



# AWARENESS OF TRIBES ABOUT NUCLEUS BUDGET SCHEME WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NANDURBAR DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA

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**Research Guide**

**Abstract:** Human social groups known as tribes primarily reside in forested areas and depend on agriculture and animal hunting for their subsistence. Their cultural practices, religious beliefs, and traditions are vastly dissimilar from those of other people. They are referred to as "Aboriginals" or "Adivasi". India's indigenous population is an integral aspect of the country's population and culture. There are over 67.80 million tribes that are officially recognized in the country, making up 8.08 percent of the total population. Under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the federal and state governments purchased various development plans and schemes to help the tribes people live better lives and adopt a more modern way of life. The purpose of the Tribal Development Plan (TDP) is to proactively address tribal challenges and offer culturally appropriate

**Index Terms -** Tribal people, Tribal societies, Awareness level, Nucleus Budget Scheme.

## INTRODUCTION

A tribe is an autonomous group that is cohesive and lacks classification; they typically reside in groups and collaborate within a common geographic area. A tribe is characterized by shared territory, religion, dialect, culture, and ancestry. They are the ethnic ancestral division of old civilization and possess a strong sense of solidarity. The chief serves as the tribe's leader. Every tribe is equal and has its own political structure. They guarantee richness and diversity in culture. These tribes have had a variety of lifestyles over the ages. Because they mainly reside in rural areas and are often found in mountains and forests, they are significantly distinct from the overall population of the planet.

**Tribes in India:** - Tribes are the largest ethnic group in the world and hold a significant role in the Indian population. India has the second-largest population in the world and the most concentrated tribal community in Asia (Upreti, 2007). Usually referred to as Adivasis, which means indigenous people or original residents, they are the oldest ethnic group and the first settlers on the Indian Peninsula. When the entire corpus of Epic and Vedic literature is taken into account, their distinct socio-cultural contours make up roughly 10.87% of data from the medieval and ancient eras (GOI, NSSO, Primary Data, 2009–10). The most vulnerable people in India are those belonging to tribes. In addition to environmental concerns, some of the oldest social and cultural disabilities are being used against them. The ancient tribes were severely isolated from the nation's socioeconomic development due to their

exploitation and persecution. The tribes have been able to preserve their rich customs, wisdom, and indigenous expertise in agriculturally related activities thanks to their separation from the main streams of Indian life. Every tribe belonging to a certain language family resides in a particular geographic area. The following five regions are home to the native tribes.

1. The Himalayas, which include the hills of Uttar Pradesh and the states of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Himachal Pradesh.
2. Central India, encompassing Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. Here are found the homes of about 55% of India's indigenous inhabitants.
3. The Western India belt, which consists of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
4. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh are all part of the Dravidian area.
5. Lakshadweep and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### Tribes in Maharashtra :

The area under the Tribal Sub Plan in Maharashtra is 50,757 sq. kms., as against the total Geographical area of 3,07,713 sq. kms. of the State. This works out to about 16.5 percent of the geographical area of the State. The comparative figures of the State's population and the tribal population in the last four-decades censuses are given below: -

Census Year	State's Total Population (lakh)	Tribal Population (lakh)	Percentage
1971	504.12	38.41	7.62
1981	627.84	57.72	9.19
1991	789.37	73.18	9.27
2001	968.79	85.77	8.85
2011	1123.74	105.10	9.35

Source: DISTRICT CENSUS HANDBOOK NANDURBAR 2011

The aforementioned population statistics unequivocally demonstrate that, between 2001 and 2011, the tribal population's share of the State's overall population remained relatively stable at approximately 9%. The Bhils, Gonds, Mahadeo Kolis, Pawras, Thakurs, and Varlis are the principal tribes in Maharashtra. The Government of India has designated three tribes as Primitive Tribes: the Kolams (Yavatmal District), the Katkaris (mostly in the districts of Thane and Raigad), and the Madia Gonds (Gadchiroli District). The State is divided into 36 Districts, with the majority of the tribal population living in the eastern forest Districts of Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, and Nashik, and in the western hilly Districts of Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Nashik, Thane, and Palghar (Sahyadri Region).

