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# RESEARCH ARTICLE

# ROAD MAP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL: A CASE STUDY OF HAZARIBAG DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** It is paradox that while highlighting achievements in science and technology it is spoken high about space, nuclear and digital programme but on the other hand a sizable number of population is still fighting hunger, malnutrition and basic health problems. Hence it was of great interest to think and act for equitable and sustainable development of those who are lacking behind i.e the Tribal population of Hazaribag district

## **Objectives**

- 1.To assess the socioeconomic status of the study group/Tribal population.
- 2.To find out the reason behind the backwardness of the Tribal population.
- 3. To know the aspirations of the Tribal population.
- 4. To find out way to overcome the situation.

**Sample size:** It comprised of 648 males and 412 females of age group 18 to 60, some were students, some were unemployed and some worked in unorganized sectors.

Universe: The total tribal population of Hazaribag i.e.121768 as per the last census.

Material and Methods: Localities having tribal population were regularly visited and interacted. Direct interview as well as group discussion was adopted to assess the situation. Questions were asked following the structured questionnaire. Data collected were analysed statistically using student 't'test. Results: Development of Tribal population was not as par to mainstream society although a large no of governmental schemes are available but it hardly reach to the actual beneficiary. Advantage of these schemes are taken away by middlemen. Tribal specially women are more egourous to have their development. They are highly concerned about their educational status, Health benefits, sanitation, water availability and other parameters of sustainable develop

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# INTRODUCTION

It is paradox that while highlighting achievement in science and technology it is spokenvery high about space, nuclear and digital programme but on the other hand a sizable number of population is still fighting hunger, malnutrition and basic health problems. This lopsided growth and development has its own implications on the society. Social conflicts have become an usual feature of almost all area of globe. In present era of globalisation, geographical boundary has blurred and event of neighbour country significantly affect others. Hence, it is in interest of all, irrespective of the fact, whether they are developed, developing or underdeveloped to think and act for

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equitable and sustainable development. Jharkhand a state of India is rich in mineral, natural resource and energy, but unfortunately the state is also facing problem of poverty, inequality, hunger and malnutrition. The state represents a classical case of poverty among plenty. Rural poverty of Jharkhand is 42.9% against national average 28.7% whereas urban poverty is 20.7% against national average 25.9 % (hazaribag.nic.wordpress/profile). This clearly depict the rural urban gap and inequality in almost all indicators. The district Hazaribag has predominantly rural population which accounts for nearly 73% of total man force. Out of that approximately 7% are tribal people which are our study group One important feature observed with the tribal population is their continuously decreasing number. Ten years back, they were 14% of total population, nearly double of present number. This decrease is attributed to migration of tribal to other state for livelihood. Human trafficking is a major consequence of inequality in the

study area. 53.4 % of tribal are below poverty line. Illiteracy and orthodox thinking is the major problem for community (district census hand book 2011). The tribal have completely missed the bus of development. Jharkhand state was carved in the year 2002 with a mission of tribal development. But the results are far from satisfactory. Actually handful of tribal bigwigs successfully grabbed the resources leaving majority in hardships. Generally illiterate and ignorant mass never raised their voice. Prior to creation of Jharkhand, tribal were exploited by non-tribal, now they are exploited by tribal. Another serious problem associated with this community is some social taboos and habits which are hindering their growth. Alcoholism is deeply penetrated specially among male members of this community and they associate it with their culture. Male members are lazy while women are hard workers. These factors have negative implications on overall development of family.

# **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

First of all different sectors of community were identified and their representatives were taken into confidence. Members of the community were convinced that the aim of present study is to know the status and aspiration of their community. After a few initial interactions people opened and started responding. Two methods, interview and group discussion were adopted keeping the target audience in mind. When there was group of literate respondent, group discussions were done. Illiterate and shy respondents were personally interviewed to record their opinion and response. Number of people participated in interview/group discussion were of age group 18-60, including students, workers in unorganised sectors and unemployed. Among the respondents there were 648 males 412 females of the total population i.e 121768(as per last census)

# General description about the Tribal Community

## Study Area

The study area is Hazaribag District of Jharkhand state, India. Munda and Oraon are the major tribal community.

