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## TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIA: AN APPRAISAL

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## ABSTRACT

Presently, development of tribal people is an important field of inquiry both at the national and international level. Further, a large number of NGO's actively support and campaigning for the development of tribal people. In the same line, year 1993 was declared international year for world's indigenous people by united states. In India, about 8.28 per cent of total population belongs to schedule tribes and living mainly in rural areas (census 2011). These people have their own culture and majority of them live below poverty line. Majority of them are depend upon agriculture and treated as agriculture slave. Further, due to remote areas these people have low density of population and have lack of basic infrastructure facilities like roads communication, education and health care. After taken into account above mentioned hurdles faced by the tribal people and to highlight the socio-economic scenario, government efforts and schemes for development of these people this research paper has been planned.

## KEYWORDS

tribal, entrepreneurship, geographical location, schemes, & infrastructure facilities.

## INTRODUCTION

The terms 'indigenous' and 'tribal' are used as synonymous for practical purpose. Indigenous peoples are those who have historical continuity in particular territories and they consider themselves different from people lived in their territories as a result of colonial effects. Due to non-dominant part of society they now struggle to preserve, develop and transit their territories to their future generations. These people have their own legal system, social institution and cultural patterns. Further, according to Oxford Dictionary, "a tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding them as having a common ancestor".

According to Ralph Linton, "tribe is a group of bands occupying a contiguous territory, or territories and having a feeling of unity deriving from numerous similarities in a culture, frequent contacts and a certain community of interests".

Presently, development of tribal people is an important field of inquiry both at the national and international level. Further, a large number of NGO's actively support and campaigning for the development of tribal people. In the same line, year 1993 was declared international year for world's indigenous people by united states. India is also known for its large number of tribal people. In India, about 8.28 per cent of total population belongs to schedule tribes and living mainly in rural areas (census 2011). Due to socio-economic backwardness of these communities a large number of exploitative elements have usurped them.

To protect and the development of these people Indian constitution contains as many as 20 articles and two special schedules. As per article 46 of part (IV) of Indian constitution it is responsibility of state to "promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the schedule castes and scheduled tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation". But over the year it has been experienced that, most of the tribal communities have faced the problems like lack of education and employment opportunities, sexual abuse, exploitation, displacement and misappropriation of wages. Further, the only solution to above mentioned problems are uniform growth of all sections of the society. The major concern of the Indian government since independence is development of the tribal population in India. Further, tribal people are mainly living in villages and solely depend upon agriculture and its allied products. The development of rural industries can solve this problem up to the large extent. Entrepreneurship as the backbone of economic development can be used to increase the standard of living of tribal people (Mohanty and Sahu, 2015). A large number of studies, at both national and international level have been conducted to highlight the conditions of both lower castes and tribal people. Iyer, Khanna & Varshney, (2011) in their working paper highlighted the scenario of caste and entrepreneurship in India. In their paper, they opined that lower castes have risen in Indian politics. They revealed that there are substantial caste differences in entrepreneurship across India. Moreover, both schedule castes and schedule tribes are significantly under-represented in the ownership of enterprises and employment opportunities. They conclude that during the year 1990 to 2005 these differences have been decreased very modestly. Mohanty and Sahu,(2015) in their paper opined that social justice to the tribal people has been a big challenge for Indian government since independence. These people are considered deprived section of the society and faced social exploitation. They found that tribal people are ecologically, economically and educationally weakest section of Indian society. They conclude that rural industrialization is the effective men to accelerate the growth of rural economy in India. Tripathi, (2014) in his study recognized that the entrepreneurship is the backbone of economic development of country like India. He opined that it is misconception that entrepreneurship quality is inborn. However, this quality can be developed through proper training. He emphasized that if this quality developed in tribal people with the help of proper training, large number of problems associated with this section of society can be handled easily. The study concluded that entrepreneurship development programs must be formulated and implemented by Indian government for tribal development. Further, Mohapatra and Sahu, (2012) in their paper explained that socio-economic development of tribal people can only be possible with the help of promotion of entrepreneurship development. They highlighted that as a poor section of society tribal people depends upon forest and agriculture for their livelihood. The authors examine that cultivation of Sabai grass and its processing of consumer goods prove to be a beneficial entrepreneurial activity for tribal people.

