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**SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC WELFARE AND INITIATIVES**

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## **IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON TRIBAL LIFE- AN OVERVIEW**



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**Abstract:** Tribes have different ways of living with distinct cultural patterns. They live a miserable life without enough resources and have a lot of issues and problems such as economic problems, illiteracy, unemployment, housing and nutrition problem. A lot of educational problems are faced by tribal communities; hence the government is trying its best to resolve all these problems by implementing specific laws. The objective of this paper is to discuss major issues and problems faced by tribes in India with special reference to their educational problem. Further, the study focuses on the laws made by the government for the upliftment of the tribes and discusses the major challenges to solving the educational problem.

**Keywords:** Education, Tribal Life, Problems, Challenges, Solutions, Recommendations

### **Introduction**

India is the home to a large number of indigenous groups of people. Who is still untouchable by the lifestyle of the modern world? In general, the tribal are backward as compared to non-tribal people. Despite the tribal's proximity to caste groups, tribes have their distinct identities. According to the 2011 census, "scheduled tribes comprise about 16.6% and 8.6% respectively of India's population. The life of tribes is full of challenges. They face a lot of problems to survive. In some places, the tribals have been made to serve as bonded labourers. Even now a day's Doms and Colta's tribe communities serve the upper caste families in Uttar Pradesh. In Rajasthan, the Sagri system, in Telangana, the Vetti system, in Orissa the Gothi system, in Karnataka the Jetha system and in Chhattisgarh the Naukrinaama system are the example of the

boundedness. They have borrowed money from the money Landers, but have not been able to pay it back so they are bound to work till they return the loan. The health condition of the tribes is also not good. Most tribal people in India are illiterate. They believe in faith, cure, and age-old methods and also depend on local herbal medicines. The extremely low levels of literacy, education and health. The nutritional status of the tribes put a constraint on improving their economic status.

### Issues and Challenges

As tribes are deprived and oppressed communities in India. They live in isolation and backwards therefore they have to face many problems and issue in their life. Some problems are discussed under the following heads:

1. **Basic Amenities in School:** In tribal areas, most of the schools don't provide basic amenities such as toilets, drinking water, electricity and adequate classroom for proper teaching.
2. **Communication Problem:** The teacher in the classroom communicates in the official/ regional language which is not understood by the tribe's child. They only understand their mother tongue. They think that the teacher is speaking a foreign language.
3. **Drinking-Water Problem:** Scheduled tribes don't have a regular drinking water supply. They are inhabited of using the water which is collected in small ditches. This proves hazardous to their health.
4. **Educational Problems:** Education plays an important role in the all-around development of a person. The economic development of a nation always depends on education. If people are illiterate the concerned authorities can't implement strict economic policies and programmes.
5. **Exploitation:** Non-tribal merchants, big farmers and money landers do exploit the tribal. Indebtedness is almost universal, recurring and almost inevitable. The exploitation of the debtors by the creditors, though arising in the context of the economic transaction is nevertheless a typical example of a social problem. Indebtedness becomes permanent conditions for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes as in even passed on from father and son. The situation is due to economic factors and large-scale exploitation
6. **Government Laws for Upliftment:** Tribes are very backward in education and all fields. It's a special responsibility of the state and central government to promote scheduled tribes.
7. **Housing Problem:** House is the basic need for every human being which protects him from seasonal effects and other dangers. The tribes face a lot of problems related to their houses such as they live in one room and two-room huts, don't have houses made from bricks from leaves and roots and branches

of trees, can't protect them from seasonal temperature and They live with their cattle/ farm animals so it's difficult to them to maintain cleanliness and healthy environment.

8. **Illiteracy:** As per Census 2011, the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes (STs) was 59% whereas the overall literacy rate was 73% at all Indian levels.
9. **Indebtedness:** Banking facilities are also not adequate in tribal areas so they have to depend on money Landers. They possess small and uneconomical land holding because of which their crop yield is less and hence they remain chronically indebted to these moneylenders. n total, 42 per cent of the tribes have debt and 28.17% per cent of the households have debt blow Rs. 25000 and 12.68 per cent of the tribes have their debt in between Rs. 25000 - Rs. 50000 categories.
10. **Lack of Trained Teachers:** Due to a shortage of teachers, tribal schools are unable to attract students and create interest in tribal students in the study. Without proper training, they will not get enough knowledge, which teaching method be opted to teach a particular group of students.
11. **Lack of Transport Facilities:** Most tribal areas are hilly. The road facilities are inadequate so the child faces transport problems to reach school. They have to walk a longer distance which creates an irregularity in school.
12. **Negative Parental Attitude:** The literacy rate of the tribe is below the general population. Parents of tribal children are not well educated and are educationally backward. In their community, there is no encouragement to the pupil to pursue their study and they don't want to send their girl child to a coeducational institute.
13. **Nutritional Problem:** This problem is also faced by the tribal due to a lack of balanced diet, tribal suffer from various vitamins deficiency diseases for example night blindness.
14. **Socio-Economic Problem:** Generally, it can find the conditions of tribal communities in most countries including India are very distressful. People/ population of schedule tribe don't have a proper source of income. They are unable to fulfil their basic needs like food, proper clothes and enough shelter. The condition of these tribes is poor so they can't afford a good school for their children and they complied to send them to work as child labour so they could earn some money for their livelihood.
15. **Transport Problem:** The road facilities are inadequate and a large number of villages are still unconnected with the network of the existing road system.
16. **Unemployment:** The tribes are hill and forest dwellers. There are no industries and no opportunities for jobs so the tribes are unemployed. They use a

