



TRIBAL SOCIETY IN MAHARASHTRA: CURRENT STATUS AND DEVELOPMENTAL POLICIES

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Abstract

In this research paper, the researcher discusses the present situation of the tribal community in Maharashtra, the development of the tribal community, the government intervention and its need for it, as well as the education, health, migration and rehabilitation of the tribes. According to the 2011 census, out of the total 47 tribal tribes in Maharashtra, Bhil, Gond, Mahadev Koli, Warli, Konkana and Thakur together constitute 73.3% of the total tribal population in Maharashtra. According to the 2011 census, the number of tribes in Maharashtra is 8.87% of the total population of the state, which is 15 million. Maharashtra is home to 5.1% of the country's tribal population.

Apart from the eastern states, Maharashtra is the second largest state in terms of tribal population after Madhya Pradesh. Collective way of life, collective decision making, growing as much as necessary, protecting the forest, one or more things are worth learning from the tribes. Tribal society has never taken a step against nature. Tribals live their lives according to the laws of nature. In this research paper, the researcher has reviewed the current situation of the tribal community in Maharashtra, the development of the tribal community, the government intervention for it and the Forest Rights Act.

Keywords: *Tribal, Developmental Policies, Displacement Tribal Forest Rights Act, Tribal Issues, Education, Health, Migration*



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Introduction:

Tribals are generally considered to be the original inhabitants of the region, far removed from modern culture. They are sparsely populated, usually in forests, in remote valleys, and in areas cut off from civilized communities. Characteristic customs or 'cultures' of urban culture are found among the tribals as well as those who have no contact with the class society. Of course, it cannot be said with certainty that all the tribes of the world are natives of that region. But in the absence of another universal term, the term tribal has

become the norm, referring to primitive culture. Many urban cultures emerged, but due to non-contact or non-contact, the tribal tribes remained the same.

They have not undergone special changes for thousands of years. Before turning to tribal issues, how many and where are the tribals in Maharashtra? Also, what conditions are they living in today? This is something to keep in mind. There are a total of 47 tribal tribes in Maharashtra. According to the 2011 census, Bhil, Gond, Mahadev Koli, Warli, Konkana and Thakur together account for 73.3% of the total tribals in Maharashtra. The highest number of Bhils is (21.2%), followed by Gond (18.1%), Mahadev Koli (14.3%), Warli (7.3%), Konkana (6.7%) and Thakur (5.7%) is the division of the population. There are a total of 19 tribal tribes in Maharashtra whose number is less than 1000. The Government of India has declared the three Adivasi tribes of Maharashtra as Primitive Tribes. These include Kolam (Yavatmal District), Katkari (Thane and Raigad District) and Madia Gond (Gadchiroli District). Tribals live in almost every state in India. According to the 2011 census, the number of tribals in Maharashtra is 8.87% of the total population of the state, which is 15 million.

Maharashtra is home to 5.1% of the country's tribal population. Apart from the eastern states, Maharashtra is the second largest state in terms of tribal population after Madhya Pradesh. Only about 1.5 million tribals live in urban areas in the state of Maharashtra. As a result, 90 lakh tribals are still living in rural and forest areas. There are 14 tribal districts in Maharashtra. The districts of Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Nanded, Nagpur, Gondia, Bhandara and Amravati (Gondwana division) in Vidarbha, while the districts of Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Nashik, Thane and Raigad (Sahyadri division) in Khandesh are mainly known as tribal districts.

Current status and problems of Tribals:

The people of Maharashtra have to accept that the tribals have an existence of their own. Even today there are good practices among the tribals. Collective way of life, collective decision making, growing as much as necessary, protecting the forest, one or more things are worth learning from the tribals. Tribal society has never taken a step against nature. Tribals live their lives according to the laws of nature. The tribals protected the forest at Kharraya. Worked to maintain balance. Tribals have knowledge about the use

of forests, plants, they should be preserved. Their festivals, celebrations, various rituals are celebrated without any harm to nature. There is no festival, celebration or ritual among the tribals that will cause noise, windfall cost, harm to others. Yet today's tribals are plagued by many problems due to wrong and inadequate development planning.

Extortion of tribals under forest protection laws:

The British enacted the Jungle Act to protect forests and wildlife. This automatically deprived the tribals of their right to the forest. The policy of the British rulers towards the tribals was to keep the tribals as they are. It was difficult for them to rule over the tribals.

