

# STATUS OF SCHEDULED TRIBE IN INDIA

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**Abstract:** The tribal section in our society is considered as the weakest section in terms of demography, social and economic factors. They are considered as primitive people and are cut-off from the mainstream of economic development. This study gives a glimpse of tribal population of India. The main objective of this paper is to analyze the status of tribal education with literacy rate, employment rate, poverty rate etc. Data has been collected from secondary data sources and the conclusions are drawn. The Sex ratio and Literacy rate of tribal has improved. Despite various initiatives taken by Government, majority of the tribal still remain out of reach.

**Keywords:** Scheduled Tribe, Employment, Education

## Introduction:

India stood at second place in terms of tribal population after Africa. Tribal in India is not a homogenous group. They belong to different race, use different dialects and are from different socio-economic levels. Tribal live in isolated terrains and the main source of their livelihood is agriculture. At the time of independence, tribals were poor due to exploitation made by the non-tribal & illiteracy, backwardness, untouchability were the basic problems. After independence, Government took various initiatives for upliftment of tribal people. Now, tribal are becoming more aware and are protecting themselves from being exploited. There is an improvement in the status of Scheduled Tribes after independence but only a small number of tribal people are getting the benefits by the schemes meant for their development. Tribal people are at different stages of development. Some of these groups have adopted the mainstream way of development but still some of them are lagging behind.

## Review of Literature:

(Trivedi & Vyas, 2018) revealed the factors responsible for migration and explained that younger people migrate from TSP Area in search of better opportunity of job and education. Author has collected data from tribal region of South Rajasthan mainly from Banswara and Dungarpur. It reveals that mainly people from TSP (Tribal Sub Plan) region have migrated and the main reasons of migration are betterment of life, economic conditions, family reasons and living conditions.

(Rana & Verma, 2017) concluded that tribal youth lack guidance, educational qualification & opportunities to develop themselves. The condition of tribal youth is vulnerable. The researcher found that the rate of unemployment is more among ST and OBC. The researcher proposes an approach Positive Youth Development Approach to solve the issues of tribal youth of India. There are various programmes for youth development.

(Meena, 2017) evaluated various welfare schemes and programmes implemented for tribal development. The Indian government had started various schemes for the development of tribals. These schemes include establishment of tribal research institutes, vocational training centres, tribal co-operative marketing federation on India and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship schemes for PhD scholars etc. With the implementation of these schemes the literacy rate, lifestyle of tribals has improved. Despite of various developmental schemes, the development rate of tribal population is not up to the mark. The tribal are still excluded from the economic development. They are still living below the poverty line.

(Charan & Sharma, 2016) concluded that the Meena community is the oldest tribe in the world which resides in Rajasthan particularly in Dholpur, Karauli, Dausa, Jaipur, Ajmer and Sawai Madhopur districts etc. Meena tribe is hard working but they are still lagging behind in the race of economic development due to illiteracy, ignorance and many more reasons. Various schemes related to education, health & job have been started by Indian government for uplifting the status of Meena tribe but still they are unable to get the benefits under these schemes. There is a need to aware all the members of Meena tribe about the government schemes.

## Objectives:

1. To study about population of Scheduled Tribes.
2. To find out the educational level of Scheduled Tribes in India.
3. To study the employment level of Scheduled Tribe.

**Research Methodology:**

This study is based on secondary data. This research paper is an attempt to study the status of scheduled tribe in India. For this purpose, Secondary data has been collected from various database sources such as research papers, government statistical data, articles, websites etc.

**Scheduled Tribe:**

The term 'tribe' is derived from the Latin word 'tribus'. The word 'Tribe' in India means a category of people, included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. It also refers to a perplexing and entrancing group of people which speak a common dialect. The tribal people have been known by various names such as Adivasi, Vanavasi, Vanyajati, Adimjati, Girijan and Pahari etc. There are various tribes residing all over the country from Himalayas to Lakshadweep and from Gujarat to Hills in North-East.

The term 'Scheduled Tribes' first appeared in the Constitution of India. Article 366 (25) defined "Scheduled Tribes" as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution".

**Scheduled Areas:**

The term 'Scheduled Areas' has been defined in the Indian Constitution as "such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas". Paragraph 6 of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution prescribes following procedure for scheduling, rescheduling and alteration of Scheduled Areas. Scheduled Areas are those areas where there is preponderance of tribal population subject to a special governance mechanism.

**Major Tribes in India (State-wise)**

State	Major Tribes
Arunachal Pradesh	Aptani, Mishmi, Daffla, Miri, Aka, Sinpho, Khamti etc.
Assam	Chakma, Mikir, Kachari, Bora etc
Meghalaya	Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Hamar etc
Nagaland	Angami, Konyak, Lotha etc
Manipur	Kuki, Lepcha, Mugh etc
Tripura	Bhutia, Chakma, Garo, Kuki etc
Mizoram	Mizo, Lakher etc
West Bengal	Asur, Bhumij, Birhor, Lodha, Lepcha, Magh, Mahali, Malpaharia, Polia etc
Jharkhand	Santhal, Paharia, Munda, Ho, Birhor, Oraon, Kharia, Tamaria etc
Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	Tharu, Bhatia, Jaunsari, Bhoksha, Raji, Khasa, Bhuia, Kharwar, Manjhi, Kol etc
Odisha	Zuang, Sawara, Karia, Khond, Kandh etc
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	Hill Maria, Muria, Dandami, Gond, Baiga. Parja, Bhattra, Agaria, Bhil, Saharia. Korwa, Halba etc
Himachal Pradesh	Gaddi, Gujjar, Kinnar etc
Jammu & Kashmir	Gaddi, Bakarwal etc
Rajasthan	Bhil, Meena. Kathoria, Garasia etc
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	Chenchu, Yandai, Kurumba, Khond, Bagdaz, Koya, Bagata, Gadaba etc
Kerala	Irula, Kurumba, Kadar, Puliyar etc
Tamil Nadu	Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Badaga etc
Andaman & Nicobar	Great Andamanese, Nicobarese, Onge, Jarawa, Shompen, Sentenalese etc.

