

## **Tribal Women Diversity and Inclusive Development** **-- An Introspection**

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### **Abstract**

Inclusive development comes into reality when tribal women become self- sufficiency and self-respect and witnessed diversity. Tribal women are the most disadvantaged and neglected section of the society as they are economically backward. Therefore it is an imperative on the part of the government and civil society to enable improvement in the standard of life of such neglected sections in the Indian society. Government is prioritized welfare schemes and programs targeted for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes including tribal women. These sections are economically backward hence; there is a need for sincere efforts on the part of the government to extend help so as to improve the quality of life. By empowering tribal woman through education can thus enable them to live with dignity and self-reliance and the barriers of customary biases, prejudices, and social barriers of class, gender, occupation and institutional difficulties. These are to be prevented by taking actions to improve their state both at the individual and collective level. It is pre-requisite to provide free education and employability so that women have more diversification possibilities. Skill development programs must be launched for tribal women so as to make them self-reliant and economically independent and in turn they start diversified activities. The objective of the paper is to examine the status of tribal women, provision of infrastructure towards diversification, availability of credit for tribal women diversification, problems in diversification activities also the strategies and suggestions offered for better livelihoods.

**Key words:** Tribal women, Diversification, Self-reliance, Self-respect, Inclusive Development

## **Introduction**

The tribal women are half of the tribal population like in other social groups. They are basically illiterates, ignorant and superstitious. Tribal women work along with men. They are facing many reproductive health hazards. In fact status of women varies in several societies. The status of tribal women also comprises many roles such as domestic work, parental, occupational, community and as an individual to perform their responsibilities. These are inevitable for her to appraise the social status in diverse ecological areas. Tribal women with her diversification, involves economic and non-economic activities with in their ambit. Several times she works very hard than men. In the civilized societies women are freedom and self-expression. They are coping up with economic changes however; tribal women are still remain to their traditional in their dress, tools, language, and resources, since they grow only food crops rather than commercial crops. In the present society, there is a sharp edge of disparities between men and women. However, the scenario is changing day by day.

The socio-cultural factors influences the tribal women also gender inequalities and superstitions plays vital role in their life. Culture is transmitted from one generation to another and determines the position of women in a society. The family structure in India has got relationship that promotes man's supremacy and women in next stage. Society believes the institutional endorsement of man's ascendancy within the family and other social structures. In the family organization, women take second stage. Women derive their personalities from their father, husband, and brother and even from their elder son. Women play but a submissive role in social life. Despite several economic, political and social changes, women, are still far behind.

## **Status of Tribal Women**

The Tribal women Social and economic status in India is phenomenally low because of lack of connectivity to the civilized society. Identification of tribal pockets and their resource oriented commercial activity have to set up. Low level incomes, lack of education, superstitious beliefs keeping them backward. Tribal women, in majority areas have no chance to learn from the civilized society as there is lack of connectivity. Tribal women purely depend on natural resources, agriculture, hunting, fishing at the small ponds. They think about survival rather than the economic activity. The tribal women in a society depend to a large extent on the social structure and the type of society. The tribal women faces many

health hazards, medical facilities are not accessible. They purely depends on un systematized Ayurveda.

### **Infrastructure for of Livelihood Diversification women**

There are numerous prospects for livelihood benefits when women can diversify with the available resources in locally. The only thing need to improve is that infrastructure in the areas. This infrastructure is on the name of agriculture and environmental aspects such as farm power derived from skillful farm implements and their judicious utilization for women diversification. On the other hand, the availability of tractors, pump sets, cold storage facilities, adequate supply of power, good rural-urban road network, efficient transportation and developed agriculture marketing and other technological advancement that maximize the benefits of the farmers. Expecting to a higher growth Pesticides are the mixture of substances which helps in preventing, destroying or controlling the pests of unwanted species on plants.

### **Credit leads to women to diversify non-farming activities**

Credit is the backbone for the farming and non-farming sectors of the economy. Credit is one of the essential prerequisite of the farmers which facilitate the farmers to meet the investment as well working capital requirements. The income earning portfolios are to be expanded in both tribal areas. Development of horticulture, food processing units, handlooms and textile sector can promote income earning opportunities. Cooperation of crop cultivation and animal farming like fishery, livestock, poultry, silk worm breeding etc based on the area must be encouraged to develop. Area specific opportunities are to be taken up with the cooperation of Government, private agencies and local residents. The market for pork is yet to be organized on an extensive and hygienic basis. There is, however, tremendous scope for marketing as well as exporting processed pork. Goat farming in commercial basis is also a good choice in less capital investment. Goats are self-feeding animal while grazing without any particular care. Any husbandry selection of proper breeds is important factor. Now a day's cross-bred are also common. But very less farmers has only commercial livestock farming. To make the new opportunities successful proper training and skill formation program should be conducted by the Government Credit arrangement must also be facilitated simultaneously with the training program. Vocational training must be encouraged specially in tea garden areas. The huge energy of the rural youth is to be trapped by understanding the potentiality of the area and involving them in the selected sectors. To stop the outflow of youths into urban areas it is essential to undertake a detail study on the strength and weakness of livelihood

capitals of the area and accordingly make a strategic plan to utilize the resources at optimum level. There is enough scope for the development of nonfarm employment, if in rural tribal areas marketing facility and storage arrangement is improved, transport and communication system is forward, mechanization process is good. In the recent years the significance of market is gradually increasing.