## CONCEPT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TRIBAL PEOPLE IN INDIA

"Entrepreneurship is neither a science nor an art. It is a practice. It has a knowledge base. Knowledge in entrepreneurship is a means to an end. Indeed, what constitutes knowledge in practice is largely defined by the ends, that is, by the practice".

Peter Drucker

The word entrepreneurship derived from French word entrepreneur that refers to those people who undertook the risk of new-enterprise. These are the continuous actions taken by the entrepreneur to start a new enterprise. It is a multi dimensional task for profit generation includes adventurism, risk-taking, thrill seeking and innovation. Moreover, the concept of entrepreneurship is very beneficial for country like India where about two third of population are living in rural areas out of which 75 per cent of the labour force is still earning its livelihood from agriculture (Monanty and Sahu, 2015). But land as a limited resource cannot provide employment to large number of people and country as a whole. Further, agriculture and agriculture based products is the main source upon which tribal people depends. But it only provides them partial employment. Industrial development is essential to provide them full time employment opportunities. However, to establish industries in tribal areas are big challenge because most of tribal areas in India are hilly and coincide with the forests. Further, due to remote areas these people have low density of population and have lack of basic infrastructure facilities like roads communication, education and health care. After taken into account above mentioned hurdles faced by the tribal people and to highlight the socio-economic scenario and government efforts and schemes for development of these people this research paper has been planned. The main objectives of the study are as under:

- To study the socio-economic and personal characteristics of the tribes in India.
- To highlight policy framework and schemes for the development of tribal entrepreneurs.
- To examine the problems faced by the tribal entrepreneurs.
- To give suggestion for tribal entrepreneur development.

**TRIBAL PEOPLE IN INDIA-AN OVERVIEW**

India as a home of large number of tribal people consist geographical, educational, cultural and socio-economical diversity among tribal peoples. There are approximately two hundred million tribal people in the entire globe, which means about four per cent of the global population (Mohanty & Sahu, 2015). In India, out of total population 104 million people are tribal which constitute 52 per cent of global tribal population and 8.6 per cent of total population (census 2011). These people have their own culture and majority of them live below poverty line. Moreover, these people are unorganized and ignored, and having very few basic infrastructure facilities. Due to their socio-cultural and economic background these people entirely cutoff from main stream. Majority of them are depend upon agriculture and treated as agriculture slave. In India, tribal people are lived in 30 states/UTs. These people have their own languages and as per census 2011 at present in India total number of languages are 122. Out of which 100 are non- scheduled and 100 are scheduled. The total number of schedule tribe in India is 705. India is land of cultural diversity and these tribes are reflection of our culture. However, these people have their own problems which are different from their own groups and even from area to area.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL PEOPLE**

The tribal people are lived in different part of the country. At present they are located in a wide central belt ranging from the Aravli hills in the west extending into part of Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Orrisa, Bihar, West Bengal and the North East states. In the north, they are concentrated in the southern ranges of Himalaya and in the South, in the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats and also in the Vindhya and Satpura ranges (First Five Year Plan). On the basis of their economic, social and geographical attributes these people can be distributed in following regions:

**TABLE 1: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL PEOPLE IN INDIA**

	<b>NORTH-EASTERN REGION</b>	<b>HIMALAYAN REGION</b>	<b>CENTRAL INDIA REGION</b>	<b>WESTERN INDIA REGION</b>	<b>SOUTHERN INDIA REGION</b>	<b>ISLAND REGION</b>
<b>States</b>	-Arunachal Pradesh -Assam -Manipur -Meghalaya - Mizoram -Nagaland -Sikkim -Tripura	-North Bengal -Uttar Pradesh -Himachal Pradesh - Jammu and Kashmir	-Bihar -Orissa - Madhya Pradesh -West Bengal	-Rajasthan -Gujarat -Maharashtra -Goa -Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-Andhra Pradesh -Tamil nadu - Kamataka - Kerala	-Andaman and Nicobar, - Lakshdweep
<b>Name of Tribes</b>	-Abors -Dafla -Garos - Khasis - Kukis - Mizos - Mikirs -Mishmis -Nagas	-Garos -Lepchas -Asurs - Loharas - Bhotias - Tharus - Rajis - Gaddis -Gujjars	-Bhumijs -Gonds -Hos -Oraons -Mundas -Kondh -Saoras -Baigas -Santals	-Bhils	-Chenchus -Koyas -Kadars -Kotas -Kurubas -Todas -Irulasn	-Andmanese -Onge -Sentinelese -Jarawas -Shompens

(Samal, A.2001)

Further, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh are the area where number of tribal people is nil. On the basis of geographical area state-wise distribution of tribal population in India is given as under.

