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SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC WELFARE AND INITIATIVES

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**TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN INDIA- A STUDY**

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Abstract: *The formulation of equitable policy and its implementation is the primary responsibility of a state to give justice to the weaker section of people living in the society. The Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India have been dealing with several issues in their daily affairs and struggling for the necessities of day-to-day life which are easily accessed by others. Tribal development has always been a matter of great concern for the government of both unions and states. The government claims to have made non- a stop effort to bridge the gap towards the way of development and sustainable growth of the STs. Yet it seems not to be enough to uplift tribals, who are living under the shadow of underdevelopment for decades. Present research makes an extensive effort to study the schemes, policies and programs undertaken by the government of India for the overall growth and development of the STs.*

Keywords: *Tribal Development, Human Development Index, India*

Introduction

The formulation of equitable policy and its implementation is the primary responsibility of a state to give justice to the weaker section of people living in the society. The STs in India have been dealing with several issues in their daily affairs and struggling for the necessities of day-to-day life which are easily accessed by others. Tribal development has always been a matter of great concern for the government of both unions and states. The government claims to have made non - a stop effort to bridge the gap towards the way of development and sustainable growth of the STs. Yet it seems not to be enough to uplift tribals, who are living under the shadow of

underdevelopment for decades. Present research makes an extensive effort to study the schemes, policies and programs undertaken by the government of India for the overall growth and development of the *STs*.

India has many tribal populations as compared to any other nation-state of the world. Despite being considered the first inhabitant of the nation tribal are deprived of their basic requirements in their day-to-day life. They are not only socially, economically, and educationally backward but also face discrimination on a large scale. They have been exploited in various forms, from land alienation to forced displacement from their dwelling place in the name of development. Tribal life has always been tied with nature or forest and their culture, custom and tradition, and their livelihood has a close connection with the forest. But very often the act government seems to be eliminating them from access to the forest which is like a fish without water as the tribal identity lies with a water forest and land. Although the Forest Rights Act 2006 gave the provision for certain rights to the tribal about access to the forest and its product. But the provision seems to be more in pen and paper only and a big gap has been observed in the part of the implementation. Even after 75 years of independence, the condition of the *STs* is not up to the mark as the country is growing rapidly growth. The development process of tribal communities is growing at a snail's pace. Several policies and programs have been made by both union and state governments from time to time, yet it looks as if it has a long way to go before the *STs* would be strengthened enough to walk hand in hand with the rest of the world.

Tribes are considered the first origin of the earth. They are considered as the indigenous people living in the society in different groups or communities who have the same pattern of living with different cultures, customs, traditions, languages, and faith from one group to another. Tribals are also often called "Adivasi" which means the first inhabitant of the motherland. The term "Tribe" originated around the time of the Greek city-states and the early formation of the Roman Empire. The Latin term "Tribus" has been transformed to mean "A group of persons forming a community and claiming descent from a common ancestor". The Google search engine describes the tribe as "A social division in a traditional society consisting of families or communities linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect, typically having a recognized leader." Similarly, Cambridge dictionary defines a tribe as "A group of people, often of related families, who live together, sharing the same language, culture and history, especially those who do not live in towns or cities".

The term development has been used in a wider sense. The purpose of development is to provide increasing opportunities to all people for a better life. It is essential to bring about a more equitable distribution of income and wealth for promoting social justice and efficiency of production, to provide a greater variety of facilities like education, health services, nutrition, housing etc. According to ILO, Development involves 'humans' as distinct from the material product. It is defined as a process that

involves improvement in the quality of life of weaker sections and greater participation and involvement of the masses in the process of decision-making in the economic, social, political, and cultural life of a society. To Denis Gonlet "development is not a cluster of benefits given to the people in need, rather a process by which a populace acquires a greater mastery over its destiny. "Schumpeter defines development as only such changes in economic life that are not forced upon it from without, but arise by its initiative from within.

According to Dudley Seers, "Development means creating the condition for the realization of human potential. " " Development is an elusive concept and evolves mobilization of natural resources, augmentation of trained manpower, capital and technical knowhow and their utilization for attainment of constantly multiplying national goals, higher living standards and the change over from a traditional to a modern society. The essence of development is generally perceived as industrialization and modernization. Development is a multi-dimensional and multi-linear process. Development is usually conceived as an aspect of change that is desirable, broadly planned and administered or at least influenced by governmental action. Thus, the concept of development consists of (a) an aspect of change; (b) a plan or prediction; and (c) the involvement of the government in the achievement of that planned or predicted goal. The term development is also used for the process of allowing and encouraging people to meet their aspirations.

The main aim of development is to increase national as well as per capita income and raise the standard of living of the people and secure justice, freedom, equality, and security for them in society. The focus of development is now increasingly on (a) equitable distribution of wealth and income; (b) full utilization of manpower; (c) Better utilization of natural resources; and (d) protection of the human environment, etc. Hence, Development means change plus growth i.e., it includes growth, modernization, increase in social facilities, etc.