### Tribes in Nandurbar :

The district of Nandurbar was established on July 1, 1998. There are six talukas in the Nandurbar district: Navapur, Shahada, Taloda, Akrani (Dhadgaon), and Akkalkuwa. This taluka is home to the tribal groups of Bhill, Pawra, Dhanka, Gavit, Mawchi, and Konka. As to the 2011 census, the district of Nandurbar has 16 lakh residents. Tribals make up 69% of the population. Because of its high tribal population, Nandurbar district is ranked fourth in the state.

### Review of literature:

In their case study on the availability of information needs for tribal farmers, Jalaja and Kala (2015) noted that the largest proportion of the population (39.70%) is in the 51–60 age group, followed by 35.10% in the 41–50 age group, 13.70% in the 31–40 age group, 6.90% in the 21–30 age group, and 4.60% in the 61 years and older. This indicates that the majority of elderly farmers work in agriculture.

According to Wadekar et al. (2016), of the tribal farmers surveyed, two-thirds (66.66%) fell into the "middle-aged" category, while 16.67% fell into the "senior" and "youth" categories, respectively. The respondents' average age was fifty-one.

According to Hemasrikumar and Athena's (2017) research, the gender gap in the general population is reflected in the sex ratio. Men are favored in the sex ratio. There are 654 women and 1,000 men in the range. The Kota tribe has a lower male dependency rate (31.60%) than that of women, with women outnumbering men.

According to Parvez et al. (2016), roughly 23.55% of tribal members have completed high school, while the remainder are illiterate or just have completed middle school. According to Hemasrikumar and Athena (2017), over 67.40% of men and 35.50% of women have completed their high school education. One percent of men and ninety-three percent of women desert.

According to Gour et al. (2015), 89.33 percent of tribal livestock owners were laborers, and farming provided just 8.67 percent of the respondents' income. However, 1.33% of respondents worked with animals. Tribes were primarily employed as laborers. However, all tribal households kept animals as a secondary occupation.

According to Parvez et al. (2016), the majority of recipients (49.33%) supported their family through farming and other occupations.

Around 50% of the tribes have average understanding of animal husbandry, according to Jiji and Vijayan (2012), and more respondents fell into the low-level category (32.14%) than the high-level category (17.86%). The majority of interviewers (69.64%) know something about goat breeding in general. Compared to those in the low-knowledge category (8.93%), there are more respondents in the high-knowledge category (21.43%). Few tribes (19.64%) showed a high level of understanding of chicken husbandry, with about equal numbers falling into the low (41.07%) and medium (39.29%) categories.

According to Tochwang and Rewani (2013), Mizoram's pig rearing industry is unique since it is deeply ingrained in the social and cultural lives of the state's indigenous population. Most families in Mizoram rear pigs in their backyards.

According to Satish Kumar (2019), (52.50%) of the tribes own no land, whereas (7.5%) farmers hold two acres, (10%) farmers own three acres, (5%) farmers own four acres, and (12.5%) farmers own eight acres

### Research Methodology:

Research methodology, also known as the science of systematic research, is a strategy for methodically solving research problems. It outlines the different stages researchers use to solve problems and provides an explanation for each step. According to the study's goal, the study's focus was on the "Awareness level of tribes about Nucleus Budget schemes-with special reference to Nandurbar district in Maharashtra." The Nandurbar district in Maharashtra was specifically picked due to its large percentage of tribal populations. Furthermore, consideration was given to the researchers' acquaintance with the regional dialects and local culture. In this study, the ex-post facto research design was employed by taking into account the type and purpose of information that was required.