**TABLE 2: TRENDS IN PROPORTION OF SCHEDULE TRIBE POPULATION IN INDIA**

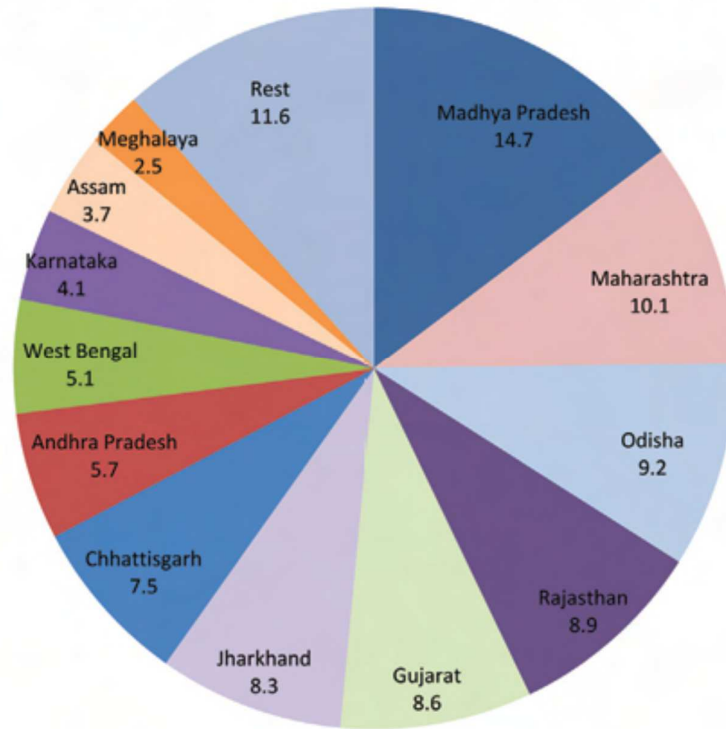
<b>Census Year</b>	<b>Total population (in millions)</b>	<b>Scheduled Tribes Population (in millions)</b>	<b>Proportion of STs population</b>
1961	439.2	30.1	6.9
1971	547.9	38.0	6.9
1981	665.3	51.6	7.8
1991	838.6	67.8	8.1
2001	1028.6	84.3	8.2
2011	1210.8	104.3	8.6

Source: www.trible.nic.in

As per table-2, in the year 1961, the ST population was 6.9 per cent of total population which increased up to 8.6 per cent in the year 2011. Tribal population in India was 104.3 million which constitute 8.6 per cent of total population. Most of them live in rural area. As per census 2011, out of 104.3 million tribal people, 89.97 per cent lived in rural area and 10.03 per cent live in urban area. The decade growth rate of tribal population from the year 2001 to 2011 increased from 17.69 per cent to 23.66 per cent.

Further, state-wise distribution of tribal population is give under diagram-1

**DIAGRAM 1**  
**G1.2: Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population by States - 2011 (In %)**



Source: www.trible.nic.in

Geographically, ST population concentrated mainly in two areas i.e. central India and seven sister’s state. About 72.87 per cent tribal population of India lives in central Indian states namely Madhya Pradesh (14.69%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Jharkhand (8.29%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), Maharashtra (10.08%), Orissa (9.2%), Gujarat (8.55%) and Rajasthan (8.86%). The seven sister states are namely (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh).

**EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PATTERN OF TRIBAL POPULATION IN INDIA**

Development of tribal people in India has two extreme. These people earned their livelihood from food gathering to industrial labour. Due to overlapping of these two economic stages their economy is called subsistence type. Moreover, the main feature of tribal economy is self-sufficiency, unstructured and non-specialize. Even with in India, area wise some of the tribal community is far ahead from other i.e. tribal people in North-East. These people are known for their modern agriculture techniques and industrial societies. But above all these people have very less interaction with education facility which directly hampers their growth. Due to illiteracy and lack of skills their participation in industrial sector and economy development is very less. Their present employment and education scenario in India is given under Table-2 and Table-3 respectively.

