



# **Session on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India**

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# Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India- An Overview



# INTRODUCTION

- In **1973**, the **Dhebar Commission** created **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In **2006**, the Government of India **renamed the PTGs as PVTGs**.
- There are seventy five groups who have been given the status of particularly vulnerable tribal groups and have little access to resource besides low rate of literacy, small population, and some of the groups are at the verge of extinction.
- They are distributed in various ecological zones beyond the state boundaries with immense variation in subsistence pattern and worldviews.





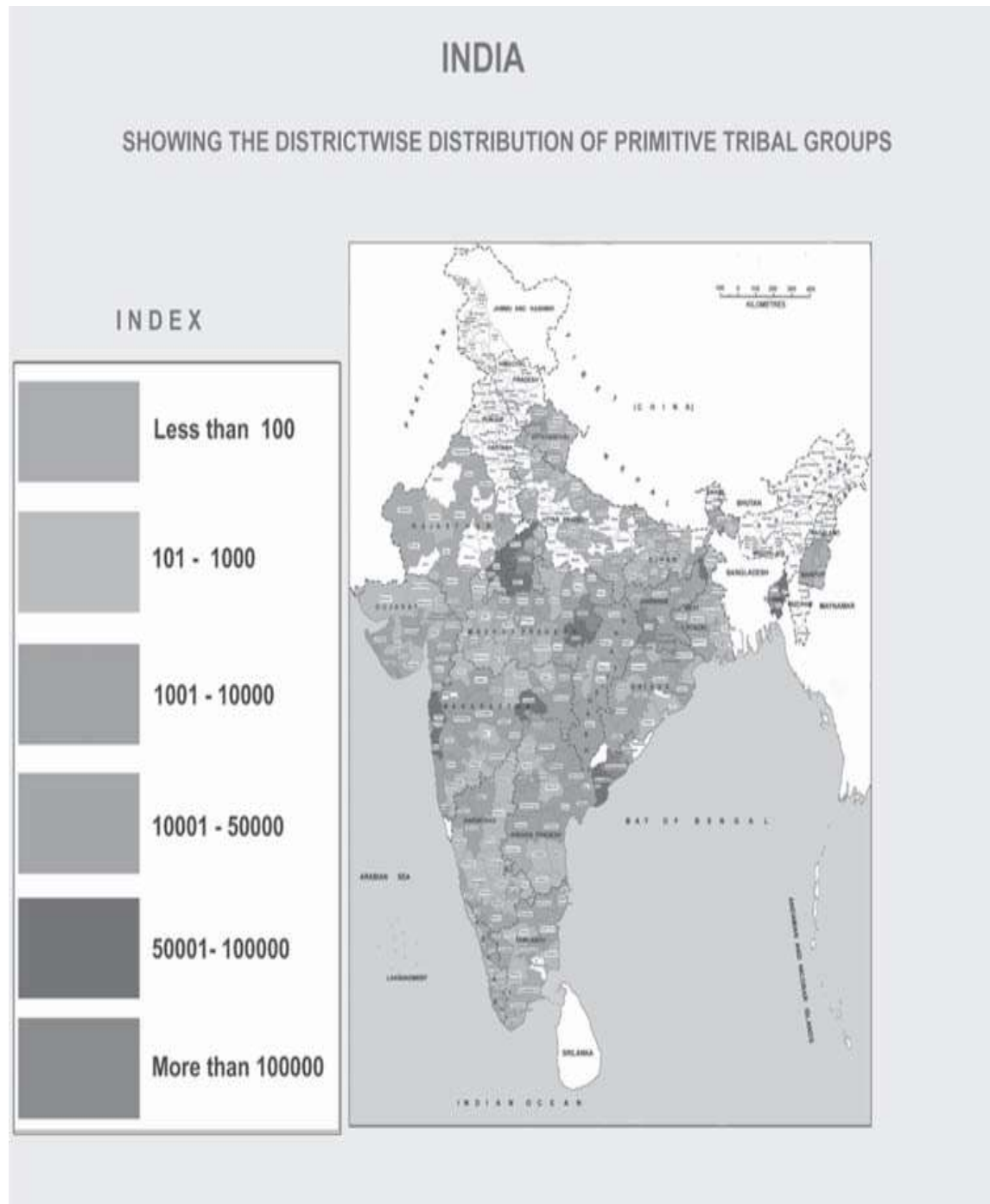


- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, **more developed and assertive tribal** groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- PVTGs have some **basic characteristics** -they are mostly **homogenous**, with a **small population**, **relatively physically isolated**, **absence of written language**, **relatively simple technology** and a **slower rate of change** etc.



- The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are original inhabitants of Indian Peninsula (Bharatha Khand), majority of the PVTG population lives in States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

**Map showing the district-wise distribution of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups.**





# Current scenario of PVTGs







- The Human Development Index on PVTGs reveal that **overall status in all spears is still remain far behind the Scheduled Tribes and far and far behind the mainstream communities** residing in urban agglomeration.
- The **educational status** of these groups **especially women is very low compared to other tribal groups**, the health indicators such as Infant Mortality Rate (CMR), malnutrition and certain chronic diseases like Leukemia, Skin disorders etc. are very high and common.





- The initiatives of the successive Governments to bring them at par with the rest of the society are gradually making attempts to reach them. However, due to their isolation, lack of awareness, lapses on the part of local administrations in creating awareness and delivering essential services to these tribes at grass root level have made them to still live in vulnerable condition.
- The PVTGs viz. Shompens and Sentinelese of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Birhors of Jharkhand, Abujh Marias of Chattisgarh, the Bondos of Odisha and the Cholanaickans of Kerala are the most vulnerable and gradually in the verge of extinction / disappearance from their habitations
- There were instances of PVTGs living in and around reserved forests are targeted and harassed by fringe elements, land mafias.