A pretested and well-structured interview schedule was used to gather the data and 20 tribes of the Bhill community—10 from **Kakarpati**, 10 from **Kakarda**, and the rest 20 tribes of Pawara living in **Chulwad** in Akrani (Dhadgaon) Taluka—were chosen at random. Appropriate statistical instruments, including frequency and percentage analysis, were used to conduct the analysis.

**Results and Discussion:**

The government has set out Rs. 12461.88 crores for the 2022–2023 Comprehensive Tribal Development Programme (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2021–2022). Through the ITDP for Tribal Development, this program carries out land development initiatives, training skills, road building, GTR school improvement, economic development programs, and Katcha house and school improvement.

*Table 1. The data regarding the profile characteristics of tribes were analyzed using percentage analysis of Bhil and Pawara tribes*

Characteristics	Category	Respondents (n=40)	
		Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age	15	37.50
	Middle age	10	25.00
	Old age	15	37.50
Gender	Male	24	60.00
	Female	16	40.00
Education	Illiterate	4	10.00
	Functionally literate	0	0
	Primary school education	5	12.50
	Middle school education	11	27.50
	Secondary school education	15	37.50
	Collegiate education	5	12.50
Occupational status	Farming + wage earners	30	75.00
	Farming + Business	5	12.50
	Farming + Services	5	12.50
Livestock possession (Buffalo)	Up to Rs.40000	15	37.50
	40000-247000	19	47.50
	Above 247000	6	15.00
Land holdings	Up to 24.33 cents	15	37.50
	24.33 – 305.13	20	50.00
	Above 305.13	5	12.50
Annual income	Up to Rs.50,000	13	32.50
	50,000-1,00,000	19	47.50
	Above 1,00,000	8	20.00

Although free education is offered, only 5% of respondents have completed their secondary education. The majorities of interviewees (60%) are male and belong to both young and old age groups. Of those who have completed secondary school, 15% are illiterate. Approximately 75% of the tribes earned their living on estates and other plantations, whereas 12.50% conducted business and the remaining 12.50% provided services. However, the majority of tribes obtained a minimum of 37.50%, a middle of 47.50%, and a maximum of 15% of cattle (Buffalo) in each home. Every tribe managed its animals in the same way as it practiced agriculture; 37.50% of respondents had less land than this. minimum of 37.50%, medium of 50%, and maximum of 12.50%; grown fruits and vegetables include strawberries, tamarindo, pear, plum, peach, and orange; veggies include carrot, potato, cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli. With an average yearly income of 47.50%, lower than (32.50%) and higher than (20.00%), and minimum and maximum land holdings of (37.50% and 12.50%), respectively.

Table 2. Awareness level of various government development initiatives

	Components	Frequency	Percentage %
Provision of basic amenities	Construction of houses	40	100
	Issuance of Free House Site Pattas	25	62.50
	Construction of road facilities	27	67.50
	Burial Grounds and Pathways	28	70
	Financial Assistance for Funeral Rites	38	95
	Supply of drinking water	40	100
	Free electricity	37	92.50
Educational development	Accessibility of Government Tribal Residential Schools(GTRs)	30	75
	Availability of Special Hostels for Tribal Students	23	57.50
	Availability of Special Hostels for Tribal Students	23	57.50
	Provision of Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarships	23	57.50
	Free education till 12 <sup>th</sup> standard to all	24	60
	Free Supply of Books, Note Books, Slates, Special Guides, Uniforms and Bicycles.	32	80
	Concession in Tuition fee, Special fee and Examination fee are extended.	36	90
Generation of employment	Conducting special trainings under TAHDCO	33	82.50
	Provision of Beehive boxes	40	100
	Construction of check dam for irrigation facility	24	60
indebtedness	Short term loans for raising crops	32	80
	Medium term loans for purchase of agricultural equipment	18	45
	Long term loans for sinking new wells	39	97.50
Health care	“Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme”	40	100
	Mobile hospital	40	100
	Insurance Scheme for Life Saving Treatments	18	45
	Construction of primary health centres	25	62.50
Comprehensivetribal development programme	Renovation and repairing of damaged houses	27	67.50
Vocational guidelines center	Guidance class for tribal youth for carrier development	28	70