**TABLE 3: COMPARATIVE LITERACY RATES OF STs AND TOTAL POPULATION IN INDIA (in percent)**

Category / Census Year	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Total Population	28.3	34.45	43.57	52.21	64.84	72.99
Scheduled Tribes	8.53	11.30	16.35	29.60	47.10	58.96
Gap	19.77	18.15	19.88	22.61	18.28	14.03

Source: www.trible.nic.in

As per table-3, the literacy rate of schedule tribes in the year 2011 was 58.96 per cent as compare to 8.53 per cent in the year 1961. However, the literacy rate of total population was 72.99 per cent in the year 2011 as compare to 28.3 per cent in the year 1961. The gap between schedule tribes literacy rate to total population literacy rate reduced from 19.77 per cent in the year 1961 to 14.03 per cent in the year 2011. The main reason behind increased literacy rate of tribal population is several schemes introduced by both state and central government. Further, employment scenario of both rural and urban tribal household is given as under.

**TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT SCENARIO OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL GROUPS IN INDIA (Per 1000 distribution)**

Social Group	Household Type				
	Self Employed (SE) in Agriculture	Non-Agriculture	Rural Labour (RL) Agriculture	Non-Agriculture	Others
ST	370	70	334	131	95
ALL	319	155	256	148	122

Source: www.trible.nic.in

It is clear from above table that the majority of tribal population who lives in rural areas mainly engaged in agricultural activities for their livelihood. No matters whether they belongs to self employed group or rural labour.

TABLE 5: EMPLOYMENT SCENARIO OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL GROUPS IN INDIA (Per 1000 distribution)

Social Group	Household Type			
	Self Employed	Regular Wage/ Salaried (RWS)	Casual Labour	Others
ST	233	384	211	169
ALL	347	397	134	121

Source: www.trible.nic.in

As per Table-5, majority of urban tribal households belong to regular wage/salaried social group for earn their livelihood followed by self employed and casual labour social group respectively. So most of the schedule tribe people are engaged in agriculture labour and low wages labour work. The main reason behind this trend is lack of education and low level of skills. Further, due to higher drop out ratio their participation in higher education and higher level jobs is very less.

### PROBLEMS FACED BY TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN INDIA

As we all know tribal people are different from non tribal people socially and economically. These people have very conservative outlook and use outdated technology which fit with their circumstances. Some of the main characteristics of these people are as under:

- Distinctive Culture
  - Economic Backwardness
  - Geographical Isolation
  - Shyness to Contact
  - Primitive Traits
1. Pre-agricultural level of technology
  2. Declining and stagnant population
  3. Very low level of literacy rate

(Tribal Welfare and Development Report, 2014-15)

Due to above mentioned features of tribal community, these people faced number of problems in their entrepreneurial pursuits. Some of the main problems are as under:

- Socio-psychological backwardness
- Cultural handicaps
- Environmental issues
- Lack of organized efforts
- Exploitation by land owners and money lenders
- Poverty
- Higher drop-out ratios
- Lack of representative in higher education
- Lack of financial support
- Improper policy formulation and implementation

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES TO UPLIFT SCHEDULE TRIBES

For development and upliftment of tribal people several schemes are introduced by Indian government. Some of the main schemes are as under:

- Equity support to NSTFDC/STFDC
- DBT schemes for post matric scholarship, TOP class education, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship
- Research Training: Operational Guidelines for the scheme "Grants-in-Aid to TRIs"
- Scheme of Centers of Excellence.
- Guidelines for the Scheme "Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Product"
- Revised Guidelines for the Scheme MSP to MFP w.e.f. 31/10/2016
- Guidelines for the Scheme MSP to MFP
- Vocational Training Centre in Tribal Areas
- Schemes of Strengthening education among Scheduled Tribes Girls in a low literacy Districts
- Eklayva Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India
- Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan(SCA to TSP)
- Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas
- PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP (Class IX and X) w.e. f. 01-07-2012 : { NEW}
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hostels for ST boys and ST Girls
- Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students
- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Students
- National Overseas Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe Students
- Vocational Training Centers in Tribal Areas
- Up gradation of Merit of ST Students
- Top Class Education for ST Students

