



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Analyzing Tribal Empowerment in India: Issues and Challenges

Ms. Shipra

Research Scholar

Department of Political Science School of Humanities

Lovely Professional University

Phagwara, Punjab

Abstract-

The people are the nation's real assets. Primary objective of advancement is to create an atmosphere that will allow people to have a long, healthy and reliable life. Tribes like everyone else are no less human being; they deserve the full spectrum of human creation. Tribals are recognized as the indigenous inhabitants of the region. India's tribal culture, its customs and rituals have penetrated almost all aspects of Indian society and civilization. After the independence, a new free Indian government has been expected to recognize and secure the demands of tribes with further emphasis on land and forestry rights and safeguard against violence and oppression. Many improvements and innovations occurred after independence. All development schemes, have led to tremendous displacement of the tribal population from its principal habitat. Therefore their survival and preservation of their culture, language and identity became very difficult to them. The situation of the tribals has not changed much since independence. There are various reasons for dropping level of tribal growth as our policymakers expected. The Tribes were granted various privileges and specific consideration for their empowerment and development under the Constitution. Different policies were implemented by central as well as state governments for their upliftment but, due to ignorance and indifference of implementing organizations, these constitutional provisions remain deprived of the benefits. This paper explores the different issues and problems, the tribal people are facing and measures adopted for their growth and improvement in sustaining the contemporary scenario of development policies.

Key words :- Tribal Development, Tribal integration, Empowerment

Introduction

Many tribal communities have been living in India before the advent of Aryans or we can say from the Pre-Aryan period. The tribal population of the Indian subcontinent is the second largest in the world. In Indian society many faction are legitimately chosen as Scheduled Tribes. They have rich cultural heritage and diverse life styles. The tribes are the original nation dwellers. These all groups have experience transformation. One of the major economically disadvantaged and impoverish communities in India are the Scheduled Tribe community. The tribal history has been tainted by the stories of forced relocation of property, isolation and growing exclusion and eruption of violence. The tribals always appears at the rear end, according to any parameter of development. The situation of pastoral or nomadic communities was even worse.

The conventional observation amid social scientist has been that once a tribe goes in the course of transformation through a defeat of seclusion and in the course of close amalgamation with the society as a whole, eventually or inevitably and with constant permanence, it turn out to be a caste. But this argument is no longer applicable in today's state of affairs. Nowadays although tribes continue to go through innumerable variety of transformation, these no longer modify them into the caste. Tribes have become agriculturist and collectively discern entity but instead of the outlook held, devoid of any damage to their exclusive characteristics.

The contact of the tribes with the larger society although not on the whole absent, but was restricted prior to the advent of the British with the commencement of the colonial rule. The situation has however undergone change. Tribes have been more and more brought in contact with larger society and uncovered to the wider world through means of transport like roads and railways on the one hand and growth of trade, commerce and market on the other. Tribal society suffered from lack of interdependence, division of labour/occupation and correspondingly heterogeneity of morals, talent, knowledge, income, wealth, position, opportunity etc. An overwhelming majority of the Scheduled Tribes in India work under discriminating social and economic disabilities. Due to many reasons tribal people thus remain economically poor and unable to use the basic infrastructure and. specialized services etc. Because of the lack of post independence rehabilitation, tribes are dispersed across the country and live further away from urban development at the periphery. India has now launched steps towards tribal people development. The primary objective of the government is to ensure progressive welfare and socio-economic improvement for the tribals. The tribes are mostly very backward in schooling, technology, agriculture, health, manufacturing, capital training, banking, etc.. In agriculture and other operations, they are far from using high technical awareness. The rate of growth of their development also varies from community to community and region to region. Some strategies are important in solving the numerous socio-economic problems of the tribals. These approaches are isolation, integration and assimilation.

Tribal societies have stimulated from homogeneity to a significant level of heterogeneity. At the outset, there is a professional demarcation in tribal society. In the same society one can find people who are occupied in farming, some are working as landless agriculture labourers, mine workers and industrial worker etc. And furthermore others are lawyers, teachers, Govt servants, Politician etc. In addition to occupational disparity there have been demarcation of capital and earnings giving mount to social hierarchy in the form of class not only in the qualitative but also in quantitative sense.