There are mainly five approaches that have been employed so far in the welfare of tribals in India. The approaches are:

1. **Administrative Approaches:** The administrative approach is closely followed by the political approach. The government of India has constituted vast administrative machinery for tribal welfare. At the State level, the governor has been made responsible and, on his behalf, the chief minister and welfare minister over see the special schemes to be implemented in the tribal areas. In some major concentrated tribal areas, the State has an independent tribal welfare ministry. The welfare & ministry is advised by two bodies. The Tribes Advisory Council and Tribal Research are framing the political programs for tribal welfare.
2. **Anthropological Approaches:** Anthropologists believe in the ultimate integration of tribes into the mainstream of national life. After independence, some anthropologists came out with several papers and addresses, dealing

with the importance of applied anthropology in tribal welfare programs. The various tribal research institutes are engaged in researching Scheduled Tribes. Besides, many University Departments in the country research them. Whatever approaches are being taken; it is important to integrate the tribal people into the national mainstream. But the problem is that the national mainstream is very wide. Unfortunately, the main purpose to integrate these tribals with the mainstream is left aside since innumerable problems have emerged on account of their so-called integration into the national mainstream: The important problems identified as the "Chaos of Values" and "Counter Values" and the consequent breakup of the social structure. The contacts of the tribals with the urban people have also created problems of adjustment. The tribals suffer also due to an inferiority complex. There are problems of alienation of land in their native places. The fertility of land also gets reduced due to carelessness. There is heavy economic loss due to indiscriminate deforestation. Owing to the impact of government programs and modernisation, tremendous changes took place in the living conditions of the STs. The tribals in India are passing through a phase of economic change along with the rest of the society. Modern technology and concepts are penetrating their culture. The factors that are shaping the future of tribal welfare are (a) education; (b) exposure to urban market forces; (c) the cooperative movement; and (d) banking.

3. **Political approach:** The political approach to tribal welfare may be understood in the context of the pre-and post-independence period. The colonial rule created "excluded" and "partly excluded" areas and gave separate political representation to the tribes. Nationalists opposed these measures as part of a diabolic conspiracy to new separatism. After independence, the constitution has given the tribals several safeguards by considering them to be the weaker section of the population. In the first instance, a period of 10 years was given to achieve the goal, but as the problem was too complicated to be solved in a single decade, it persisted through the decades.
4. **Religious Approaches:** The religious approach has been attempted by different religious agencies like Christian missionaries, the Ramakrishna Mission, the Arya Samaj, and other local religious institutions which are engaged in the welfare works for the tribals. The Christian missionaries have been active in tribal India. For both types of work, spiritual and material, the missionaries did realize the importance of understanding the tribal culture and language. Missionary welfare activities have been viewed by different persons in different ways.
5. **Voluntary Agencies Approach:** Under this approach social workers, social welfare agencies, social movement agencies, social reformers, etc., are working to uplift the weaker section of our society in their ways. NGOs have done considerable humanitarian work in the tribal areas but their idealism and spirit of service have not been matched by their understanding of the tribal organisation, values, and problems.

This is a list of Indian states and union territories by Human Development Index as of 2019.

Rank	State/Union Territory	HDI (2019)	Comparable country
High human development			
1	Kerala	0.782	Iran
2	Chandigarh	0.776	Armenia
3	Goa	0.763	Ecuador
4	Lakshadweep	0.751	China
5	Delhi	0.746	Algeria
6	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.741	Dominica
7	Puducherry	0.740	Maldives
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.725	Tonga
9	Punjab	0.724	Libya
10	Sikkim	0.717	Bolivia
11	Tamil Nadu	0.709	South Africa
12	Daman and Diu	0.708	Palestine
Haryana			
14	Mizoram	0.704	Vietnam
Medium human development			
15	Maharashtra	0.697	Kyrgyzstan
Manipur			
17	Jammu and Kashmir	0.688	Morocco
18	Uttarakhand	0.683	Guyana
19	Karnataka		
20	Nagaland	0.679	Iraq
21	Gujarat	0.672	El Salvador
22	Telangana	0.669	Tajikistan
23	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.663	Guatemala
24	Arunachal Pradesh	0.661	Nicaragua
25	Tripura	0.658	
26	Meghalaya	0.656	Bhutan
27	Andhra Pradesh	0.649	Namibia
28	West Bengal	0.641	Bangladesh
29	Rajasthan	0.628	Sao Tome and Principe
30	Assam	0.613	Laos
31	Chhattisgarh	0.611	Ghana
32	Odisha	0.606	East Timor
33	Madhya Pradesh	0.603	Nepal
34	Jharkhand	0.599	Kenya
35	Uttar Pradesh	0.596	Cambodia
36	Bihar	0.574	Republic of the Congo

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Human Development Index

The UNDP has prescribed three levels of human development based on HDI value. If HDI falls below 0.5 it is a case of low human development. If HDI takes values from 0.5 to 0.799 it indicates medium human development and HDI values of 0.8 and above suggest high human development. Human Development Index for the Indian States is presented in the Table.

To know the male-female differences in human development among the Lambada and the non-tribals, the author has relied on constructing separate HDI for males and females for both groups and has tried to compare their differences. A comparison of male-female HDIs is shown.

Conclusions

The overall development of tribals is far below that of the non-tribals. The same is true in the case of various components of HDI also. The gender disparity-adjusted development index of tribals is far below that of the non-tribals. But the gender disparity is comparatively lower among the tribals than among the non-tribals. When we analyse and Compare the HDIs and GDIs of tribals and non-tribals, gender disparity in development is high among the non-tribals. The disparity is 0.003 for tribals and non-tribals it is 0.012. Tribals are less empowered than non-tribals and it is particularly so in the case of gender empowerment. The tribals are heavily deprived of the most basic requirements of life than non-tribals. The rate of deprivation suffered by tribals is more than two-fold of non-tribals.

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