



Problem and Challenges of Tribal Society: An Exploration of Governmental Policies and Remedial Measures in Indian Scenario

Tabassum Rukshana

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, East Calcutta Girls' College,
South Dumdum, West Bengal, India.

Email ID: tabassum_rukshana@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

India has traversed the arduous path to freedom, but we remain shackled by our attitudes towards gender, caste, minorities, tribals, and other societal afflictions. The government's tribal development policies and NGO interventions are not grounded in the realities of tribal circumstances. The tribal communities of India cannot be categorized as a singular homogeneous entity. They belong to distinct ethno-linguistic groupings, possess unique beliefs, and exhibit varying levels of economic, educational, and cultural development. It is characterized as an endogamous group possessing an ethnic identity; they have preserved their traditional and cultural identity; they possess a unique language or dialect; they are economically disadvantaged and reside in isolation, governed by their own social norms and largely maintaining a self-sufficient economy. In this article; problem and challenges of tribal society: an exploration of governmental policies and remedial measures in Indian scenario has been discussed.

Keywords: Problems, Challenges, Tribal, Society, Government, India.

INTRODUCTION

Indian tribes exhibit variations in ethnic characteristics, linguistic attributes, social structures, and cultural practices. The predominant racial classification among tribes is the proto-Australoid. The Mongoloid type predominates throughout the sub-Himalayan area. A number of anthropologists have noted social stratification within a particular tribe. Today, a paradoxical scenario prevails. Protective discrimination segregates tribal individuals from non-tribal individuals, but, over time, this policy will elevate the tribal population to the same level as their non-tribal counterparts. The prevailing ideology currently advocates for the absorption of tribal populations into the national mainstream without disturbance. Simultaneously achieving breakdown and assimilation is challenging. The reservation in educational institutions and government employment, as well as the allocation of educational stipends for aboriginal children, remains underutilized. In recent years, the proliferation of primary schools and Sarva Siksha Kendras (SSKs) in rural areas, along with the implementation of mid-day meals, has significantly augmented kid enrolment. The Catholic missions have established schools in remote regions and have been promoting higher education for tribals through economic and infrastructural assistance.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sood, B. (2023). Despite the implementation of numerous tribal development schemes in India over the past 70 years, involving expenditures in the millions of crores of rupees, the condition of the tribal group remains unchanged. Are the authorities unaware of the actual circumstances on the ground? The primary challenges regarding tribal development pertain to poverty, health, and land. According to the 2011 Census, 8.6% of India's total population belongs to the tribal community. Minerals constitute the foundation of a nation's economic development and are plentiful in this region. Regrettably, minerals, forests, and indigenous populations are predominantly clustered in the same geographical region. Land alienation, displacement, and the coerced movement of tribes constitute a significant concern. The report aimed to address the health challenges & explore potential governmental treatments.

Kumar, S. (2023). Tribals are recognized as the indigenous inhabitants of the land. Tribal people are referred to as "vanavasi," "pahari," Anusuchit Janjati, and so on. India has the largest tribal population in Africa and the second largest in the world. The indigenous communities' lands constituted a sizable portion of the nation's undeveloped regions. Despite regional variance, the tribal people have a distinctive way of life and a rich cultural legacy. Nearly every facet of Indian culture and civilization was influenced by the country's tribal culture, customs, and rituals. The majority group in Assam is tribal. They have a rich, unique culture and traditions pertaining to nature, which serve as a repository for information and wisdom for other communities. They have made a significant contribution to socioeconomic growth. Tribes have a major influence on Assamese society and the state. They were cut off from other communities by the customs and culture of their territory. Despite their diligence, the socioeconomic status of the tribe is unsatisfactory. Tribals continue to lag behind in all areas, and their methods of operation and thought processes are all traditional and confined to the margins. Tribals' traditional farming methods and marginal production are equivalent to zero. Tribals also have major issues with poverty, child marriage, illiteracy, poor health, etc. This essay aims to draw attention to the different issues facing tribal people and offers solutions for their advancement.