# Occupational pattern & Life style

- The PVTGs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands viz. the Great Andamanese, Shompens, Onge and Jarwas are still aboriginals the major occupation of these tribes is hunting and gathering.
- Some Jarwas have also proved to be craftsmen with their skills in making arrows and metal tools.
- Apart for hunting and gathering, the great Andamanese have also started occupation like horticulture and poultry. The main occupation of Nicobarese is pig farming and horticulture.



- Most of the PVTGs are engaged in different occupations, but mostly are either into agriculture, agriculture labour, fishing, hunting, crafts making etc. Better settled tribes also work in mills and handicraft industries.
- Few tribes like have their own looms and make clothes for their own use as well for marketing to some extent in the changing economic situation.

# Vulnerability Indexes

- **Poverty:** poverty is the common phenomenon among most of the PVTG groups which lead to hunger, malnutrition, ill health, illiteracy, poor economic activity etc. In general, most of the Scheduled Tribes live below poverty line.
- The PVTGs are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to loss of their customary habitats and the livelihood resources which sustained them due non-recognition of their rights.
- This is somehow leading to remain poverty, hunger /starvation, malnutrition and ill-health and erosion of traditional occupations, which is threatening their very survival.







- **Education:** though the literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribes has gone up over the past decade, from a single digit literacy rate, the figures have increased to 30 to 40 % in many of the PVTGs. However, female literacy rate is still considerably lower compared to male counterpart.
- The quality of education is also very poor in the tribal areas due acute shortage of qualified teachers, infrastructure etc., with an average literacy rate of 10% to 44% among PVTGs. This is largely due to the abysmal education infrastructure in tribal areas, poorly trained or absentee teachers, lack of teaching in tribal languages and irrelevant and alienating curriculum.
- The dropout rate compared to other social groups is high for Scheduled Tribes and it's much higher for PVTGs.



- **Health:** The health status of PVTGs is in an awful condition because of multiple factors like poverty, illiteracy, lack of safe drinking water, poor sanitary conditions, difficult terrain, malnutrition, poor maternal and child health services, unavailability of health and nutritional services, superstition and deforestation.
- The diseases like sickle cell-anemia, upper respiratory problem, malaria gastrointestinal disorders like acute diarrhea, Intestinal protozoan, micronutrient deficiency and skin infection are common among PVTGs.
- Many of these diseases can be prevented by providing nutritional food, medical facilities and health awareness on time.



- **Employment:** Tribals usually depend on agriculture for survival. Their economies are agrigarian economies run on traditional agricultural techniques which do not yield much income.
- The status of employment, under-employment and un-employment situations indicate that though most of the tribals are engaged in primary sector resulting in under-employment, tribal migrated to urban and semi-urban areas are mostly engaged in unorganized sectors as construction workers, domestic workers and daily-wage labourers.
- Tribals engaged in unorganized sectors are subjected to exploitation like paying low wages, long hours of working, insecure work place, no social security etc



## Existing Initiatives for PVTGs and Scheduled Tribes

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry in the Center and Departments of Tribal Welfare / Social Welfare in the States / UTs are implementing various programs for inclusive development of Scheduled Tribes.
- An exclusive scheme namely “**Development of PVTGs**” is being implemented by the Center through State Governments & UT Administrations covers the 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in 18 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.





- **The scheme covers funding for activities like housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads and installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including Janshree Beema Yojana or any other innovative activity meant for inclusive development of PVTGs.**



- Some the **educational programs** are scholarships at various levels of education such as Pre-Metric, Post-Metric, Top-class education, National Over Seas Scholarship, National Fellowship, Free-Coaching, Hostels, Ekalvya Model Residential Schools, educational loans at subsidized rates etc.
- To **eradicate economic insecurity** and ensure financial inclusion credit facilities at subsidized rate of interest, Stand-up India, Mudra scheme, land purchase schemes, irrigation facilities etc. are under implementation. To improve infrastructure free housing, land for construction of houses, drinking water, and electricity were also brought in.



- Priority is also assigned to **PVTGs** under the schemes of **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** to **Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)**, **Grants** under **Article 275(1)** of the Constitution, **Grants-in-aid** to **Voluntary Organizations** working for the welfare of **Schedule Tribes**.



**Way forward**







1. The need of the hour is to acknowledge the gap between the actual beneficiaries and the government schemes.
2. The tribals are usually unaware of what the government is doing for their betterment which results in low participation rate of tribals in the enrollment in the schemes.
3. The PVTGs are in dire need of focused and exclusive attention on priority for their protection, empowerment and mainstreaming in view of their fragile living conditions and prevailing socio-economic vulnerability and diminishing numbers.



4. The PVTGs require exclusive and special share in beneficiary oriented programs, habitat development programs and reservation in political representation, employment and education.
5. Providing opportunity to PVTGs in delivering Government schemes in their habitation would be an added advantage for community participation such as engaging health workers, language teachers, Food & Civil supply agents, etc. promoting commercial cropping, organic farming, honey cultivation, horticulture, fishery, animal husbandry, handicrafts in convergence model.
6. Providing marketing facilities can enable PVTGs to sustain and reach the mainstream at par with rest of the society.



**THANK YOU**