**Total Population of Scheduled Tribe in India:**

			%
	India	104,281,034	8.6
1	A & N Islands #	28,530	0.0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5,918,073	5.7
3	Arunachal Pradesh	951,821	0.9
4	Assam	3,884,371	3.7
5	Bihar	1,336,573	1.3
6	Chandigarh #	NST	NST
7	Chhattisgarh	7,822,902	7.5
8	D & N Haveli #	178,564	0.2
9	Daman & Diu #	15,363	0.0
10	Goa	149,275	0.1
11	Gujarat	8,917,174	8.6
12	Haryana	NST	NST
13	Himachal Pradesh	392,126	0.4
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,493,299	1.4
15	Jharkhand	8,645,042	8.3
16	Karnataka	4,248,987	4.1
17	Kerala	484,839	0.5
18	Lakshadweep #	61,120	0.1
19	Madhya Pradesh	15,316,784	14.7
20	Maharashtra	10,510,213	10.1
21	Manipur	902,740	0.9
22	Meghalaya	2,555,861	2.5
23	Mizoram	1,036,115	1.0
24	Nagaland	1,710,973	1.6
25	NCT of Delhi #	NST	NST
26	Odisha	9,590,756	9.2
27	Puducherry #	NST	NST
28	Punjab	NST	NST
29	Rajasthan	9,238,534	8.9
30	Sikkim	206,360	0.2
31	Tamil Nadu	794,697	0.8
32	Tripura	1,166,813	1.1
33	Uttar Pradesh	1,134,273	1.1
34	Uttarakhand	291,903	0.3
35	West Bengal	5,296,953	5.1

According to the Census 2011, the population of STs in India is 10,42,81,034 which constitutes 8.6% of the total population of India which was 8.2% in 2001. 89.97% of the total Scheduled Tribes are living in rural areas and rest 10.03% are living in Urban areas. There is an increase in the total population from 2001 to 2011. The decadal growth of Scheduled Tribe population is 23.66% against the 17.69% of the entire population. Majority of STs is in Madhya Pradesh (14.7%), Maharashtra (10.1%), Odisha (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.9%), Gujarat (8.6%) and Jharkhand (8.3%). There is no ST population in 2 states i.e. Punjab & Haryana and 3 Union Territories i.e. Chandigarh, NCT of Delhi & Puducherry because the area is not notified as Scheduled Area. States with least ST population are Goa (0.1%), Sikkim (0.2%), Himachal Pradesh (0.4%) and Kerala (0.5%) & Union Territories are A & N Island (0.03%), Daman & Diu (0.01%), Lakshadweep (0.1%) and D & N Haveli (0.2%).

**Sex Ratio:**

Sex Ratio among Scheduled Tribes by residence: 2001-2011					
Sex Ratio 2001			Sex Ratio 2011		
Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
978	981	944	990	991	980

Sex Ratio of ST population is 990 females per 1000 males which is higher than that of the total population i.e. 960 females per 1000 males. The ST sex ratio has increased from 978 females in 2001 to 990 females in 2011. Top 5 states/ UTs with high ST sex ratio are Goa, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and states/UTs with low ST sex ratio are Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar in 2011.

**Literacy Rate:**

Literacy Rate of All Social Groups, SC and ST Population (1961-2011)									
Year	All Social Groups			SC			ST		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1961	40.4	15.35	28.3	16.96	3.29	10.27	13.83	3.16	8.53
1971	45.96	21.97	34.45	22.36	6.44	14.67	17.63	4.85	11.30
1981	56.38	29.76	43.57	31.12	10.93	21.38	24.52	8.04	16.35
1991	64.13	39.29	52.21	49.91	23.76	37.41	40.65	18.19	29.60
2001	72.26	53.67	64.84	66.64	41.9	54.69	59.17	34.76	47.10
2011	80.89	64.64	72.99	75.17	56.46	66.07	68.53	49.35	58.96

Education is the key to tribal development. The literacy rate of ST males has improved from 59.2% to 68.5% and 34.8% to 49.4% that of the ST females and in total it has improved from 47.10% to 58.96%. The difference of literacy rate in STs and total population has decreased from 1991 to 2011. But still, there is difference of 14.03%.

**Worker Participation Rate:**

Percentage of distribution of workers by sex						
Total Workers	STs		All		Gap	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Male	53.2	55.6	51.7	68.9	1.5	-13.3
Female	44.8	44.4	25.6	31.1	19.2	13.3

The above depicts the worker Participation Rate of STs and remaining population. Total ST workers, 53.2% in 2001 & 55.6% in 2011 were Male and 44.8% in 2001 & 44.4% in 2011 were females. There is a gap in Worker Participation Rates of STs and Rest of the population.

**FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS:**

Schedule Tribes in India is considered as the most backward section of the society. Tribal people play an important role in management of natural, social, economic resources and agricultural development including crop production, livestock production etc. but they remain backward due to traditional values, illiteracy, superstition and many other factors. The development of the tribes is taking place in India, but the rate of development is very low. Government should take necessary steps for the welfare of Scheduled Tribe in order to bring them in the mainstream of economic development. Education, easy access of basic facilities and more opportunities should be provided to the tribal people. More and more funds should be allocated for tribal development with respect to education, employment, availability of basic facilities etc.

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