Chaudhari, A.K. (2023). Tribes exhibit a varied lifestyle characterized by a unique customary framework. The highest concentration of tribal communities is in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Orissa, including groups such as the Gonds, Dhuriya, Nayak, Tharu, Shariya, Baiga, Panika, Agaria, and Bhotia. They lead a bleak existence characterized by insufficient possessions and several challenges, including economic difficulties, illiteracy, unemployment, and housing troubles, among other informational problems encountered by indigenous communities. Consequently, the government is endeavouring to address these issues through the adoption of new schemes and initiatives. This study focuses on government initiatives aimed at the upliftment of tribes and examines the primary hurdles in addressing educational issues.

Dhulipalla, R.V.P.K. (2022). One of India's most marginalized and disadvantaged groups is the tribal population. Half of the Adivasi population does not own land. Poverty, deprivation, and the recent decrease in government spending on basic medical facilities mirror the extremely poor health of

Adivasi women and children. Every stage of their lives involves violations of their core human rights. Tribals live in a naturally remote area and are impoverished and backward. Tribals in isolated regions still lack access to basic infrastructure, such as roads, communication, health care, education, safe drinking water, and sanitary facilities, which prevents them from utilizing government funding and technological assistance. Scheduled tribes are known for their backwardness, unique culture, remote location, shyness among the general public, and primitive characteristics. 10.43% of the nation's population is tribal, making up 8.61% of the overall population. The article aims to understand Indian tribal life, including the tribes' history and distribution. The article emphasized the main concerns, such as India's tribal laws, problems, and difficulties.

Bhattacharya, S. and Sachdev, B.K. (2021). Tribal communities have encountered socio-economic challenges for centuries. Despite the government's initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational and economic conditions of tribal communities, significant progress remains elusive in numerous regions of the country. The constitution includes specific provisions for Scheduled Tribes, such as seat reservations across various sectors and special measures for tribes in the Northeast. Currently, many tribes have adopted different religions to integrate more harmoniously into urban society. Tribes have suffered from racial and ethnic discrimination, becoming increasingly landless due to the rapid deforestation for mining, compounded by their rudimentary agricultural practices. They face numerous health challenges. The government must establish schools for tribes in their regions and grant them fundamental forest rights and management authority. Their contributions to the development of Ayurveda in the country are significant, as their knowledge of medicinal plants is extensive due to their reliance on traditional products and herbs for healthcare and sustenance.

Basumatary, M. (2020). India has long been the cradle of diverse civilizations and populations. The tribal communities' territory makes up a sizable portion of the nation's less developed regions. They have unique lifestyles and a wealth of cultural traditions and heritage. Tribals are more homogeneous and self-contained than non-tribal tribes, although they live in diverse areas. There are about 100 million tribal people in India. The tribes were the first inhabitants of the country. Nearly every facet of Indian culture and civilization was influenced by the customs and traditions of the country's tribal cultures. India's tribal people face numerous issues. The Indian government has now taken action to help tribal people flourish to address these issues. The government's top priority is to gradually improve the socioeconomic standing and ensure the welfare of the tribal people. The advancement of the poorer segments of society is closely linked to tribal customs. Generally speaking, Assamese tribal people are extremely disadvantaged in terms of education, technology utilization, economics, health, production, capital development, banking services, etc. The number of tribal people receiving high-quality education has significantly decreased. Leaders who lack literacy, along with the governmental apparatus, target these tribal people. In terms of agriculture and other activities, they are far from applying advanced technological expertise. They have extremely little capital formation and investment, significantly below what banks can offer. Additionally, their development's growth rate varies from community to community and from region to area.

