



Problems of Tribal Communities

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Introduction

- Tribes are generally backward, economically as well as educationally. The situation is not uniform in all the parts of India.
- In the north-east, the situation has been disturbed for several years, whereas in the mainland (central India) problems related to poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, backwardness and ignorance are acute.
- The landlords and moneylenders of the plains gradually replaced the tribal landowners.
- They have been losing their lands, ethnicity, cultural heritage and freedom of identity for centuries.
- Economic oppression, subjugation and deprivation threatens the people every time.

- Lack of Awareness is the main reason of poor health and backwardness of tribes. Awareness programmes for sanitation, health and hygiene and for information of the government special programmes for STs should be promoted.
- Tribals should be encouraged to use their traditional knowledge to meet their needs by recreating their forest ecosystem and forest-based livelihood. Although majority of STs have land and cultivation is their main occupation.

some common problems of the tribal people are:

1. Poverty ,exploitation and Indebtedness .
2. Naxalism
3. Economic and technological backwardness.
4. Health related issues
5. Problems of assimilation with the non-tribal population.
6. Land Problems
7. Educational Problems
8. Cultural and Religious Problems
9. Drug Addiction
10. Unemployment



Major Issues Explained

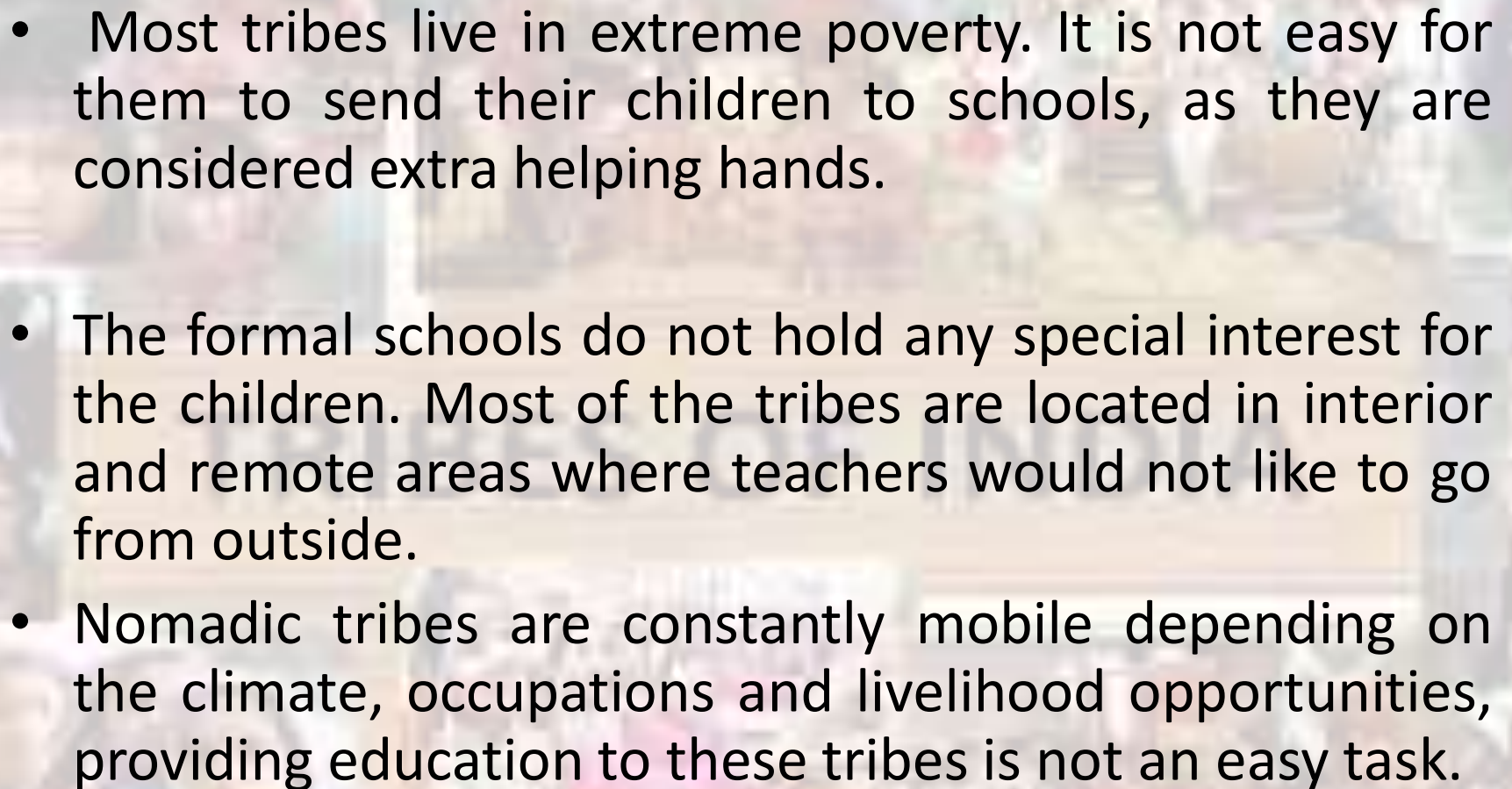
Educational Issues:-

- The Literacy Rate (LR) increased from 8.53 percent in 1961 to 58.96 percent in 2011 for Scheduled Tribes (STs), while the corresponding increase of the total population was from 28.30 percent in 1961 to 72.99 percent in 2011.
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- Dropout rates among the tribal students, particularly at the secondary and senior secondary stages, are very high. With dropout rates of 73 per cent at Class X, 84 per cent at Class XI and 86 per cent at Class XII, higher education also suffers.

Educational Issues:-

- There are many reasons for low level of education among the tribal people. Formal education is not considered necessary to discharge their social obligations.
- Superstitions and myths play an important role in rejecting education.



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- Most tribes live in extreme poverty. It is not easy for them to send their children to schools, as they are considered extra helping hands.
 - The formal schools do not hold any special interest for the children. Most of the tribes are located in interior and remote areas where teachers would not like to go from outside.
 - Nomadic tribes are constantly mobile depending on the climate, occupations and livelihood opportunities, providing education to these tribes is not an easy task.