Constitutional provisions

In addition to other things the special provisions for the empowerment of the tribes included the provision of constitutional acknowledgment, balanced representation in legislatures, right to utilize their own language for education and other purposes, the right to recognize the belief of one's preference and choice. The constitution has also such articles that allow the state to formulate provisions in the favour of tribal communities by making reservations in government jobs, educational institutions and even in legislatures. In addition to this there are such provisions in the constitution under directive principles that aims at the promotion of educational and the economic interest of the weaker section in society, including tribes. Besides, the constitution authorize the state to bring regions occupied by the tribes under the 5th and 6th schedule for the purpose of special management in respect of the organization of tribal people. If one interprets the provisions meant for the tribes carefully, it become visible that the provisions made their, indicates towards the term integration rather than assimilation.

Constitutional provisions Vs Actual practice

The assurance given in the constitution, laws and statute is quite different from the reality or actual condition. Often there are gaps between what is predetermined and guaranteed and what is actually done. Such gaps are more prominent in the circumstances where the recipients happen to be reluctant, subjugate, inarticulate and outnumbered similar to the tribal societies in India. Their destiny is hence dependent upon the compassion of the major Indian society particularly its leadership. Tribes have by no means been place or recognize in the similar footing as a component of the larger society in term of their right to use constitutional rights, whether civil, political or social. Whereas the post independent India prepared healthy important provisions and legislations for the defence, wellbeing, empowerment and advancement of the tribal people but the actual practices disprove these expectations. Tribes at present facing scarcity, repression, exploitation, intolerance and unfairness in almost every domain of life. The govt. reaction to the tribulations and troubles of tribes has either been unenthusiastic, apathetic or even antagonistic.

Empowerment of the tribal's - Tribal empowerment not only speak of financial relaxation but also to retrieve to opportunities, right to take their own decisions and making learning and education , fitness and health services and knowledge and information within the reach of tribal people. To improve the condition of the tribals, government has made various provisions but their empowerment is not possible until and unless the most trustworthy solution to their problems have not been prepared. Only after solving their grave problems we can even think of their empowerment and development

Problems-

The tribal development schemes assume after the independence are found to be inadequate in recovering the circumstances of the tribes even after the various tribal development design. The tribal people are facing various problems. Following are the some of major problems that they are facing. *Number of researches has been carried out to understand their problems and to suggest the appropriate solutions.*

➤ **Education:** - Scheduled Tribes have small access to education which is the poor's most powerful weapon for self improvement and empowerment . In some of our most heavily populated states there is hardly one literate woman out of 100 Scheduled Tribe women. It is the well known fact that the spread of literacy among the tribal population are uneven even after so many efforts. Ignorance and illiteracy among tribal should be reduced by providing appropriate education to them. Tribal youth are the marginalized segment of the social order. Due to various reasons they are deprived of their educational as well as livelihood opportunities. Education is the only tool that helps them to bridge the gap of disparity and can bring about social transformation of our tribal youth. This highest rate of illiteracy is one of the major obstacles in the battle against poverty. So there is a dire need of development of the education among the tribes. Therefore special educational policy should be formulated for the same.

➤ **Indebtedness:** - Landlessness has been definitely the foremost cause of indebtedness among the agriculturist tribes in India. The tribes have been demote from their former 'self-reliant' position to a dependent one. The tribal people are barred of their lands. It needs to be point out that regardless of the strong enactments with regard to the land re-establishment, there have been reported occurrence of land seizing by non-tribes. It is one of the foundation of bondage. In the absence of land, the poor is mortgaged as a bonded labour. This hostility and indebtedness over the years has been the only main source of the severe backwardness of the tribal economy. The predicament of indebtedness should be resolved without delay. This problem will have to be deal with more profoundly from all apprehension to defend the welfare of the tribes.

➤ **Health-** Tribes are mostly going through from very pitiable situation in terms of cleanliness, scarcity, and want for safe drinking water which results in the various health issues. The most important cause for the tribes not availing the health care services is the inaccessibility of these services. Most of them still prefer for their traditional mode of health treatment rather opt for going to health clinics or hospitals. Tribal women feel shy to go to the doctor and therefore rely on their local treatment for most of their diseases. Their lack of concern to the modern health care facilities leads to their deteriorating health conditions. Poor child delivery and deplorable nourishment standards causes high IMR (Infant mortality rate) and MMR (Maternal mortality rate). Poor awareness of HIV/AIDS also multifariously affect tribal's health and development problems. To make them aware of the modern facilities started by the government, provision of mobile clinics should be started to serve to the requirements of the tribal society on a continuous basis every month on a particular date.

