

Title of Paper	:	Administration and Development of Tribal Community
Paper Code	:	DTC405
Year	:	Second
Level	:	4th Semester

Concept of Tribe and Tribal Community Development

The word “Tribe” is taken from the Latin word “Tribus” which means “one third”. The word originally referred to one of the three territorial groups which united to make Rome. India is known as a Melting pot of tribes and races. After Africa India has the second largest concentration of tribal population within the world. Approximately there are about 698 Scheduled Tribes that constitute 8.5% of the India’s population as 2001 censuses. Tribal population have some specific characteristics which are different from others tribes. They are simple people with unique customs, traditions and practices. They lived a life of isolation or you can say that geographical isolation. In India aboriginal tribes have lived for 1000 of years in forests and hilly areas without any communication with various centers of civilization. Now, there is a need to integrate tribes in to main stream of the society as a rightful member with respect.

Concept and Definition of Tribe:

There is no exact definition or the criteria for considering a tribe as a human group. However researchers defined it in various forms at different times. Sometimes they called “Tribe” as “aboriginal” or “depressed classes” or “Adivasees”.

Normally, ‘tribe’ may be a group of individuals during a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and typically regarding them as having a same ancestor.

According to the Imperial Gazetteer of India, a tribe is a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is not usually endogamous, though originally it might have been so.

As per the definition of **Oxford Dictionary** "A tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor”.

Lucy Mair defines Tribe as “an independent political division of a population with a common culture”. While **D.N. Majumdar** defines tribe as “a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous with no specialization of functions ruled by tribal officers hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes”.

Gillin and Gillin considers Tribe as any collection of pre-literate local group that occupies a common general territory speaks a common language and practices a common culture as a tribe.

As per **Ralph Linton** Tribe may be a group of bands occupying a contiguous territory or territories and having a feeling or sense of unity deriving from numerous similarities in a culture, frequent contacts and a certain community of interests.

L.M Lewis believes that tribal societies are small in scale are restricted within the spatial and temporal range of their social, political and legal relations and possess a morality, a religion and broader view of corresponding dimensions. Tribal languages are unwritten and hence the extent of communication both in time and space is integrally narrow. On the other hand, tribal societies exhibit a remarkable economy of design and have a compactness and self-sufficiency lacking in modern society.

In Indian Context, T.B Naik has given the following features of tribes:

- A tribe should have least functional interdependence within the community.
- Economically backward (i.e. primitive and traditional means of exploiting natural resources, tribal economy should be at an underdeveloped stage and have multifarious economic pursuits).
- A comparative geographical isolation of its people.
- Having a common dialect.
- Politically unorganized and community panchayat should be influential.
- Have their own customary laws.

The Tribal Community in India is Known as Scheduled Tribes or ST Under Article 366 of the Indian. 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 tribes:-

- 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 folk-lore.
- 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
- Lack of distinction between forms as well as substance of religion
- A distinct psychological view towards enjoying life

Problems:

- Land Alienation
- Forests & Tribals and Displacement
- Indebtedness, Poverty and Unemployment
- Health, Nutrition and lack of Health care services, Infrastructure and Medical staff
- Lack of Educational services, Infrastructure, Human Resources
- Identity, Cultural Problems and diffusion
- Concept of Private Property
- In-Migration of other communities
- Language Problem because of unwritten form.
- Problem of separatism

Geographical location of tribes:

In India Tribal Community identified in five major language families, i.e. Andamanese, Austro-Asiatic, Dravidian, and Tibeto-Burman. All of the Tribals of a particular language family live in a particular or distinct geographical settings. For example, the Central Dravidian family, the Indo-Aryan Family and Austro-Asiatic (Munda) family of South Orissa. The North-Dravidian, Indo-Aryan and Austro-Asiatic language families of Jharkhand. Tribal peoples in India lives in the following five territories.

1. The Himalayan belt that includes Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and hills of Uttar Pradesh.
2. Central India that includes Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya-Pradesh. Approximately 55% of the tribal population among all of India lives in this belt.
3. Western India belt includes Rajasthan, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
4. The Dravidian region of India includes Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra-Pradesh, Kerala.
5. Islands of Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

Tribal Struggles

Numerous uprisings of the tribals have taken place beginning with the one in Bihar in 1772 followed by many revolts in Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal-Pradesh and Nagaland. In the 19th century there were important tribes revolts involved in Mizos (1810), Kols (1795 & 1831), Kacharis (1839), Santhals (1853), Daflas (1875), Mundas (1889), Khasi and Garo (1829), Nagas (1844 & 1879), Muria Gonds (1886), and Konds (1817).

