



Socio-Economic Condition of Tribal People: A Study on Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal

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Abstract: Tribal people have lived in India since ancient times. The socio-economic condition of the tribal people is far behind that of the people of other communities in India, which is a cause for concern for development. The socio-economic condition of a large section of the Scheduled Tribes of the country is not satisfactory. Their condition still indicates that they are a backward community among the backward communities of India. Various plans and programmes have been adopted at various levels to solve the problems of the tribes. This article mainly highlighted the socio-economic condition of the Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur, as per the Census 2011. Different aspects of their socio-economic condition are closely linked with their development and standard of living. The paper is mainly based on secondary data which are collected from several sources. According to the 2011 Census, the Socio-economic conditions of the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur are not sufficient for their development. This article will help in analyzing the condition of tribal people in Uttar Dinajpur.

Keywords: Tribal people, Socio-Economic condition, Scheduled Tribes, Tribal development

INTRODUCTION

In India, in the social and economic spheres, there are various forms of discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, rich and poor. Most of the tribal people of India are still deprived of socio-economic matters. The tribal community is one of the most important social groups in India who are the original inhabitants of India as well as they are one of the vital pillars of Indian society. They have lived in India since time immemorial, with most of the tribes living in Africa, then India. The term 'socio-economic condition' is often widely used in various contexts. The term 'socio-economic condition' has been used to refer to the status of the tribal people in important social and economic matters. Tribals need solutions to their social problems and overall improvement of their economic conditions and their participation in the political fields. Otherwise, India's development, national unity and national integration will be hampered because a large part of the total population of India is Tribal people.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES

There are several studies on the Socio-Economic condition of tribes at the national level and State level also District level. Various studies have highlighted the general Socio-Economic and political aspects of the tribal people. Some important studies have focused on many important Social, Economical and also political issues of tribal people and their development.

Monjita Basumatary (2020) in his article 'Issue, Challenge and Development Problems in Socio, Economic and Culture of Tribal People in Assam' has discussed a vital matter of the tribal people of Assam. She has focused on several Socio, Economic and Cultural problems of the tribal people in Assam. She has mainly highlighted various problems of tribal people and their development. She has presented some important suggestions for the development of tribal people of Assam, such as the spread of education, poverty alleviation and banking facilities etc.

Munmun Sen (2018) in her article 'Tribal Development: A New Vision for Transforming India' has focused on some problems which the tribal people are faced at different times and that issues have hampered the progress of tribal way of life and aspects of their socio-economic development. She has described different issues of tribal people in India such as social issues, educational problems, economic problems and unemployment, the crisis of sources of income, land problems, etc. In this article, she has analyzed some measures of the governments, such as various Constitutional provisions and safeguards, reservation of seats in Legislatures and Panchayats, and reservation of seats in government services etc.

Subrata Guha and Md Ismail (2015) have presented in their article, namely 'Socio-Cultural Changes of Tribes and Their Impacts on Environment with Special Reference to Santhal in West Bengal' the ideas of various scholars about tribes. In this article, they have mainly discussed the condition of 'Santal tribal community' of West Bengal. They have mentioned, as per Census 2011, the 'Santals tribal community' is the largest of the tribal communities in West Bengal and most of the people of 'Santal community' are believes in Hinduism.

Mahantesh Shivasharanappa (2016) his thesis 'Socio-Economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka: A case study of Yadagir District' has focused on the condition of tribal people of Yadagir District. He has discussed welfare programmes of tribal people in India and Karnataka, the Socio-Economic profile of tribes in Yadagir District and reasons for the backwardness of tribal people etc.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the socio-economic condition of tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district.
2. To study the work participation of tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur.
3. To find out the problems of the tribal people of this district.
4. To highlight some vital suggestions for the betterment of the tribal people.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The paper is mainly based on secondary data which are collected from several sources, such as Government reports, journals, books, Census report 2011, Thesis and internet etc. The descriptive method mainly has been applied in this study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The Socio-Economic conditions of the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur are not sufficient for their development. Therefore, it is necessary to highlight the socio-economic problems of the tribal people and find ways to solve them. This study is especially important both academically and practically.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TRIBAL PEOPLE OF UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT

Several important indicators have been highlighted to know the socio-economic condition of the tribal people and which help to outline and understand a picture about the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district.

Table-1: Various important socio-economic indicators of the Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district as per Census 2011

SL. NO	Socio-economic indicators of the Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district
1	The Population of total Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	1,62,816
2	The Population of male Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	81,831
3	The Population of female Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	80,985
4	The Population of Scheduled Tribe children (0-6 age group) of Uttar Dinajpur district	27,827
5	Literate Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur	59,069
6	Total Work Participation of Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	73,654
7	Total Main worker Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	51,851 (Cultivator-10,042 Agricultural labourer-29,830 Household industry worker-467 Other worker-11,512)
8	Religion of Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district	Hindu-1,46,541 Muslim-1,125 Christians-13,327 Sikh-21 Jain-15 Other religions and persuasions-1,543

Source: Census of India 2011 and District Census Handbook, Uttar Dinajpur

DISCUSSION

According to the 2011 census, the above data gives an idea about the condition of the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur. The Tribal population of Uttar Dinajpur district is 12th position in West Bengal as per the 2011 Census. The Santals are the highest population in this district. In Uttar Dinajpur, 'Total Scheduled Tribes population'-162816, 'Scheduled Tribe Male'-81831 and 'Scheduled Tribe Female'-80985 as per the Census 2011. 'Total Scheduled Tribe children (0-6 age group) Population'-27,827, 'Male children (0-6 age group)'-14,027 and 'Female children (0-6 age group)'-13,800 were in Uttar Dinajpur district. 'Literate Scheduled Tribe-59,069, out of 35,231 are male and 23,838 female. 'Total Work Participation of Tribal people' of Uttar Dinajpur district-73,654, out of 44,279 are male and 29,375 are female. 'Total Main worker Tribal people'-51,851(Cultivator-10042, Agricultural labourer-29830, Household industry worker-467 and other worker-11,512). The religion of the Tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district were Hindu-146541, Muslim-1125, Christians-13327, Sikh-21, Jain-15 and other religions and persuasions-1543. Most of the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur are socio-economically backward. There is a lack of education, awareness among the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur district.

SUGGESTIONS

Some vital suggestions for the betterment of the tribal people

1. The tribal people themselves must first take steps to improve their socio-economic condition.
2. Emphasis should be placed on the spread of education for their development.
3. The problems of the tribes of Uttar Dinajpur should be taken seriously by the Government.
4. Various 'Awareness Programmes' need taken up for tribal people and their participation should be encouraged.

CONCLUSION

The socio-economic condition of the tribal people determines their standard of living and aspects of development. In the social, economic as well as political spheres, developmental projects need to be formulated and implemented for the tribal people. The Constitution of India provides for special socio-economic and political provisions for the Scheduled Tribes. The people of Scheduled Tribes are a minority in India. Not only that, they are backward in education and extremely weak economically. Their backwardness needs to be overcome and they need to be equated with other communities in India. It is necessary for the interest of India's democratic ideology and justice. The data obtained from the 2011 Census shows that in fact, the socio-economic status of the tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur has changed a lot. The tribal people of Uttar Dinajpur are now on the path of development. Their own efforts are important for the betterment of the tribal people.

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