Religious Issues:-

- Tribal people believe in the existence of super human or supernatural power,
- Due to contact with other cultures, the tribal culture is undergoing a revolutionary change. The tribal people are imitating western culture in different aspects of their social life and leaving their own culture. It has led to degeneration of tribal life and tribal arts such as dance, music and different types of craft.



Social Issues:-

- Child marriage among tribes still exists
- Polyandry and polygamy exists in some tribes of Himalayas..
- Infanticide, homicide, animal sacrifice, black magic, exchange of wives and other harmful practices are still found among tribes.



Health issues:-

- There are wide variations with regard to health education status, access and utilization of health services among the tribal populations. Public Health Service to Scheduled Tribe population is one of the weakest links.
- The major difficulty in delivering public health care to tribal population is the lack of health care human resource that is willing, trained and equipped to work in Scheduled Areas. There is a shortage, vacancy, absenteeism or half-heartedness of doctors, nurses, technicians and managers in public health care system in Scheduled Areas.



Health issues:-

- A reason for the inappropriately designed and poorly managed health care in Scheduled Areas is the near complete absence of participation of Scheduled Tribes people or their representatives in shaping policies, making plans or implementing services in the health sector.
- Coverage with medical insurance remains extremely low in the Scheduled Areas. Thus the Scheduled Tribes populations are almost completely without financial protection against acute and catastrophic illnesses.

Drug Addition

. According to their traditions drinking of Haria (popularly called rice-beer, a local beer prepared from rice, maize flour, oat flour etc.), is an integral part of their culture.

During the performance of ceremonies, festivals, rituals, social feast, marriage feast, death feast etc, sharing of Haria by the community members is a must.

Offering of Haria is a valuable part of the hospitality shown to a guest.

The contractors provide them liquor and take work from 14 to 18 hours in a day. At the time of election, the political parties purchase their votes serving money for drinking.

The drinking habit of tribals bring following types of problems among the tribals.

1. Poverty
2. Sale and mortgage of land
3. Child labour and Bonded labour
4. Crime and murder
5. Juvenile delinquency
6. Sex crime and prostitution
7. Psychological frustrations
8. Mental disorder
9. Exploitation
10. Oppression
11. Personality disorganization
12. Family disorganization
13. Health problems
14. Premature death

Land Alienation, Displacement and Enforced Migration of tribes in India is also one of serious issues they deal with.