After independence: The struggle of tribals may be classified into three groups:

- Due to exploitation of the outsiders.
- Due to economic deprivations
- Due to separatist/isolated tendencies

The tribal movements of Tribal Community or Tribals may also be classified in to four groups on the basis of their orientation:

- Movements that seeks political autonomy and formation of separate/isolated state.
- Forest-based movements
- Socio-religious movements
- Agrarian movement

Majority of the tribal movements were result of discrimination, opperession, neglect and backwardness of government towards tribal problems.

The characteristics were first explained by the Lokur Committee for community to be identified as Scheduled Tribe. These characteristics are as following:

1. Primitive traits
2. Distinctive culture, shyness of contact with public at large
3. Geographical Isolation
4. Backwardness – social and economic

Now with the above discussion, we are able to identify or generalize easily the features, meaning, significance and the struggles of Tribes or Tribal Population. While going to the Tribal Development we need to understand the term Development.

As we all knows that Development is a process of change or change in the progressive, positive or in upward direction. When we go with the tribal development we have the question that automatically comes in our mind is: At what level of desires that the planners of implementers need to solve it out or tribals themselves. In a wider view, development should be identified as the process of change in desired direction with in stipulated time.

It is very difficult to define development just like other concepts of social sciences but various scholars; schools of thought, organizations/ institutions or agencies defined it in their way.

A Sociologist Mahapatra has high lighted two major approaches to development:

1. Development of the material and human resource is sought as catering to the material progress of the nation
2. Development of a place/region or its people in terms of the objectives, values and goals of the people concerned with that area, which may not always be in conflict with the national requirement and national objectives, that in turn must respect and accommodate regional people's aspirations and potentialities' (Mahapatra, 1980).

Normally Development may refer to a qualitative change or progress so far as the physical/material needs are concerned. Tribal development may be basically said to imply creating required condition in a Tribal/particular society for whole-some living of its members (Behura, 1982).

Bhowmick has mentioned two types of changes.

1. The change from within, “when motivated and organized from within a group to interplay of the internal factors and agents.”
2. The change from without that is, “motivation of or change in a group due to interplay of external agents”(Bhowmick, 1982).

Tribal Policies in India: Tribal Policies in India is based on Isolation, Assimilation and Integration and last Democratic Decentralization of Tribal People. The Government of India has adopted a policy of integration of tribals with the mainstream aiming at developing a creative adjustment between the tribes and non tribes leading to a responsible partnership. The constitution has committed the nation to two courses of action in respect of scheduled tribes:

- Giving protection to their distinctive way of life
- Protecting them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation and discrimination and bringing them at par with the rest of the nation so that they may be integrated with the national life.

Thus by the Constitution Order 1950 issued by the President of India in exercise of powers conferred by Clause 9 (i) of Article 342 of the Constitution of India 255 tribes in 17 states were declared to be scheduled tribes. Besides enjoying the rights that all citizens and minorities have the member of the Scheduled Tribes have been provided with special safeguards as follows:

Some Protective Safeguards are:

- Educational safeguards-Article 15(4) and 29
- Safeguards for employment -Articles 16(4), 320(4) and 333
- Economic safeguards -Article 19
- Abolition of bonded labour -Article 23
- Protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation -Article 46

Some Political Safeguards are:

- Reservation of seats for ST in Lok Sabha and Assemblies-Article 330,332,164
- Appointment of Minister in charge of Tribal welfare
- Special provisions in respect of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur -Articles-371(A),371(B) and 371

Some Developmental Safeguards are:

- Promoting the educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Tribes-Articles 46
- Grants from Central Government to the states for welfare of Scheduled Tribes and raising the level of administration of Scheduled Areas-Article 75.

Following the reorganization of states, the list of STs was modified by the Scheduled Castes and Tribes List (Modification) order, 1956 on the recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission. In the revised list 414 tribes were declared STs. Since the revision of the list in 1956 there have been several proposals for fresh inclusions and deletion from the lists of the SC and STs.

Current Scenario of STs as per Census 2011: The total population of the Scheduled Tribes within the country stands at 84326240 which constitute 8.2 percent of the total population (the 2011 census). They are covering all the states except Haryana and Punjab and also over all the union territories except Chandigarh out of their total population within the country. The current data released by the Census of India shows that the child sex-ratio among STs in the country has declined rapidly than in other categories of the population between 2001 and 2011.

For the Protection, Socio-economic and Political development of scheduled tribes, the constitution of India says:

Social Development:

1. Equality before Law (Article 14)
2. The state has to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Tribes and others.
3. Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state (Article 16).
4. For reservation in appointment, posts in favour of any backward class citizens which in the opinion of the state is not adequately represented in the services under the state (Article 16[4]), in matter of promotion to the scheduled tribe (Article 16 [4A]).
5. A National Commission for Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes to investigate, monitor and evaluate all matters relating to the constitutional safeguards provide for the STs (Article 338).
6. Appointment of a commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and the Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in states (Article 339).
7. Appointed by the Govt. of India, the commission has to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes and to make recommendations to remove their difficulties which they faced during their work (Article 340).