➤ **Gender issues and their problem-** The group that are still considered secondary and underprivileged group in tribal society are the tribal women. Gender impartiality with in tribal groups is a multifaceted event that requires to be tackled in the perspective of a variety of questions of tribal existence. Like any other society, in tribal society also the infringement of the rights of a girls is widespread and this widen to the entire stretch from infanticide to overlook to manual labour to *trafficking*, abduction and ultimately finish by her demise. Important societal determinants that leads to these type of practices towards women and girls and their exploitation include poverty, lack of effective policy and their successful and strict enforcement. So the need is to empowering the women. Empowerment consist of elevated literacy levels, education, improved healthcare, equivalent possession of productive assets, improved contribution in economic and commercial area, wakefulness of rights and responsibilities, enhanced standards of living, self-sufficiency, self respect and self-confidence. To elevate the position of tribal women is not just an ethical necessity but also a strategic one

➤ **Socio-economic problem:** - Bulk of the tribal people persists to be deprived in varying extent. Despite of the pre-eminent endeavour made by the Government of India through planning, execution and spending crores of rupees on tribal welfare programmes, the real benefit of development have not reached to the poorer section of tribal communities. Isolation and non-participation of tribes in development programmes by themselves leads to non development to a great extent and that is the major reason of their socio economic problems. So the Government as well as executing agencies must focus on the importance of their participation in the development process. They must not be at the receiving end only for getting the benefits like doles. Rather they themselves participate in the development process engaging in self management rather to depend upon the administration.

➤ **Lack of Assets:** - Tribes are basically asset less and their relative share in rural assets show a decline. Land reforms which were expected to enhance the assets of the landless, which corresponds to the improvement of the circumstances of the underprivileged, are moving at the snail speed. Deprived of education and assets they are neither able to make any good for themselves nor opt out of the occupational slots in which they are born.

The collective effect of all these –scarcity in the field of education, assets, employment opportunities, institutional credits and services on fair terms----is impoverishment.

So it is very significant to understand the causes and barriers that came in the middle of their development and empowerment. There are lack of wakefulness amid tribal inhabitants regarding numerous developmental and advancing schedule instigated by Center and State governments, that proceed to their oppression and exploitation. Regardless of the efforts taken by the Government, the actually deprived underprivileged people are not getting the remuneration. The fundamental dilemma is not of the scarceness of assets but that of unprofessional conduct by the executing agency as well as of the government.

Conclusion

For the empowerment of tribals, remarkable advancement is expected about the allocation of authority to the grassroots level of the tribal society. Intellectuals have articulated grave uncertainties regarding the tribal developmental programmes which are lacking synchronization and timely execution. The administration is also first and foremost accountable for the unsuccessful accomplishment of the tribal development programmes. The reality is that the weakest bond in the series of the entire process of tribal development and empowerment is the execution element. The tribal development agenda unable to put into practice effectively with the existing strict and multifarious structure of various developmental agencies. In the midst of the tribes, the supposed ancient tribal faction is enormously weak. They are still living in solitude and their life style illustrate modest transformation over the years. The fact is that, the economically and politically powerful people within the tribal communities are the only one that are getting the the largest part of the policy benefits.

There is no technical observance and assessment of tribal development strategy by the Government agencies in India. Efficient mechanism has not been set up at grassroots stage, provincial and nationwide level to guarantee that the tribal development benefits get into the associates of the target groups.

The need of the hour is to follow the multi dimensional approach to tribal development and their empowerment. There is no other option rather a dire need of the variety of schemes for tribal population in India. Policies and programmes for the tribal growth have to be constantly assessed and improved all through the nation. The tribes should by no means be assumed as sheer beneficiary of the remuneration rather they needed to be actively involved in the course of tribal development. Genuine tribal development and

empowerment would necessitate that tribal communities should themselves be engaged in self-management rather than completely depending on the management.