(Tribal Welfare and Development Report, 2014-15)

Further, to protect the interest of tribal community different laws and act are introduced. Some of these are as under:

1. Forest Rights Act,2006
2. Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995
3. Protection of Civil Rights Rules, 1977
4. SC/ST(Prevention of Atrocities)Rules,1995
5. SC/ST(Prevention of Atrocities) Acts 1989
6. PESA 1996
7. The Constitution (Eighty Ninth Amendment) Act, 2003

### NATIONAL SCHEDULE TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSTFDC)

For economic development of tribal people, National Schedule tribes finance and Development Corporation is set up under section 8 of Companies Act, 2013. NSTFDC is registered as Government Company under the act and managed by central government representatives, state channelizing agencies and industrial development bank of India. The corporation provides financial assistance to schedule tribal people for economic upliftment. This corporation directly helps to

produce tribal entrepreneurs. The main functions of NSTFDC are to generate awareness about schemes, to provide assistance for skill development and to provide finance at concessional rates for economic upliftment of schedule tribes. Major schemes by NSTFDC are as under:

1. Term Loan Scheme
  2. Adivasi Credit Schemes
  3. Micro Credit Schemes
  4. Adivasi Shiksharrinn Yojna
  5. Tribal Forest Dwellers Empowerment Schemes
  6. Assistance to TRIFED empanelled Artisans
- (Tribal Annual Report, 2015-16)

## CONCLUSION

As we see a large number of tribal people are lived in forest area with very few basic facilities like food, water, banks, transport system, medical, communication and education facilities. Further, these people are mainly depending upon forest and forest related businesses. But these days due to industrialization their land occupied by government and local bodies which directly creating a threat to their existence. Moreover, the main reasons behind such deteriorated condition of tribal people are their restricted access to modern society and their culture and taboos. Further, their ignorance is bliss for other world. Because of their ignorance modern people use them as their slaves and exploit them in every way. Due to their dependence on forest, it is the only source of their income. But this source is also controlled by outer world by restricting their free access to forest and forest related products. Their wages are also not fixed as per their labour. These things directly increase their hardship.

But for economic development of any country like India where large no of people are tribal, continuous neglect of a particular segment causes stagnation or violent actions by suppressed people. In fact, problems like malnutrition, poverty and starvation directly contribute to unrest to the country. Due to above mentioned problems, tribal people now demand for their separate statehood and self-government. Such activities directly impair the progress and peace of the society. In today's modern world, is this justifiable to put a particular segment in semi-bondage conditions. By taking their lands or their source of livelihood know these people are live like a land less laborers, construction workers and workers in the unorganized sectors. Further, government efforts in the form of protective laws, minimum wages act and prevention of land alienation acts are not very effective due to their non-enforcement. These laws have number of loopholes and used by non-tribal people for their own benefits.

So, to solve the problems related with tribal people first of all an attempt must be made to identify the main problems related with tribal administration. To understand the complexities of tribal world situation, it is essential to understand the structural, functional and behavioral relationships in their system. For the development of these people proper policies, programs and laws must be formulated and proper care must be taken while implementing these aforesaid efforts. Moreover, tribal people participation must make mandatory while formulating these policies. A check must be imposed on authorities who prevailed corruption and the leakage in the delivery system. As we all know tribal people are basically depending upon agriculture and agriculture based products. For development of tribal communities, their participation must be there in businesses those are directly related with agriculture. Both central and state governments can play crucial role in leading the tribal along the road of entrepreneurship. Local authority can equally participate in this direction. To work as an entrepreneur some qualities are inborn and some need to be developed. Further, for development of these qualities, training programs must be introduced. These schemes/programs must include training related with art, craft, tool and furniture making. After training qualities like risk, quick decision, innovation, investment decision and profit making attitude will directly develop. Both tribal and non-tribal people are depending upon each other for their day to day needs. Tribal people provide agriculture product like rice, maize, vegetables, spices, minor forest product, furniture, medicines and honey to non-tribal people. So these products provide certain agricultural based businesses to tribal. So by empowering them economically with the help of entrepreneurial development, the pace of development of country can directly increase.

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## WEBSITE

11. [www.tribe.nic.in](http://www.tribe.nic.in)

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