

Impact Factor: 6.017

ISSN: 2278-9529

GALAXY

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Special Issue on Tribal Culture, Literature and Languages

National Conference Organised by
Department of Marathi, Hindi and English

Government Vidarbha Institute of Science and
Humanities, Amravati (Autonomous)

13 Years of Open Access

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Challenges and Development Problems of Tribal People in Vidarbha Region Maharashtra

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Abstract:

Tribal communities in the Vidarbha region are grappling with social and economic change. Tribals are struggling for sustainable development. Destruction of forest and deprivation of land are the main reasons increasing barriers in sustainable development of the tribal people. Young generation productivity and gainful employment for the tribal people is critical for growth and development. They struggle for survival in remote regions. The socio-economic factor pressures tribal families to regularly migrate for new employment. Globalization commercialization have greater impact on the livelihood of the tribal people. Tribals are known as “Vanavasi”. The tribal people have rich traditions and culture with unique life style. The tribal communities in the Vidarbha region play an important role in contributing in the socio-economic development of the nation. Marginal productivity, unemployment, education, technological use, economic condition, health condition, production bank facilities etc are dominant problems of tribal people.

In this paper an attempt is made to highlight the various problems of tribal people and to suggest measures for their development.

Keywords: Tribal, Development, Problems, Challenge.

Introduction:-

The adivasis are one of the most marginalized community in India. According to the 2011 census the community constitutes 8.6% of the total Indian population. Tribals are known as the “Vanvasi”. D.N.Majumdar (1961) defines tribes as a collection of families as group of families bearing a common name whose members of which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos regarding marriage, profession or occupation and have developed a well assigned system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligation. In India lives different



cultures people. Tribal people possess rich cultural traditions and heritage with distinct life styles. The tribal people are closely associated with nature and a rich source of indigenous knowledge. Indigenous knowledge is local specific knowledge and practices in natural resources management, agriculture, health, education development preserved and transfer generation to generation. Such knowledge is passed from generation to generation by verbal communication. The tribal cultures of India and their traditional practices pervaded all aspects of Indian culture. The tribals of vidarbha region in Maharashtra face so many problems in education, production, banking facilities, health condition etc. The application of development approaches are help to solve the tribal problems. These approaches are of assimilation isolation and integration.

Vidarbha is the eastern region of Maharashtra, comprising of the Nagpur and Amravati divisions constituting approximately a 97,321 sq. km. area and holds 21.3 per cent of the total population of the State (Census of India, 2011). It is covered by thick forest and one-fourth part is occupied by the Pench and Navegaon National Park and Nagzira reserved forest in the Gondia district. As per the 2011 Census, 9.4 per cent of the population belongs to the tribal's in Maharashtra, whereas in Vidarbha 32.1 per cent of the population belong to tribals. Eleven districts fall under it viz., Akola, Amravati, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Nagpur, Wardha, Washim and Yavatmal. The Gadchiroli, Yavatmal Chandrapur, Gondia and Amravati districts of the Vidarbha region consist of the highest tribal population (Census of India, 2011). Vidarbha has about 53 per cent of the State's total forest cover (Ministry of Environment, 2017). It holds two-thirds of Maharashtra's mineral resources, three quarters of its forest resources and is a net producer of power. Still it is less economically prosperous compared to the rest of Maharashtra and is plagued by poverty and malnutrition.

This area, with its large tribal population, suffers from inadequate development, poor infrastructure, poverty, unemployment, agrarian crisis and migration from rural areas. Tribal's live in three inaccessible hilly and remote forest regions of the State, namely, Sahyadris, Satpudas and eastern Gondwana in Vidarbha. The State has identified 45 communities denoted as STs. In terms of size the most significant communities are Bhils, Gonds, Mahadeo Kolis, Warlis, Koknas, Thakars, Andhs, Halabas, Katkaris, Malhar Kolis, Korkus, Kolams, Dhor Kolis, Pardhis, Pardhansand Gamits. The Katkaris, Kolams and Madia Gonds have been classified as



Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) due to low levels of acculturation as compared to other tribes (Government of Maharashtra, 2013, Tribal Indigenous Peoples Development Plan, 2003, Tribhuwan, 2004, Karade, 2008). Although they speak a tribal dialect, they can speak the Marathi language as well. They profess a primitive religion known as animism in which the worship of ghosts and spirits is the most important element. Due to the absence of livelihood and employment opportunities, tribal's in Vidarbha mostly depend on the primary sector such as agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishing for their subsistence. (Ramotra K. C., 2011)

The tribal population in the State of Maharashtra and in Vidarbha as a whole is the most deprived and vulnerable community that faces severe economic exclusion. Although certain constitutional safeguards are provided, there has been marginal socio-economic and political mobility across these communities. Contrary to other Backward Castes (BC) who witnessed certain degrees of progress because of protective discrimination policies of the government and electoral participation, the STs remain abysmally backward and socially excluded, still living in harsh environments. Despite having a one-third reservation in Panchayats they are unable to participate in decision-making and hardly enjoy or exercise power due to their poor socio-economic conditions. Gadchiroli and Melghat has the highest index of deprivation based on four basic necessities such as housing, access to drinking water, good sanitation and electricity. As per the Society for Education, Action and Research in Community (SEARCH) report, 0.175 million children die every year in the State, mostly in Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, Amravati, Nandurbar and Dhule districts (Jawale, 2015). In Melghat, thousands of pregnant, lactating tribal mothers and infants have died, due to acute malnutrition. The objective of this paper is to focus on Challenges and Development Problems of Tribal People in Vidarbha Region Maharashtra.

Significance of the Study:

The tribals has to face various problems in the way of development they are struggle to facilities educational, technological, infrastructural, medical, employ mental facilities etc. Because of limited scope of setting accessibility with the external world, but their contribution in development of nation is not negligible. It is importantto cope these problems initiated steps to bring sustainable development for tribal community.



Statement of the Problem:

The life of Tribal community is full of challenges. They face a lot of problems to survive. Some problems are socio-economic, Illiteracy, Indebtness, Unemployment, Housing problem, Drinking water problem, Nutritional Problem, Transport problem, exploitation, educational problem, Negative parental attitude, basic amenities in school, communication problem, lack of trained teachers, lack of transport facilities, government has now provide various schemes and policies like Maharashtra AadimAwasYojaan, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, PMJYM, TRI-ECE, PM JANMAN, PM VanbandhuKalyanYojana, Adivasi ShikshaRinnYojana, Adivasi MahilaSashaktikaranYojana for tribal development. In the context of commercialization, privatization, globalization, liberalization tribal people in Vidarbha region faced many problems and threats, so deep study and detail research is need of the today's now.

Objectives of Study:

1. To study the details problem of tribal in Vidarbha region
2. To present prospect for tribal development
3. To highlighted some suggestion for tribal developments

Hypothesis:

1. Improper implantation of government policies and schemes.
2. Traditional culture and practices of tribal communities. Affected by other non tribal communities.
3. Tribal cultural traditions and heritage closely related with nature.
4. The tribals way of living and their activities are traditional.

Review of literature:

The socio-economic conditions of tribes the Kolam, Gonds, Pardhi and Korku in the Vidarbha region, are worse than that of other tribal communities who are all eagerly facing starvation. (Jawale, 2015)

The tribal's are sordidly exploited by the unscrupulous money lenders and traders. In the absence of marketing facilities, the poor tribal's have no choice except to bear the brunt of the inequitable exchange system extended to them by traders. They face cultural and economic marginalization, particularly through the deprivation



of their traditional rights over forests and other resources. (Jha and Jhingran, 2005, Veerbhadranaika et al., 2012).

The socio-economic condition of the tribal's in Vidarbha clearly demonstrates the developmental gap between them and the rest of the population. Many studies revealed that they are in a situation featured with poverty, deprivation and disadvantages. Katkaris literacy rates are lower than even the other PVTGS such as the Kolams and Madia Gonds (Tribhuwan and Patil, 2008).