References

Anbuselvi . G. & Leeson . P.John (2015) “ Education of tribal children in India a case study”, International Journal of Advanced and Innovative Research (2278-7844) ,Volume 4, Issue 3

Alex . N. , “A study on the challenges faced by the tribal youth with specific reference to Nandimanagalam in Poondi block,Tamilnadu”, IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science, e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.

Ali· S. & Akter .T.(2014) “Gender development and the status of tribal women: a study of Tripura”, tui A journal on Tribal life & Culture , Volume: 18, No: 02. ,ISSN- 2319-7382

Borogaon. X. & Das.A. (2018) “ Impact of Globalization on Tribal Communities with special references to Coochbehar District of West Bengal”, International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews , Volume 5 ,Issue 3 , e ISSN 2348 –1269, Print ISSN 2349-5138

De. K.(2017) “Health Awareness Among Tribes of Rural India” Journal of Molecular and Genetic Medicine, ISSN:1747-0862.1000244

Gupta. A & Paul S. K.(2017) “Demonetisation and tribal livelihood: Some ground level realities from Birbhum district of West Bengal”, Jharkhand Journal of Development and Management Studies , Vol. 15, No.2, pp. 7283-7295

Guha. S & Ismail. Md.(2015) “ Socio-Cultural Changes of Tribes and Their Impacts on Environment with Special Reference to Santhal in West Bengal”, Global journal of interdisciplinary social sciences , Vol.4(3):148-156 ,ISSN: 2319-8834

Goswami. S.(2017) “Human Trafficking: A Sociological Study on Tribal Women of Jharkhand”, Global Journal of human-social science, Online ISSN: 2249-460x & Print ISSN: 0975-587X, Volume 17, Issue 4

Government of India. “Ministry of tribal affairs statistics division, Statistical profile of scheduled tribes in India”, (2013)

Lal. S, & Devanna. S.(2016) “Socio-economic development of primitive tribes: an empirical study in Adilabad district”, International Journal of Information Research and Review Vol. 03, Issue, 10, pp. 2951-2956

L.C Jain (1981) “ Emancipation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :Some suggestions”, Economic and Political weekly, Vol 16 , No. 9 pp (325 -332)

Naik. K .C. (2017) “A critical analysis of government policies and educational development in rural India”, National Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development ISSN: 2455-9040, Volume 2, Issue 3,P. No.67-76

Naik. R. (2017) “An Overview of Tribal Development in India: Problems and Prospects” Paripex Indian journal of research, Volume-6, issue-6, ISSN - 2250-1991

Patel. A. et al. (2014) “Perception regarding gender bias in tribal community of Tapi district of South Gujarat, Western India”, Open Access Journal ,p ISSN 0976 3325,eISSN 2229- 6816

S. Ranjit (2006) “Scheduled Tribe Bill: For Whom and for What?” , Economic and Political weekly, Vol 41, No. 48 pp (5009-5011)

Sarkar. B. C.(2017) “ Impact of modernisation on economy of tribal people living in Dooar”, International Journal of Research in Geography ,Volume 3, Issue 4, PP 21-26, ISSN 2454-8685 (Online)

Swamy.D. Muni (2015) ,“ Impact of tribal welfare and development programmes on the scheduled tribes: A Study of Ananthapuram district”, International journal of applied research; 1(13): 512-517, ISSN Print: 2394-7500, ISSN Online: 2394-5869

Santhosam. M.A. & Samuel. U. (2013) ,“ A Study on the Health Status of Elderly Irular Tribal Women in Kancheepuram District”, IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science ,ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845, Volume 7, Issue 2, PP 01-04

Virginus Xaxa (1999) “Transformation of Tribes in India : Terms of Discourse”, Economic and Political weekly, Vol. 34 , No. 24 , pp (1519-1524)

Virginus Xaxa (2001)“ Protective Discrimination: Why Scheduled Tribes Lag behind Scheduled Castes”, Economic and Political weekly , Vol 36 , No. 29 , pp (2765-2772)

Virginus Xaxa (2005) “ Politics of Language ,Religion and Identity :Tribes in India”,Economic and Political weekly, Vol 40, No. 13, pp (1363-1370)