Singh, V. & Singh, M. (2018). The most vulnerable group in India has been the tribal community. Every stage of their lives involves violations of their core human rights. Tribals live in a naturally remote area and are impoverished and backward. Tribals in isolated regions still lack access to basic infrastructure, including roads, communication, health care, education, safe drinking water, and sanitary facilities, which prevents them from utilizing government financial and technical assistance. Scheduled tribes are characterized by backwardness, a unique culture, geographic seclusion, shyness around the general public, and primitive characteristics. There are 10.43 crore tribal people in the nation, making up 8.61% of the overall population. Madhya Pradesh is home to the highest number of STs, accounting for 14.69% of India's total ST population. The article aims to understand Indian tribal life, including the tribes' history and distribution. The report highlighted the main concerns, including social, religious, educational, and health-related ones. Regarding the problems or difficulties faced by tribes, the researcher also made some recommendations.

Purshottam and Dhingra, V. (2017). The most vulnerable group in India has been the tribal community. Every stage of their lives involves violations of their core human rights. Tribals live in a naturally remote area and are impoverished and backward. Tribals in isolated regions still lack access to basic infrastructure, including roads, communication, health care, education, clean drinking water, and sanitary facilities. As a result, they are unable to take advantage of government financial and technological assistance. Scheduled tribes are characterized by backwardness, a unique culture, geographic seclusion, shyness around the general public, and primitive characteristics. There are 10.43 crore tribal people in the nation, making up 8.61% of the overall population. Madhya Pradesh is home to the highest number of STs, accounting for 14.69% of India's total ST population. The article aims to understand Indian tribal life, including the tribes' history and distribution. The document emphasized the main concerns, which include social, religious, educational, and health-related issues, among many others. Regarding the problems or difficulties faced by tribes, the researcher also made some recommendations.

Girase, S. (2016). Tribal communities are dispersed throughout all the states of India. All tribal groups exhibit similar qualities and face analogous challenges. They possess a distinct culture and way of life. Following independence, several adjustments and developments have occurred; yet, the anticipated success remains unachieved. This article emphasizes the many challenges and the government's involvement in sustaining development policies in the current context. This article discusses significant issues and proposes a plan for their resolution to guide tribal growth. The discourse focused on constitutional protections for tribal communities, as well as the many initiatives and programs initiated by the government for these populations. The primary issue, namely Naxalism, has been elucidated comprehensively, encompassing its causes, effects, and potential solutions. In the current context, how do tribes sustain themselves and resist for survival? This article also discusses the adverse effects of adopting government initiatives. The Indian bureaucracy elucidates the deficiencies in the administrative process. The influence of contemporary processes such as industrialization, urbanization, modernization, and globalization is elucidated in relation to the current condition of tribal communities. The functions of the tribal commission, the execution of constitutional provisions, political reserve, designated areas, and the allocation of a specific

budgetary money are critical elements associated with tribal development and empowerment. The concluding section of the paper provides a common representation of current realities and outlines the necessary actions for the comprehensive development of tribal communities in detail.

Upmanyu, M.C. (2016). This article presents a conceptual framework and knowledge of tribal education in India, based on a study undertaken by the guide and researcher utilizing both direct and secondary data sources. The current societal structure and its diversity within the framework of the caste system in India, as revealed through critical examination. Contextual integration of development theory and practices in India, with a particular emphasis on the tribal education policy, its prospects, and necessity. The article critically examines the firsthand experiences of many social reformers, educators, and the researcher's opinions through declarative statements. Recommendations and requirements for education within the framework of the Indian Constitution are periodically formulated to enhance need-based education tailored to the tribal education system in India. Finally, recommendations are provided for the enhancement of tribal education in India. Nonetheless, the research of causes leading to non-enrolment and/or dropout, along with case study descriptions, clearly indicates a necessity for more philanthropic investment beyond the classroom. This would establish a robust foundation that utilizes these advantages and cultivates enhanced human potential capable of overcoming the obstacles faced by tribal communities today.

