

Tribal Development in India

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Preface

India is home to about 700 tribal groups with a population of 104 million, as per 2011 census. Indigenous peoples in India comprise an estimated population of 8.6 per cent of the national population. The tribes live all over the country from the foot-hills of Himalayas to the land tip, of Lakshadweep and from plains of Gujarat to the hills of North-East. Economically and socially least advanced, the scheduled tribes are the earliest inhabitants of India. There is no definition of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Constitution. The President decides who will be included in these two categories through an official notification. Indian tribes have a socio-economically backward condition from the long time. The standard of living of the tribes living in the so-called civilised environment is very low. Our government has played a special role in bringing this situation back to normal of the tribes.

We know that India is a large country with high population next to China where various groups of people live in from long time. Today, unity in diversity is the hallmark of Indian culture and civilisation. Our constitution-makers have aware of the fact that some ethnic groups or backward classes had been deprived of their various kinds of rights in our country. For this reason, the constitutional magistrate has said more constitutional provisions and safeguards for the tribals in the constitution. Articles 341 and 342 of the constitution contain detailed references to Indian tribes.

If we look from the economic, social, educational and ecological point

The toughest challenge that the Government of India has been facing since Independence is the proper provision of social justice to the Scheduled Tribes, by uplifting their socio-economic conditions. Our governments have been trying to tribal development through various models, approaches and theories in different five years plan periods. On the other hand various government institutions have implemented several schemes aimed to socio-economic progress of the Scheduled Tribes across the country.

The term 'development' indicates the overall improvement in the quality of life. However, development in tribal regions has remained a challenge since time immemorial. Many changes have taken place in the lives of the tribal at present and various government schemes and non-government initiatives have helped in this change. The progress of socio-economic development can be possible in the form of empowerment, equitable distribution of income and wealth or in the broader context of socialisation of natural resources. So, their development can be possible only with the involvement of tribes in project formulation and implementation by working through their traditional system.

This work is possible with the blessing of our parents and family members whose continuous inspiration guided us for publications this book into time. Our sincere thanks to all the chapter contributors without their contributions this edited volume would not have been possible. As a whole the book got the complete shape because of the great initiative of AADI publication. We would like to express our thanks to all the parts of the publishing house. Finally, I do hereby declare that the chapter contributed by the contributors are of their own views; if any discrepancies or legal issues arise out of this publication the contributors will be responsible for this; the editors or publishers will not bear the responsibility.

Dr. Savita Mishra
Krittibas Datta

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An Overview of Tribal Development in India through Five Year Plans

Pranoy Dey

Introduction

A tribal group is a social group usually identified by a common territory, dialect, cultural homogeneity, social and political organisation. It may include several sub-groups. A tribe becomes only Scheduled Tribe when it is declared as Scheduled Tribe under Article 342 of Constitution of India. There is no doubt that tribes are more vulnerable when compared to other ethnic groups of our country. They are practically deprived from basic civic facilities likely lack of communication in tribal areas, lack of proper drinking water, illiteracy, inadequate medical facilities are some of the major problems. They are basically isolated from modern and civilised way of living since so many centuries.

The British adopted the policy of isolation and tried to keep away the tribal's from the mainstream of life, though they did something in providing certain facilities to uplift the social status of tribal's population. But it did not help them at all. However, after Independence several attempts have been made by the Government of India to uplift the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Tribes. For the development of tribes, various models, approaches and theories of development have been introduced by Government of India in different five-year plan periods. Some of them include Community Development Programme, Multipurpose Tribal Blocks, Tribal Development Block, Development Agencies, Primitive Tribal Groups, Integrated Tribal Development Projects, Modified Area Development Approach, Tribal Sub-Plan, Dispersed Tribal Development Programme, and Centrally-sponsored Schemes, etc.

Status of Tribal Population during British Rule

Prior to the British colonisation the tribal groups were declared as part of Indian caste system like Gond Jati, Munda Jati, Santhaal Jati, Ho Jati, Oraon Jati, Bhil Jati, so on.

The British administration tried every possible way to keep away the tribal group from modern civilised way of life. They introduced The Scheduled District Act of 1874 to keep most of the tribal areas administratively separate. However, the British officers allowed the same situation to continue through the Government of India Act, 1919 and 1935. The British rulers did something in providing certain facilities such as education, transport, communication, medical, etc., in villages and towns for uplifting their status. They wanted to implement these facilities to the tribal groups except to the people in North-East region of the country, because of certain reasons.

Firstly, the British officers thought it to leave the tribal population in the hill areas alone, as the task of running the administration in the hill areas was difficult and costly.

Secondly, the British administrator wanted to keep away the tribals from the political influence from the world outside.

Thirdly, the British rulers felt that that left to themselves, the tribal people would remain a happier lot.

Tribal Population in India

According to the Article 342 of the 'Constitution of India, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President by the public notification' (Government of India, 1998-99: p. 31).

The 2011 Census enumerated the total population of the country as more than 1.21 billion, out of which the population of Scheduled Tribes was 104.3 million, constituting 8.6 per cent of the total. So, India has more tribal people than any country in the world. Tribal communities are found in most parts of India, except in the states of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and the Union territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry.

Chaudhuri (1990) identified six major regions of tribal concentration, as follows:

1. **North-eastern Region:** In the mountain valleys and other areas of north-eastern India, covering the States and Union Territories like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura live tribes like the Abor, Garo, Khasi,

...the book 'Socio-economic status of tribal population and educational issue in West Bengal' (2007) will be a welcome second in tribal population. From the independent research and analysis of tribal communities, the book has been a study to the socio-economic development of the tribal areas of the 'Backward Development in India' category of work. The book is emphasizing on the issues relating to history of India, educational, tribal development, administration, Indian constitution and tribal development. Socio-economic status of the tribal communities, Educational status of the tribal community, government initiatives in tribal development etc. The policy makers, the socio-developmental researchers and opinionation will get new path to know about tribal development.



Dr. Savita Mishra is Principal, Vidyasagar College of Education, Panskura, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. She has impeccable records of higher years of teaching and research activities. She has written more than seventy research articles in reputed National and International journals and authored 15 books. She has also developed a psychological tool of assessing Attitude towards Science. She is the Vice-President of Council of Teacher Education (Private) Sector, IATE, Member of Board of Studies, National resource person and coordinator of NCERT, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Reviewer and member of advisory committee of national and international journals, Founder and Secretary of National Teachers Educational Society and Axiom. Professor of some of the Universities including Academic Staff Colleges. She has awarded Best Teacher Award 2010 from Sankar Central University, Best Principal award 2010, Best Academician Award 2010, Excellent Achiever award 2010, Celebrity Writer 2010, Outstanding Scientist Award 2011, Best Teacher Award (Higher Education) 2011 and Women Researcher Award 2011. She has been conferred the title of Leading Educationist of the World by IRE, Cambridge, London.



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