# **RESULTS**

The general thought of especially male members of the community was a notion that they are special citizen of the society and it their right to get all facilities from the government without doing anything. The state Jharkhand was carved on the basis of tribal population and they believe that every state facility is their birth right. Women on the other hand are more realistic and they agree they should work hard for better future. Women advocate good education for their children. Men are of opinion that it is their birth right to drink wine for that they never mind developing nexus with antisocial elements. Women are staunch opponent of alcoholism and majority of them asked the authority to check it in lieu of all other state schemes. The indifference of male members towards development was significantly noticed. Tribal culture cannot be separated from alcoholism. In fact every family has their own in-house breweries they take it as source of income as well. Women have realised importance of education and they are distancing them self from this evil. Although still good number of especially old ladies drink alcohol. Young girls are avoiding this habit and have started doing better in education. Another reason of their marginalising in development issues is foul play by their own elected representative. Tribal wish to accelerate their development by taking part in policy making and their implementation. They want more say in politics and believe that this is the only way to catch the missed train.

Socio-economic Status of Tribal Community Hazaribag District (Jharkhand)

Table 1. Age group of responden	ts with % participa	ated in the survey				
Age Groups With %, Participated in the Survey						
Age in Years (Age Intervals)	N = 1840	%				
1020	0	0.00				
2030	148	13.96				
3040	382	36.04				
4050	318	30.00				
5060	148	13.96				
6070	64	6.04				
7080	0	0.00				

Table 2. In	Table 2. Income group of respondents			
Income (Intervals)	N = 1840	%		
1000 - 10000	848	80.00		
10000 - 20000	106	10.00		
20000 - 30000	85	8.02		
30000 - 40000	0	0.00		
40000 - 50000	21	1.98		
50000 - 60000	0	0.00		
60000 - 70000	0	0.00		
70000 - 80000	0	0.00		

Table 3. Answer range of different questions asked to the respondents.

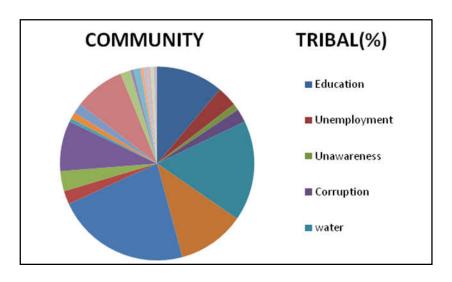
Total number of Participants – 1840

Total number of Questions in Questionnaire - 21

Range Interpretation
0 Not Applicable
1 Very Good
2 Good
3 OK/ Not Clear
4 Bad
5 Very Bad

	Table 4. Questionnaire with respondents under different scale ranging from 0-5											
PERTICULERS	0. NOT		1. VERY GO	OOD	2. GOOD		3. OK/NOT		4. BAD		5. VERY BA	AD
	APPLICAB	LE					CLEAR					
	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%	N = 1840	%
a. Paying Ability	0	0	169	9	678	37	508	28	460	25	24	1
b. Effort for maintaining SOL	0	0	169	9	557	30	412	22	654	36	48	3
c. Lives of Children	48	3	291	16	654	36	605	33	194	11	48	3
d. Lives of Adult over 60	460	25	97	5	412	22	533	29	291	16	48	3
e. Lives of People living with disability	702	38	315	17	24	1	557	30	194	11	48	3
f. Access to Food	0	0	266	14	702	38	533	29	339	18	0	0
g. Access to Health care	0	0	169	9	629	34	605	33	412	22	24	1
h. Access to Education	0	0	339	18	726	39	436	24	315	17	24	1
i. Quality of Services	0	0	145	8	702	38	363	20	508	28	121	7
J. Social Relationship	0	0	484	26	1089	59	73	4	194	11	0	0
k. Position of women	0	0	654	36	896	49	121	7	121	7	48	3
<ol> <li>Level of happiness</li> </ol>	0	0	412	22	823	45	436	24	121	7	48	3
m. Level of inequality (rich vs	0	0	97	5	581	32	315	17	726	39	121	7
poor)												
n. Wellbeing of the poor	0	0	48	3	460	25	339	18	872	47	121	7
o. Quality of the surrounding env.	0	0	194	11	387	21	605	33	581	32	73	4
p. Resouce Supply	0	0	218	12	581	32	557	30	436	24	48	3
<ul> <li>q. Competition for access to</li> </ul>	0	0	97	5	872	47	484	26	315	17	73	4
resources												
r. Political stability	0	0	48	3	339	18	412	22	872	47	169	9
s. Corruption	0	0	48	3	605	33	508	28	484	26	194	11
t. Conflict	0	0	121	7	751	41	387	21	557	30	24	1
u. City problems	0	0	48	3	339	18	436	24	751	41	266	14