PROBLEMS OF TRIBAL SOCIETY

Under the following independence, the issue of Naxalism has emerged among Indian tribal communities. Currently, indigenous individuals are caught between two factions: law enforcement authorities and Naxalite groups. Many tribal populations are experiencing suffering and psychiatric disorders. Naxals directly perpetrate killings, exploit individuals, and issue threats to achieve their objectives. Tribal populations are particularly susceptible to diseases. Their suffering is exacerbated by poverty, illiteracy, misinformation of illness etiology, challenging geographical landscapes, severe climate conditions, inadequate access to potable water, substandard sanitation, and certain superstitions. Culture significantly influences tribal health and medicine. Attitudes, beliefs, and values influence the propensity of tribal individuals to engage in voluntary actions for their health and that of their family members. Non-biological human variables, including social, cultural, and behavioral elements, are crucial for understanding numerous diseases. The manner in which individuals live, their dietary habits, beliefs, values, and available resources are crucial factors of both individual and group health. The inadequately designed and mismanaged health care in Scheduled Areas can be attributed to the near-total lack of involvement of Scheduled Tribes individuals or their representatives in policy formulation, planning, or service implementation within the health sector. Medical insurance coverage in the Scheduled Areas remains exceedingly low. Consequently, the inhabitants of Scheduled Tribes are mostly devoid of financial safeguards against severe and catastrophic illnesses. Tribal communities believe in the presence of superhuman or supernatural powers; but, due to interactions with other civilizations, their cultural practices are experiencing a transformative shift. The indigenous population is emulating Western culture in several facets of their social life, thereby abandoning their own traditions. This has resulted in the

deterioration of tribal life and the decline of tribal arts, including dance, music, and various crafts. Child marriage persists among tribal communities. Polyandry and polygamy exist in certain Himalayan tribes. Infanticide, homicide, animal sacrifice, black magic, wife exchange, and other detrimental behaviors persist among tribes. Tribal populations mostly experience poverty-induced migration due to reliance on rain-fed agriculture and a lack of alternative work opportunities. Land fragmentation, loss of land through acquisition, and unlawful land alienation by non-tribals also drive migration. Deforestation, diminished access to woods, and drought are further factors contributing to tribe relocation. It is estimated that around 3.5 million tribal individuals have transitioned from agriculture and agriculture-related occupations to the informal labor market over the past decade. Indigenous populations confronted with an influx of immigrants fear the erosion of their identity, territorial integrity, deforestation, employment displacement, and the relinquishment of political authority. The technology employed for these objectives is of the most rudimentary type. In such an economy, there is no profit or excess generation. Consequently, their per capita income is significantly lower than the Indian average. The majority reside in extreme poverty and are indebted to local moneylenders and zamindars. To settle the loan, people frequently mortgage or sell their property to the lenders. Indebtedness is nearly unavoidable due to the substantial interest owed to these lenders. Child abuse and exploitation are prevalent in indigenous societies.

CHALLENGES

Tribals in India encounter considerable difficulties with displacement from their traditional territories. This frequently transpires as a result of industrial initiatives, mining activities, and urban development. Consequently, numerous tribes forfeit their habitats and customary lifestyles. The deprivation of land results in a conflict over cultural identity and economic viability. Access to education and healthcare for native populations is frequently constrained. A significant number of tribal children lack access to education, resulting in diminished literacy rates. Moreover, healthcare services are frequently insufficient, leading to elevated rates of sickness and hunger within tribal groups. Economic marginalization constitutes a significant concern. Numerous indigenous people depend on conventional livelihoods, including agriculture and handicrafts, yet encounter competition from larger enterprises. This process frequently leads to impoverishment and constrained economic prospects. A considerable proportion of tribal families reside below the poverty threshold, thereby intensifying their difficulties.

Tribal communities encounter several issues necessitating a comprehensive strategy to tackle health, education, and economic inequalities. Remedial efforts encompass the promotion of sustainable economic infrastructure, enhancement of literacy, provision of access to clean water, regulation of substance addiction, and improvement of healthcare accessibility. Furthermore, governmental activities emphasize financial empowerment via loans and microcredit programs, educational support through scholarships and loans, and the promotion of entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency within tribal communities.



