

Issue, Challenge and Development Problems in Socio, Economic and Culture of Tribal People in Assam



Monjita Basumatary

Abstract: Tribals are known to be the autochthonous people of the land. Tribals are refer to “vanavasi”, “pahari”, AnuchuchitJanajati etc. India is the second largest tribal people in the world and the first one in Africa. The areas inhabited by the tribal constituted a significant part of the underdeveloped areas of the country. The tribal people have rich tradition culture and heritage with unique life style and customs though regional variation. The tribal culture of India and their traditions and practices pervaded almost all of the aspects of Indian culture and civilization. Tribal is the dominant community of Assam. They possess rich distinct culture and tradition related with nature which is the store house for wisdom and knowledge for other communities. Their contribution in socio-economic development is not negligible. Mostly state and society in Assam is influenced by tribals. Their district culture tradition practices isolated them from other communities. The socio-economic condition of tribal is not satisfactory through they are hard worker. Tribals are still backward in all fields, their working method way of thinking all are traditional, marginal. Marginal productivity accompanied by traditional method of cultivation of tribals are equal to zero. Illiteracy, poverty, child marriage, ill healthy etc. are also dominant problems of tribals. In this paper an attempt is made to highlight the various problems of Tribal people and to suggested measures for their development.

Keywords: Tribal, Isolated, Homogeneous, Dominant, community, storehouse, Socio-economic, Traditional.

I. INTRODUCTION

Tribals are known to be the “Vanavasi”, “Pahari”, “AnuchuchitJanajati” etc. India is the second largest tribal population in the world, the first is the South Africa. In India tribals are the integral segment of Indian society. They have been continuously contact with their neighbors who live by farming and a large member of specialised manual industries. (Bose, 1971:2). India has traditionally been the home of different cultures and people. The areas inhabited by the tribal constitute a significant part of the under developed areas of the country. They possess rich cultural traditions and heritage with distinct life styles. Though they stay in different regions, tribals share common traits, they are homogeneous more self-contained than non-tribal groups. India has around one hundred million tribal people. The tribals are original inhabitant of the country.

Manuscript received on January 02, 2020.

Revised Manuscript received on January 15, 2020.

Manuscript published on January 30, 2020.

* Correspondence Author

Monjita Basumatary*, Assistant professor, Department of Political Science, NCD Degree college, Gogamukh, hemaji (Assam) India.

© The Authors. Published by Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering and Sciences Publication (BEIESP). This is an [open access](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) article under the CC-BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>)

The tribal cultures of India and their traditions and practices pervaded almost all aspects of Indian culture and civilization. The tribals of India is so many problem. To cope these problems Govt. of India has now initiated steps to bring development for tribal people. The government, foremost concern is to securing the welfare and socio-economic enhancement of the tribal people, through phased manner. The tradition of tribal and upliftment of weaker section of society. The tribal

basically in Assam is very backward in education, technological use, economic, health condition, production, capital formation, banking facilities etc. Good quality education to the tribal people has come down tremendously. They are subjected to illiteracy leaders and even the state machinery. They are far from using high technological knowledge in agriculture and other activities. Their investment and capital formation is very low, far from reaching of banking facilities. The rate of growth of their development also various from community to community and region to region. Because of limited scope of setting accessibility with the external world. They like to retain and pressure their traditional way of life and neglect outer influences. The development in tribal people are not same. To solve the various socio-economic problems of tribal application of some approaches are essential. These approaches are assimilation isolation and integration. Besides, high value education and rise of production is essential.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the details problems of tribal in Assam that stand in the way of development.
- To present prospect for tribal development.
- To highlighted some suggestion for tribal development.

III. METHODOLOGY

In writing this paper descriptive method is applied and the dates are collected by both primary and secondary sources. From secondary sources date are collected from books, journal, interest sources etc.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Tribal is the indigenous people original inhabitant of the country. Their unique culture, traditional practices, value and heritages influenced other social groups. Their traditional customs, belief and practices isolated them from other communities. The tribals’ socio-economic condition is not satisfactory. They have to face various problems in the way of development.

But their contribution in socio-economic development of society is not negligible. Their distinct culture and traditions related with nature is the store house for knowledge and wisdom for other social groups which require broad observation and research study.

V. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems of tribals are multifaceted. The problems faced by tribals are poverty, illiteracy, identity crisis etc. widespread poverty is the major issue among the tribals of the state. But the poverty ratio and economic status of the tribals of Assam is better than the national average of the tribals. The literacy rate of tribal in Assam is 86.8 percent. The status of the tribal children and women of the state is also better than their national counterparts. But they do not have access safe drinking water, toilet facilities, electricity and other facilities. Government has now provide various schemes and policies like JRY, ITDP etc. for tribal development. But the real benefits are restricted to a few people only. Poor and illiterate people deprived from these opportunities. Another problem of tribals of Assam is ownership of land. The ethnic problems of KarbiAnglong are related to ownership of land. Although the literacy among the tribals of the state are quite high, but in reality technical experts, industrialists. Businessman and professionally qualified person is very low. Witch hunting, menace of dowry, absence of equal status to the women folk is also visible problems of tribal. In the context of globalization also along with opportunities and benefits, people of Assam faced treats. So, proper study and research is need of the hour now.