### **Tribal Women diversity & Inclusive development**

Exclusion from infrastructure and Medical and education facilities etc has led them to a situation where they find it difficult to cope with the outside world at present day situation. Tribal Women diversity and Inclusive development is a vital agenda that the tribal women living standards can only improve when there is provision of better finances, better enterprising, better earnings, better education. The benefits of diversity in earnings occurs, they look for various aspects of enterprising. Tribal women are not inferior with civilized women because of lack of opportunities lagging them into backwardness. Inclusiveness of tribal women depends on the helping hand and provision of basic amenities in their areas and connectivity to the urban, can change their life and bring them in to main stream.

Hence their contribution to GDP shall also become a major share. Tribal oriented enterprising may be given priority. Markets and other infrastructure facilities leads to enhance their income levels and will in-turn accomplish towards inclusive development.

### **Problems of Livelihood Diversification**

Tribal women diversification resists by the lack of education among the women groups. Agriculture is the main occupation. But every family does not have sufficient land for agriculture. The tribes are not using any fertilizer and improved seeds in their farms. They practice oldest farming methods. Irrigation facilities are un-found in their farm lands. There is no transportation, power supply, and other social amenities. Their diversification into other fields is limited scope. With their limited incomes on agriculture is allowing them to fulfill only for their necessities. Women more frequently undertook income diversification as a coping strategy, whereas men tended to migrate. In social situation, social spending, life style pressure has changed as significant factors that directs the households to difficult situations and vulnerabilities. Irregular and uncertain availability of work, low asset holding, uncertain access to credit, absence of asset ownership, decline in work opportunity due to changes in policy, exploitation of community resources by influential groups, and poor relation with formal financial institutions etc, perceiving these as contributing factors that keeps their

livelihood at risk. Hence, it has an adverse effect on the diversification in favor of other economic activities. The tribal women population growth rate seems to be higher. The modern market economy has made difficulty of not changing their natural traditions. The encroachment of non tribes into tribal areas also damaged the interests of real tribes over there.

### **Communication & Monitoring**

Livelihood activities have to be tuned up according to the market movements. Easy access to the information on prices etc from markets can help farmers get to sell their produce in urban markets, with better prices. For the success of above measures the prerequisite requirement is infrastructural development and strong local organization. Power supply, good road and transport system are the basic requirement to make other measures successful. Local organizations must be encouraged to form and work in diverse areas. Most of the benefits provided by the Government schemes reach less to the deserving persons. A Monitoring Committee may be formed to keep an eye on the activities and problems faced by the self-help group or local organizations. SHGs provided access to credit to their members that they used for purchasing farm inputs as a group; helped to promote savings and yielded moderate economic benefits; reduced the dependence on moneylenders.

### **Strategies for empowering of tribal women in India**

It is observed that the Tribal women is the below the poverty line, to face the situation skills and training are to be adopted and promoted among them so as to improve income levels. Various NGO's can come forward to provide necessary trainings which will help them in becoming empowered and generate livelihood. If the economic aspect is taken care off and awareness generated, then the tribal children can attend school which will help them to develop a strong base for their future. Preparing themselves for future lives will be possible through adequate education. It is essential to aware and motivates the tribal children the reasons why it is important to have education. It is not just for acquiring money but to improve their decision making ability. It is a process of creating conditions, in which tribals can enjoy, exercise and utilize all their human rights- economic, social, cultural, civil and political with diversity. Development of Tribal thus aims at economic, social and cultural progress and it can be achieved through certain poverty alleviation programs.

## Suggestions

- ✓ Awareness among the tribal women about the government programs need to be set up.
- ✓ Advantages of the education among tribal women need to be addressed
- ✓ Skill training programs have to be designed and organized for school dropout tribal women.
- ✓ The tribal teachers who understand the tribal language and culture must be posted in tribal schools.
- ✓ Infrastructure need to improve in tribal areas which are located in forest areas
- ✓ Better connectivity has to be set-up with civilized society
- ✓ Communication facilities are to be improved
- ✓ DWACRA, SHGs are to be promoted and sick units are revived by providing funds.
- ✓ Welfare programmes for the Tribal women may be designed on the basis of culture and traditions, social, psychological and economic problems which they are facing in their daily life.
- ✓ The State Governments need to play a vital role for coordinated action across ministries, such as tribal affairs, women and child development, agriculture, rural development, Panchayatraj, and human resource development, to strengthen their efforts towards tackling tribal under nutrition
- ✓ Many research studies on tribal women diversity at grass root level are to be conducted by NGOs, and Independent research organizations and a special focus on tribal diversity and its impact on inclusive development.

## Conclusion

In spite of various constitutional provisions and policies for the tribal's, it is a hard reality that the tribal women still are lagging behind in many respects and they have to face many challenges. Their low level of economic activities, social backwardness, low level of literacy, Poor health conditions make it vital for a systematic process of tribal development. They work very hard and contribute significantly towards the economic condition of the family, but they are still in poverty mostly because no proper efforts are oriented towards them. Many programs are being undertaken for the development of the Scheduled Tribe population and a lot of betterment has been already done, but still, a lot more requires to be done. The families need to have a sufficient income to enable them to cross the poverty levels. Since economic status determines other aspects of life and living conditions, it is of utmost importance.

Education for tribal women is an essential aspect of development. Education is only the solution to enable them to take up jobs so that they can improve their situation. Social and economic status of the scheduled tribe to a large extent depends on the educational attainment. Education turns the tribal women into diversifications and in-turn leads to inclusiveness. 'Inclusive development may be seen as a process of including these excluded sections of the society exclusively Tribal households as representatives whose participation is essential in the plans of the development process and not simply to make the Tribals informed about the various poverty alleviation schemes which is meant for the below poverty sections.

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