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The Indian government has instituted several reservation programs to assist indigenous communities. These rules guarantee that a specific percentage of positions in educational institutions and government employment are allocated for Scheduled Tribes. This facilitates the advancement of equity and the provision of educational and career opportunities. Numerous welfare initiatives have been implemented to enhance the well-being of tribal populations. Eklavya Model Residential schools offer high-quality education to Scheduled Tribe students in isolated regions. The Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Vikas Yojana program fosters entrepreneurship among Scheduled Tribe youth. Prime Minister Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission guarantees minimum support price for minor forest produce, facilitating the commercialization of tribal goods. The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, grants authority to local self-governments in tribal regions. The Forest Rights Act of 2006 acknowledges the entitlements of traditional forest inhabitants, especially indigenous communities, to utilize forest resources. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Act, 2004, oversees the enforcement of legislation pertaining to the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. The government's programs seek to improve the socio-economic conditions of indigenous tribes, safeguarding their rights and fostering their growth.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

With the advancement of industrialization in India, tribal communities experienced a loss of sovereignty over their traditional territories and natural resources. The state's dominance supplanted tribal governance, resulting in turmoil and ambiguity concerning sustenance. The notion of protected and national forests further estranged indigenous peoples from their cultural heritage. Numerous indigenous regions lack fundamental educational infrastructure, encompassing vital learning resources and sanitation amenities. Economic pressures frequently drive indigenous parents to prioritize early jobs for their children rather than schooling. Moreover, educational programs frequently employ official or regional languages that are unknown to tribal students. The procurement of tribal territory for extensive industrial endeavors, including steel manufacturing facilities, energy installations, and dams, has led to significant displacement of indigenous communities. This upheaval compels tribal populations to relocate to metropolitan environments, where they encounter difficulties in acclimating to an alternative lifestyle. The economic difficulties and unstable livelihoods lead to several health issues among indigenous populations. Malaria, cholera, diarrhoea, and jaundice are frequent, accompanied by malnutrition-related problems and elevated newborn mortality rates. The deterioration of natural surroundings, caused by deforestation and resource depletion, negatively impacts the status of indigenous women. The encroachment of mining, industrial activities, and commercialization subject's tribal individuals to the market economy, resulting in consumerism and the commodification of women. Traditional tribal organizations and customs are increasingly in conflict with modern institutions, raising worries regarding the preservation of tribal identity. The vanishing of tribal dialects and languages indicates the decline of this distinct cultural identity. We should establish mobile medical camps to provide isolated tribal communities with healthcare access. Healthcare professionals from tribal communities

can connect healthcare facilities with tribal populations. The establishment of mini-anganwadis with lenient regulations and the proliferation of village grain banks in tribal regions will guarantee access to food and nutrition. These strategies seek to effectively engage underserved indigenous groups. It is imperative to establish job and revenue production options in indigenous regions via paid employment or self-employment initiatives. We should expand micro-credit initiatives to assist self-employment enterprises and encourage the harvesting of minor forest products. The effectively implement of National Water Policy in tribal regions, emphasizing the expansion of irrigation infrastructure and the provision of potable water. The promotion of watershed management, rainwater harvesting, and water conservation techniques constitutes the remedial measures. The collaboration with tribal organizations can facilitate the execution of infrastructure development initiatives. Tribes possess the capacity and honor to foster unity, honesty, and fraternity across the country. The empowering tribal groups in India requires a comprehensive plan that tackles their distinct issues across multiple disciplines.

CONCLUSION

The incorporation of indigenous culture, folklore, and history into the curriculum can bolster the confidence of tribal youngsters and augment the significance of education in their lives. Music and dance constitute a fundamental aspect of tribal existence. Consequently, the promotion of storytelling, theatre, painting, music, and dance performances is essential. It may contribute to the increase in the literacy rate among Indian tribes. Likewise, sports such as football, archery, and other prevalent local activities are highly advantageous and soothing for children and have to be encouraged. A tribal society needs a specialized health plan. A health plan should be developed based on the needs of tribal populations. The tribes of India have made significant progress in development; yet, they still require additional support and assistance from the government. The government alone is insufficient for the development of this society; private entities must also be involved. With the collaboration of both government and private sectors, the advancement of the indigenous population can be achieved.

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