The school gross enrolment ratio of tribal children is low while the school drop-out rate is very high. Children not going to school in the age group 6-17 years are 34.5 per cent of STs as against 15.9 per cent of the general population of the State. Nambissan (2009) and Kurane (2008) have pointed out that poverty and the practice of child labour have continued to be major deterrents in enrolment of tribal children in schools.

Mane (2010) and Jha and Jhingran (2005) reported that migration, high incidence of poverty and landlessness among tribal communities is a crucial challenge for retaining tribal children within education. Mane (2010) also noted that gender discrepancies tend to be high, with boys more likely to be educated compared to girls, due to social and economic factors such as a desire to shelter girls from the outside world or, more frequently, requiring girls to participate in household and agricultural activities. Tribal people in Vidarbha are not only the poorest and most disadvantaged section but are also the most exploited and neglected groups in the region.

The per capita income of predominantly tribal districts such as Nandurbar is Rs. 46,415 and for Gadchiroli it is Rs. 48,311, whereas the State per capita income is Rs. 95,339 (Government of Maharashtra, 2013).

The conditions of the tribes in Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Amravati, Chandrpur and Yavatmal districts are worst among the 36 districts of Maharashtra (Maharashtra Human Development Report, 2012-2013).

According to a benchmark survey conducted by the tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI), 91.11 per cent of the ST population in Maharashtra was below the poverty line, having an income of less than Rs. 11,000 per annum. The status of tribals is lower than the general population in every aspect related to health, education, infrastructure, civic amenities and government services. The Taluka Development Index (TDI) shows that, out of 356 talukas, 15 tribal dominated talukas are at the bottom in Maharashtra. The topmost taluka is Pune and bottom-most talukas



are Korchi, Kurkheda and Dhanora in the Gadachiroli district; Dharni and Chikhaldhara in the Amravati district; Deori and Salekesha in the Gondia district and Ramtek in the Nagpur district in the Vidarbha region (Maharashtra Human Development Report, 2012-13)

Methodology:

The descriptive research design has been used in the present study. The data are collected by primary and secondary data collection method. The primary data collected with the help of interview, survey and secondary data collected from Journal, book etc.

Result & Discussion:

The major research finding from the existing research clearly revealed that the main resources of tribal income are forest, agriculture and other traditional livelihood sources, have been depleting over a period of time. The sustainable development of tribal people through the proper implementation of government schemes, policies & intervention programmes. Research analyse that intervention programme, policy maker focus on access to nutrition and health, education, income and information, communicate through participatory approach and action learning. The research shows that the process of tribal development is slow and uneven. There is a need serious and honest effort is essential providing maximum beneficial result by strengthening of the weakness of tribal welfare policies, schemes, programmes, the objective of their existence in modern world can be achieved.

Prospect of Tribal Development:

Area development approach is essential for sustainable development of the tribal people. 1) To maintain their independent identity. 2) Restrict to outsider interference and exploitation in their life. Industrialization, urbanization, globalization are badly impact on their life. In this context integration is another approach of tribal development. Integration can be made available for the tribes for the benefits of modern society and can preserve their separate identity.

Measures :

There are some of the measures of Tribal Development those are :



1. Focus on poverty alleviation with the help of entrepreneurship development.
2. Providing education according to their need.
3. Focus on their own socio-economic development through various credit facilities and their capacity building.
4. Providing research center.
5. Providing economic opportunities.
6. Strengthening administrative structure.
7. Representation in legislatures.
8. Providing vocational and technical training centre.
9. Providing legal aid.
10. Implementation of new projects for tribal youth.

Conclusion:

This study has found a wide range of challenges and problems faced by the tribal in Vidarbha region. They live a challenging life. Tribal development means upliftment the tribal community. Tribal development programme, policy makers, administrators focus on need of the tribal people, elimination of exploitation special designed policies, forest policy, plan wise allocation etc. In present day scenario welfare schemes are mirage to the tribal's. Planners, administrators, social worker and NGO should be identify need and problems of the tribal people and the plan and programmes properly executed.

The tribal people have their own way of life. The goal of the tribal policy are to improve the quality of the life tribal people. A policy should be holistic and focus on balance between development and culture. Challenge and development problems of tribal people in Vidarbha region Maharashtra need to be centred and detail study on safety measures.

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