Economic Development:

1. The state to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, scheduled tribes in particular and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46).
2. The claims of the members of the ST in the appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the union or of a state to be taken into consideration consistent with the maintenance of efficiency of administration (Article 335).

Political Development:

1. Through the Fifth Schedule, the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and the Scheduled Tribes in any state except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram by ensuring submission of Annual Report by the Governors to the President of India regarding the Administration of the Scheduled Areas and setting up of a Tribal Advisory Council to advice on such matters pertaining to the Welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes (Article 244[1]).
2. Special provisions through the Sixth Schedule for the administration of Tribal Areas in the states of Assam, Meghalay, Tripura and Mizoram by designating certain tribal areas as Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions by constituting District Councils, Autonomous Councils and Regional Councils (Article 244[2]).
3. Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the people (Article 330).
4. Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the states (Article 332).
5. Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat (Article 243D).

Extension of the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the constitution to the Scheduled Areas through the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 to make sure effective participation of the tribal people within the process of designing and deciding. The concept of tribe or tribal social formation was referred by most anthropologist as a stage destined to maneuver toward a far better or more developed stage towards the 'Mainstream' society by means of history within their own political space, promising to vary whatever existed for long.

There is a question arises that there has been a big change within the lives of the tribal population from the past years after independence. But the question that whether the communities of the tribals in India benefitted from the current development model? Tribal population continues to occupy rock bottom economic strata, its areas of habitation is that the least developed in infrastructure and every one aspects of development. Keeping this state of affairs of tribals in mind; we'd like to question the very definition of the tribes as given by the colonial anthropologists which remains continued to explain tribes as a particular categorization of pre- literate cultures, covering a good range of sorts of social organization and levels of techno- economic development. Many Sociologists specializing on the topic have pointed out; that what's missing within the process of conceptualization is that the acknowledgement of history and of a posh economics. Hence, tribal ways of life, its cultures, its social structures and economics were treated as inferior as compared to the so called advanced or educated western culture based societies.

References: (Online Articles, Research Papers, Journals and Reports)

- <https://www.sociologyguide.com/tribal-society/characteristics.php>
- <https://www.sociologyguide.com/tribal-society/index.php>
- <http://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/17180/1/Unit-5.pdf>
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313297803_Tribal_Development_Journey_So_Far_and_the_Way_A_head
- https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/71427/8/08_chapter%201.pdf
- Behura, N.K., 1982. "Anthropology and Development", in Golden Jubilee Souvenir, THRTI, Bhubaneswar.
- Belshaw, Cyuril, S,1977. "The Contribution of Anthropologist to Development" Anthropology in Development Process, ed. By H.M. Mathur, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Bhowmick, P.K. 1982. "Approaches to Tribal Welfare" in Tribal Development in India: Problems and Prospects, ed. By B. Chaudhuri, Inter-India Publications, New Delhi.
- Das, S.T. 1993. Tribal Development and Socio-Cultural Matrix. Delhi: Kanishka Publishers Distributers.
- Escobar, A. 1995. Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World. Princeton. NJ.: Princeton University Press.
- Gardner, K. and Lewis, D. 1996. Anthropology, Development and the Post-Modern Challenge. London: Pluto Press.
- Lipton, M., and Toye, J. 1990. Does Aid Work in India? A Country Study of the Impact of Official Development Assistance. London: Routledge.
- Rahnama, M. 1997. Participation. In W. Sachs (ed.), The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power. Hyderabad: Orient Longman.
- Roy Burman, B.K. 1989b. Tribal Development in Perspectives in Singh, J.P. and N.N.Vyas edited Tribal Development: Past Effort and New Challenges. Udaipur: Himanshu Publications.
- Singh, J.P. and N.N.Vyas (Edt.). 1989. Tribal Development: Past Effort and New Challenges. Udaipur: Himanshu Publications.
- https://books.google.co.in/books?id=WgF7DwAAQBAJ&redir_esc=y
- Szirmai, Adam. 2005. Dynamics of Socio-Economic Development: An Introduction. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Vyas, N.N. 1989. Tribal Development: Between Primordality and Change in J.P.Singh and N.N.Vyas edited Tribal Development: Past Effort and New Challenges. Udaipur: Himanshu Publications.
- Watts, M. J. 1993. Development I: Power, knowledge, discursive practice in Progress in Human Geography, 17(2), 257-27
- Gupta, Ashish. Oct 2016. Tribal Development: A journey so far and Tribal Development. IJIR. Vol 2. Issue 9. ISSN: 2454-1362
- <https://www.manifestias.com/2018/12/04/tribals-and-tribal-policy/>
- <https://www.sociologyguide.com/tribal-society/tribal-development-strategy.php>

Keep Asking.. Keep Learning..
Thank You!