33.	Daman@Div	2.43	0.15	6.3
34.	Delhi	167.88	NST	NA
35.	Lakshedweep	0.64	0.61	94.8
36.	Puducherry	12.48	NST	NA

Source: census 2011,office of the Registrar General, India
 NST:no notified scheduled Tribes(as in 2011) NA:Not Applicable

Table 2 : Literary Rates among STs and All

Year	All			Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Female	Persons	Males	Females
1961	28.30	40.46	15.35	8.53	13.83	3.16
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	11.30	17.63	4.85
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	16.35	24.52	8.04
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	29.60	40.65	18.19
2001	64.84	75.26	53.67	47.10	59.17	34.76
2011	73.00	80.90	64.60	59.00	68.50	49.40

Source: Office of the Registrar General India

- Migration.
- Language problems.
- Feeling of separation.
- Bad behaviour of society.

Solution of Problems of Tribes in India:

- Gave special education system for tribes.
- Develop Skill policy for tribes.
- Government policy should be according to their needs.
- Social expectance of tribes is necessary for their development.
- Society accept their presence for him.
- Language problem should be solve by government.

The development of a community has multidimensional facts to it, however improvement in lot of human development indicators like health education, nutrition, standard of living, per capital income etc., is highly dependent on sustainable livelihood systems a community adopts. The development in the tribal context is far languishing in comparison to the over all development of the country’s economy calling for a need for far greater attention to tribal development through focused, tailored, and innovative interventions at the grassroots which can harness the potential of tribal

population through innovation driven and entrepreneurship based modern economic system. The thrust is to transform the target group from passive recipient of welfare schemes to active managers of sustainable economic livelihood system. Institutional instruments for entrepreneurship building viz., Skilling ,motivation, hand-holding, technology, incubation, common facility and marketing support besides financing need to be integrated effectively. The financing assistance from government through its various schemes and institutions may not fulfil the existing gaps unless it is proportionately blended with effective contribution of private stakeholders in development and community participation (Sujata, 1994).

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