- **Land Alienation:** The history of land alienation among the tribes began during British colonialism in India when the British interfered in the tribal region for the purpose of exploiting the tribal natural resources. This brought increasing destitution and displacement. After the British came to power, the Forest policy of the British Government was more inclined towards commercial considerations rather than human.

- The expansion of railway in India heavily devastated the forest resources in India. Forest land and its resources provide the best means of livelihood for the tribal people and many tribes including the women engage in agriculture, food gathering and hunting are heavily dependent on the products of the forest.



- **Migration:** Tribal people suffer predominantly from the phenomenon of poverty-induced migration on account of rain-fed agriculture and absence of other avenues of employment. Fragmentation of land, loss of land due to acquisition and illegal land alienation by non-tribals also cause people to migrate.



- Deforestation and decreasing access to forests and drought are other contributory factors for tribal migration. It is estimated that, in the last decade, about 3.5 million tribal people are leaving agriculture and agriculture-related activities to enter the informal labour market.
- Tribal people faced with influx of immigrants, fear loss of identity, land, destruction of forests, jobs and losing political control.

- **Process of involuntary displacement on the name of development** is also burning issue among tribes of India. Mineral and hydro-electric resource-rich places are home to vast majority of tribal people. Displacement is a process in which marginalized sections, the majority being tribal people, are pushed out of their own habitat and dispossessed of their resources and indeed their universe around them.



- The unrestricted power of the State to acquire privately-owned land without any obligation on the State resulted in large number of cases of inadequate compensation, forcible acquisition even without payment of compensation, without replacement of livelihood, without provision of alternative land, without preparation of resettlement sites and without recognition of loss of right to access forest, and loss of community ties, cultural and religious heritage.
- In mining projects, resettlement sites are situated close to mining operations, which result in respiratory diseases. Ill-health causes them to spend most of their earnings towards allopathic medical treatment, due to non-availability of herbal medicines.

- **Poverty and Indebtedness:** Majority tribes live under poverty line. The tribes follow many simple occupations based on simple technology. Most of the occupation falls into the primary occupations such as hunting, gathering, and agriculture. The technology they use for these purposes belong to the most primitive kind. There is no profit and surplus making in such economy. Hence there per capita income is very meager much lesser than the Indian average. Most of them live under abject poverty and are in debt in the hands of local moneylenders and Zamindars.

- In order to repay the debt they often mortgage or sell their land to the moneylenders. Indebtedness is almost inevitable since heavy interest is to be paid to these moneylenders.



Problems and exploitation of Children

Child abuse and exploitation is very common in tribal communities. Due to the concept 'kids are the natural gifts of god' the number of children are more among the tribal's.

- Children are neglected and avoided from their basic human rights. In spite of education they are involved in various types of works with their parents .



Suggestions:-

- Inclusion of local culture, folklore and history in the curriculum can help in building confidence of tribal children and enhance the relevance of education in their lives. Music and dance are a central part of tribal life. Therefore, storytelling, theatre, painting, music and dance performances should be promoted. It may help in increment of literacy rate of tribes of India.
- Similarly, sports such as football, archery and other popular local sports are extremely beneficial and therapeutic for children, and should be promoted.

- A tribal community needs a special health plan. Such a „Health Plan“ should be constructed on the basis of needs of tribal peoples. Focus should be given on the delivery of health services in tribal areas, which is very poor. This „Tribal Health Plan“ should become an essential feature of the National Health Mission and of the Tribal Sub Plan.



Suggestions:-

- There is a dire need to establish agro-based training institutions and related labour-intensive processing industries in tribal regions. In order to make use of land available with the tribal farmers, they should be motivated to undertake organic farming and eco-forestry. This requires concerted efforts by the Departments of Agriculture and Forest to motivate the tribal farmers to undertake such activities.
- Data on development parameters with respect to STs are not available for the purpose of policy planning and implementation. Therefore, a National Institute of Tribal Development, an autonomous research organization, has to be set up exclusively for undertaking research on STs.

Suggestions:-

- Water for agriculture is the greatest impediment in production. Micro watershed development program with people-centered participatory approach is a good method for poverty reduction through natural resource management in tribal regions. Therefore, micro watershed should be given top-most priority in tribal areas to enhance agricultural productivity.





Thank you