VI. HYPOTHESIS

- The government policies and schemes are improving living standard of tribals. But these policies and schemes are not yet reached in desired destination.
- The traditional culture value and practices of tribals are affected by non tribals.
- The tribals food habits production capacities, way of living, thinking and agricultural activities are traditional.
- The distinct, rich cultural traditions and heritages of tribals are related with nature.
- Indebtedness for the cause of agriculture and ownership of land are the two many problems of tribal in Assam.
- The government has provided various schemes for tribal development. These are centrally sponsored schemes and state plan schemes.

VII. RESULT ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Tribals are closely related with nature. Their adaptive and tenderness to nature led isolated them from other social groups. To bring all round development of tribals is need of the hour now. Because maximum people of the states are tribal. Their contribution in socio-economic development is also high. If tribals are allow to stay isolated as earlier our society will be remain backward. Tribals are hard worker they can do everything including agriculture activities to hunting by practicing traditional method. They can also make medicines by preparing herbs and found in the jungle to cure various disease. They lived in self-contained manner and neglect outer influences. So scholars advised them to

keep confined in National Parks or reserve areas to bring consciousness among them. If this is done they would surely come out in the mainstream of the society. They have to participate in social, political and economic field for their development as well as or social development. They would have to completely abandoned their some traditional method of activities which stand in the way of their development.

VIII. PROSPECT OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

For socio-economic development of tribal people following approach are to be applied. Assimilation it means mix. It is the way of mitigating tribal problems. This approach deals with problems of tribal culture and tradition by mixing them with other communities of the state. This approach encourages to assimilate the tribals with the mainstream of National Life, which can enhance socioeconomic development. Isolation is another approach which suggested to keep the tribals away from the rest of society. They should be kept in isolation "in National Park" or "Reserved areas" which would aware and solve their problems. (a) The tribal would be in position to maintain their independent identity. (b) They would be free from the exploitation from outsiders. This approach views that tribals should be given time to assimilate themselves with the rest of the community. INTEGRATION: Integration is another approach of tribal development. Integration can make available to the tribes the benefits of modern society and can preserve their separate identity.

IX. MEASURES

There are some of the measures of Tribal development. Those are –

- The tribal themselves firstly started to their own socioeconomic development by their well-being. Various credit facilities like spread of education, credit and banking facilities etc. should be focus on poverty alleviation.
 - ✓ Entrepreneurship
 - ✓ Debt relief legislation
 - ✓ Legal aid should be provided.
- The education for tribal should be according to their needs as well as for their socio-economic development.
- They should be encourage and given opportunities] production in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, cottage industry, small industries and employment in all seasons.

X. CONCLUSION

The tribal people are very sensitive, their problems are in some respect complex. Tribal possess variety of culture and tradition related with nature which is the need of the hour to preserve and retain for beneficial use in future in the human society. The tribals in Assam are now in the way of development. But still needs large government supports for development schemes to be utilize for fuller and better development. But if, people are not active, conscious and secure in their other development all implantation of government scheme will be meaningless. So tribals own efforts for development is crucial.

REFERENCES

1. Biswal, G.C. (1985) "Tribal development and education some issues", Vangajati.
2. Ajit Singh, Tribal Development in India, New Delhi Classical Publishing Company.
3. Dubes S.C. Tribal Heritage of India, Simla Institute of Advance Studies, 1977.
4. Tribes of Assam, Bordoloi B.N. (1987), Part-I, Tribal research institute, popular service Assam.
5. P.K. Bhowmik, 1982, "Approach to Tribal welfare" in Tribal Development in India :
6. Ahmed A. (1986), "Socio-cultural changes in a Developing Society: The case study of India":
7. Das S.T. (1993) Tribal Development and Socio-cultural Matrix, Delhi: Kanishka publishers Distributors.
8. Szirmai Adam (2005) Dynamics of Socio-Economic Development : In introduction, Cambridge University press.
9. Roy Borman, B.K. Tribal Development perspectives.

AUTHOR'S PROFILE

Name: **Monjita Basumatary**,
Address: Vill- Chalchali,
P.O.-Nalbari,
Dist.-Dhemaji, Assam, India.
Pin- 787035.
Dept.: M.A. in Political Science (IGNOU)
Other Qualification: NET UGC (CSIR)

Publications and Presentation : 12 research paper, Articles, Chapter etc. are published in various National and International Journal. 13 papers presented in various National and International conference.
E-Mail: monjitasumatary101@gmail.com
Phone: 9957459828