From Table 2, it can be inferred that while everyone is aware that houses are being built, only 62.50 percent of the tribes provide free housing pattas. Every community has roads built up to the houses; however only 67.50% of respondents knew that development programs included road amenities. Although 70% of people are aware that burial sites and paths are among the most essential amenities, most villages have burial grounds that are hours' walk from their colonies. The majority of people—about 95%—are aware that family members can receive benefits from the government after they pass away. Since access to safe drinking

water is the most basic of human rights, all respondents (100%) expressed awareness of and satisfaction with the provided services. Every home receives 100 units of free electricity from the electrical board, and 92.50% of tribes are aware of this.

Even though 75% of respondents were aware of GTR schools, their kids were enrolled in private schools. Even though the residential hostels are located distant from each village, half of the tribes (57.50%) do not know about the hostels' amenities. The same is true for scholarships; while 57.50% of the kids receive them, some parents are not aware of this. The primary problem with the indigenous people is that, because the high schools are located distant from their villages, after eighth grade they quit attending school and start working as wage laborers in estates and industries. Just 60% of tribe members are aware that education is free up until the 12th grade, while 90% of interviewees are aware that there are financial aid options for higher education. Eighty percent of the tribes are aware that free slates, books, bicycles, laptops, and uniforms are available.

Eighty-two percent of tribes are aware that the government is helping them create jobs in villages by offering training through the Maharashtra Tribal Development department. The government provides beehives to those who practice the primary vocation of the primitive tribes, which is collecting and rearing honey; all of the tribes are aware of this. The primary source of income for these tribes is agriculture; roughly 60% of them are aware of the building of check dams and irrigation systems, 80% are aware of short-term loans, but only 45% of tribal farmers are aware of the subsidies offered for the purchase of agricultural equipment. Since every community has access to wells for drinking, irrigation, and other domestic needs, 97.50% of the population is aware of this.

Every month, doctors and nurses travel by mobile ambulance to each hamlet to assess the health and other situations of the tribes, as the majority of them suffer from sickle cell anemia, hypertension, and malnourishment. Only 45% of tribal societies are aware that the central and state governments offer insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakhs to every tribal household under the CM-CHIS program. Of the respondents, almost 62.50 percent are aware that there are primary health centers in every town.

The majority of tribes have submitted applications for the repair of damaged homes, although only 67.50% of tribes are aware of the program. For the purpose of creating jobs, both educated and uneducated young in each village are given access to vocational guidelines and trainings in fields such as police training, yoga, spoken English, welding, mechanics, and so forth. Approximately 70% of the tribes are aware of these programs and make good use of them.

#### **Suggestions:**

- Having more meetings and informing the tribes about the advantages can raise awareness among them.
- Consistent monitoring of expectant mothers to address and overcome malnutrition
- Annual surveys are conducted in the villages to identify school dropouts and encourage them to resume their studies, as the majority of the tribes are not aware that free education is available up to the Ph.D. level.
- Providing health education to the tribes by health functionaries about the nutrition and food habits that must be followed for a good health and retrieve from mal nutrition.

#### **Conclusion:**

The state of affairs in India's tribal regions is appalling. Natural resources are typically destroyed in tribal communities, which push indigenous people into poverty. There are tribal regions and ethnic groupings in states near the bottom of the Human Development Index table. The fundamental truth that indigenous Indians are the poorest people on the planet. Tribal areas in India are the least developed, and the primary problems are debt, land acquisition, and the utilization of material and financial resources. Approximately 65% of tribal people live below the poverty line.

The majority of tribal people are aware of the government's welfare programs and benefits that are meant to help them improve their quality of life and livelihood, but they can be obtained or enhanced by holding awareness campaigns and training sessions.

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