One of the reasons behind this was the presence of tribals in remote areas. There are examples of tribals preventing the British from entering their area or forest. There are also many examples of tribals rebelling against the British. That is why the British made a 'legal' provision to prevent political awakening among the tribals and to prevent them from coming together. The "Forest Protection Act" of 1864 was introduced for this purpose. Under the pretext of protecting the forest, the British then started attacking the forest itself. Literally plundered the forest.

The extremist policy of the Forest Protection Act deprived the tribals of many of their traditional rights. Initially, the British started privatizing the communal land of the tribal village. By splitting their forests and lands, their means of subsistence were seized by the merchants. Lenders, contractors, brokers took advantage of their illiteracy, ignorance and weakness. Legislation has dragged them into the modern business economy, and they have run into a number of problems. This has led to many health problems such as extreme poverty, forced labor, migration, and malnutrition and child mortality. Complications grew in his life. Unfortunately for the tribals, even after independence, the forest law has not been amended as they want. Even the rulers did not give much thought to the tribals. The government alone decided to implement the policies without involving them in the policy-making process. In order to bring them into the 'mainstream' which they do not want, 'welfare' schemes were forced on them irrespective of their way of life. Since most of these schemes were for personal gain, their collective life process was hampered. As a result, these problems remain the same today after 70 years of independence.

Displacement:

India is the largest nation in the world in building the largest dam. Today, there are a total of 4291 large dams in India. Of these, 3596 dams have been completed so far and 695 dams are under construction. Between 6 and 6.5 crore people in India have been displaced due to major development projects. On an average, one million Indians are displaced every year. If anyone has paid the highest price for the development of our country, it is the tribals. This is because 90 per cent of the coal mines and about 50 per cent of the other minerals are in the tribal areas. In addition, forests and their based forest products (e.g. timber, medicinal plants, etc.) are also resources in tribal areas. Even though the number of tribals is 9% of the country, 55% of the total displaced are tribals. This figure is as far back as 1990, before the adoption of a free economic policy. After 1990, with the advent of free economic policy, the number of tribal IDPs increased. More than two crore tribals have been displaced in India (by 2015-16). How much has this benefited the tribals so far? So nothing. In 1993-94, 51.9% of the tribals were below the poverty line.

Ten years later (2004-05) it has declined by only 4.6 per cent to 47.3 per cent (overall reduction below the poverty line is 37% to 27%). How much did the free economic policy benefit the tribals? It is understood from this.

Migration

Overall improper planning of market farming has made life difficult for the tribals. This led to starvation and malnutrition. Making money was the main need. It is possible to meet that need through means like employment guarantee scheme. But the futility of the government's implementation has not benefited the people. On the contrary, the contractor and the concerned department officials were shocked. The tribals, however, had to struggle for work. The cheapest labor for construction and agriculture is tribal. He doesn't have to search. An agent would be sent to the village, a small sum of money would be given to the people as a lift, and the sheep would be put in a cart and taken away. Preferably to travel at night. We had to stop after a journey of 12-15 hours. I don't want to tell people where we are going. I used to start the work by taking it straight to the work place. Where are the people who went to work? It can't even be stated. These people, who are already shocked to see the people of the city, then

dance to the beat of the brokers. People are not paid until the work is done. Only rice and pulses are provided for work. Dismissals, low pay, deliberate quarrels, and beatings are commonplace. If there are women with male laborers, then their harassment, deliberate intimacy is the usual. Brokers who physically abuse women and girls are roaming in tribal areas. There are also brokers who take only women and girls to work. Today, 25 to 40% of the population in the tribal areas has migrated to different places for work. This is the turn of the tribals when there is a revolutionary law like employment guarantee in Maharashtra. The law is on paper. The reasons behind this are lack of implementation, corruption and lack of political will.

Education:

The Supreme Court has in many cases extended the fundamental right to life (Article 21) to the right to life with dignity. The Supreme Court had held that this right remains incomplete without primary education. So our country's parliament recently passed a law on compulsory primary education. The law was enacted to ensure that all children in India, the poorest of the poor, get primary education and no one is deprived of it. The law is for tribals whose first generation is learning, for nomads, for migrant carpenters or construction workers, for the disabled, for child laborers, and for millions who have fallen victim to socio-economic inequality. Tribal development and educational progress are intertwined. After independence, the government offered many concessions for the educational progress of the tribals. Ashrams, hostels, scholarships, etc. The way the government has tried.