secondary source of income such as husbandry, poultry, farming, handloom, weaving and handicraft work for their livelihood. The unemployment rate, however, rose among Scheduled Castes to 6.4% from 6.3%, and for Scheduled Tribes to 4.5% from 4.3%. But unemployment rate among Other Backward Classes inched lower to 5.9% from 6%.

### Solutions

1. **Child Marriage:** Child marriage is a big problem. After marriage, a girl has the responsibility of household work. Their in-laws don't allow her to continue her studies so the girls dropped out.
2. **Corruption:** The government provides several schemes to SC, and ST communities like scholarships, free uniforms, free books, bags stationery, bicycles etc. but because of corruption these facilities have not reached the concerned tribal communities.
3. **Economic Burden and Unemployment:** In tribal areas source of income is farming, poultry, handloom and weaving so parents involve their children in their work to reduce the economic burden and don't send them to school.
4. **Fear of Expenditure:** Parents often noted that the schemes given by the government to promote education did not provide enough cover for real, hidden costs and extra money was needed to cover the excess.
5. **Lack of Family Support:** Sometimes parents don't support their children to continue their education. Especially in the case of the girl child.
6. **Lack of Interest in School:** parents of the tribe's child are not enough educated. They don't know the value of education so they are unable to create interest in their child toward education.
7. **Narrow Mentality:** The parents of a girl child have an old mentality regarding the education of a girl child. They think there is no need to educate a girl. She should do household work that's enough for her so the parents don't take initiative to send the girl child to school.
8. **Punishment and Harassment by the Teacher:** Often teachers scold, insult and physically punish poorly performing children, so the child leaves the school for fear of teachers. Parents dropped out their girl child from the fear of boys teasing.

### Recommendations

1. A high-level official should check the functioning of the school frequently
2. In tribal area problem of transport prevail to overcome this there should be residential schools.
3. In tribal areas schools should be appointed local area teachers and female teachers also in school.

4. Literacy campaigns should be done in different tribal areas to promote the education of tribes.
5. Proper monitoring should be done that all the schemes for tribes implementing properly. Is the teacher doing their jobs sincerely
6. Relevant study material in the local language should be used to teach tribal students.
7. Various scholarships and stipends should be given to attract pupils to the school.

## Conclusion

This study has found a wide range of issues and problems faced by the tribes in India. They live a challenging life and face problems related to their residence, economy, transport, less basic amenities, indebtedness, unemployment and educational problem. Education is the basic root to overcome all these problems. But to achieve the education they have to face a lot of problems like lack of money, because of which they can't enrol their children in school. In tribal areas, school problems of communication and untrained teachers are big barriers to the education of tribes. If students and teachers are unable to understand each other's language then the teaching-learning process stops the tribe's lives in hilly areas or forests there they face the problem related to transport to reach school. To overcome these educational problems and for the upliftment of the tribe's government had made some schemes like book banks in primary schools, adult education programmes, quality improvement of English teaching in tribal areas, scholarships, free uniforms, mid-day meal, Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan. The government made policies and made a serious effort to promote education in tribal areas rather some major challenges prevailed to solve these educational problems. Most of the time tribal parents and children don't show interest in school. If the teacher punishes students they avoid going to school. Especially in the case of a girl child's parents who don't support her to enrol and continue her studies. Parents have a narrow mentality regarding education; they do early marriage according to their culture. Rather than the government introducing many schemes and incentives to attract students toward education but because of corruption, these facilities are not being provided to these areas. In this way, we discussed the educational pattern in tribal communities; major issues and challenges faced by them. It can upgrade their quality of life by motivating them and providing incentives for educational setup. Tribes are an integral part of the Indian population and play a significant role to enrich the Indian culture.

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