Despite this, there has been no educational progress of the tribals. The level of primary and secondary education in tribal schools is still very poor. Tribals are living in a vicious cycle, with no education due to poverty and no escape from poverty due to lack of education. While it is necessary to teach in the local language, efforts are being made to teach in an unfamiliar and incomprehensible language. Out-of-community teachers were appointed due to shortage of local teachers. Since they never had any affiliation with the tribals or were forcibly sent to such areas, they did their duty only to manipulate and 'get a job'. As a result, the entire generation of tribal children, who were attending school for the first time, did not really learn.

Health:

Existing schemes to meet the health needs of tribals plagued by malnutrition, child mortality and epidemics are proving inadequate or useless. Therefore, there is a need to make the health services more conducive to the culture, way of life and lifestyle of the tribals. According to the Government of India's 'Macroeconomics and Health' report, 78 per cent of the total outpatient examinations in our country today are in private hospitals and only 22 per cent are in government hospitals. The number of people living below the poverty line for years due to unaffordability of medical services is in the millions in our country. Speaking of tribal areas in Maharashtra, the shortage of doctors in government hospitals is a matter of concern. At present, more than 1400 posts of primary health centers in rural and especially tribal areas of Maharashtra are not filled. As a result, tribals in Maharashtra still do not have access to adequate and immediate health care in remote areas. Although the government claims that malnutrition has been reduced in the state of Maharashtra, the reality is that the situation is not much different in Amravati, Thane, Nandurbar, Nashik and Gadchiroli districts. Such statistics are also available

In Jawahar (Thane) and Dharani (Amravati) Integrated Child Development Scheme, the proportion of moderately and severely malnourished children has increased by 6%. According to the latest report of Rajmata Jijau Mata Child Nutrition Mission, the number of moderately and severely malnourished children in the Integrated Child Development Project in the tribal areas of the state is over 20%. All these projects are in tribal districts. The state of malnutrition in this area has not changed much in the last several years. In the case of Jawahar, Dhadgaon and Dharani projects, the proportion is 42 to 52 per cent. The system failed to provide employment to the tribals in their areas. The children, along with their parents, also migrated to the workplace. During this time many babies are born. These children are pushed into the acute category of malnutrition if the health of children who already have low immunity is neglected. However, this growth in tribal areas does not seem to be stopping.

Developmental policy for Tribals

According to the economic policy of Maharashtra, the share of the tribals in the proportion of the population (9%) was allocated. In fact, in very remote areas where

illiteracy is still above 80%, there are big issues like malnutrition. In such a situation, population-based financial provision seems to be wrong. Even today in a tribal area where there are no good roads, no transportation facilities, no good educational and health facilities, how can the population based financial provision be met? This was not considered in political circles. Of course, even this 9% provision did not reach them. Some of these crores of rupees are not used and are returned to the exchequer every year. Maharashtra's Tribal Sub Plan for the financial year 2017-18 is Rs. 1798 crores. Although the plan may seem big, it is not actually paid that much. Government aid has been declining over the past few years. In 2015-16, the budgetary provision was Rs. Although Rs 567 crore was spent, only Rs 288 crore was actually spent.

The same amount is spent every year. The remaining funds are used for projects in non-tribal areas. Till date, according to the economic provision of the country, the share of tribals has been the highest at 8.89% (2017-18). In 2017-18, this provision is only 4.30% of the total provision of the country. Every village should have basic facilities like school, road to village, public transport, electricity, clean drinking water and good health facilities to every tribal village /pada.

Conclusion:

In Maharashtra, Mahadev Koli, Katkari, Thakar, Konkana etc. The number of tribal tribes is large. But today all these tribals have migrated to the city in search of employment. They need to know their exact location and population while implementing development programs. It is important to note all such volatile tribal groups. Every tribal community should be provided employment opportunities at their place of residence. To prevent their migration, it is important to effectively implement the National Employment Guarantee Act and address the flaws in the existing plan.

Measures have to be taken to reduce the child mortality rate in tribal areas to the same as the total child mortality rate in Maharashtra. (Maharashtra's current infant mortality rate is 36. Infant mortality under the age of five after one thousand live births). The current infant mortality rate in the tribal areas of Maharashtra is 59.2. It needs to be brought down to 36. Special education policy needs to be formulated so that every tribal community can get education in their local dialect. There is currently no system of education in the local

dialect of the tribals. Schools with such arrangements will have to be started. In such schools it is necessary to appoint local educated youth as teachers and arrange necessary training for them

It is important to get more and more information about the life, history and culture of the tribal people in order to develop them in a planned manner and encourage further study based on the actual knowledge of the tribal people. Areas of study of tribal life, their past history and culture are very wide. Tools for this study must be made available.

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