Table 5. Statistical analysis (t value) of different questions				
Questionnaire	t' VALUES			
a. Paying Ability	0.06			
b. Effort for maintaining SOL	0.03			
c. Lives of Children	0.12			
d. Lives of Adult over 60	0.79			
e. Lives of People living with disability	0.69			
f. Access to Food	0.09			
g. Access to Health care	0.20			
h. Access to Education	0.09			
i. Quality of Services	0.01			
J. Social Relationship	0.10			
k. Position of women	0.06			
l. Level of happiness	0.10			
m. Level of inequality (rich vs poor)	0.03			
n. Wellbeing of the poor	0.00			
o. Quality of the surrounding env.	0.17			
p. Resouce Supply	0.01			
q. Competition for access to resources	0.03			
r. Political stability	0.02			
s. Corruption	0.00			
t. Conflict	0.01			
u. City problems	0.13			



Young girls expect better education and better job. People wish better water availability for them and they also expect better health facilities Nearly half of the female respondents demanded restriction on alcoholism. The demand for their share in development by getting quality education and employment was significant. It is noteworthy that in some villages they have formed their own group which demolish breweries. Members of this community demanded to check involvements of mediators in providing governmental benefits. It is beyond doubt that tribal community has lagged behind so far overall development is considered.

Basically simple and innocent in nature, majority of people have deceived and cheated them which let to inequality. Some of their habits and adhering to their age old tradition has also contributed in their backwardness.

# **Summary and Conclusion**

Tribal are deeply rooted to their ethnic culture and are more dependent on natural resources like forest. They have inherited some bad habits like alcoholism. Brewing intoxicating drink from rice is a house hold phenomenon and this they correlated with their culture. Unfortunately this is a big obstacle in their overall development. Male members have totally become lazy and whole of the economy is based on efforts of females. Educational status is also poor among boys which completely block their future. Although young girls are fast inclining towards good education. Jharkhand state was carved from Bihar state on the basis of high tribal population and tribal welfare was primary goal. Naturally various state sponsored schemes were initiated for tribal benefit and handful of them got top position in bureaucracy and polity as well. Unfortunately, benefit of these schemes did not reach to masses and remained confined to few persons only. Tribal got trapped by middle man and their situation worsened year after year. One serious bad implication of this development was noticed in the form of displacement of tribal. Population of tribal has reduced to nearly half during last one decade. Human trafficking has become a regular feature. Among tribal respondent there was remarkable difference in opinion and views. Males, normally lazy and not willing to works are addicted to alcoholism. They were more critical about major players of society and were vocal against governmental machineries. Females were more responsible and majority of them asked us to ban trade related to alcohol and other narcotics and they need nothing from the government. Males hardly had any interest in education whereas females were interested and is reflected in their thought as well. So far Muslim community is concerned, once again difference in approach towards development was noticed but here it was because of already existing gap among haves and have not's. The first category is in microscopic minority. Majority of Muslims were not very much aware about the benefit of modern education and were more interested in following conservative tradition in all sphere of life. They were less interested in joining main stream and wish to simply protect their identity.

Those who have understood the importance of modern education are actually at par to developed society. Haldhar (2015) in his study has also reported that tribal population are lagging behind so far development is concerned and they have failed to utilise governmental programs for their upliftment. Roy (2012) has pointed out lack of political will for bringing tribal at par to main stream population.

# **Suggestions**

There should be an approach for the community to prevent from backwardness. Among tribal population, there is marked difference between opinion and general habit of males and females. Females are more hardy and willing to grow where as males are lazy and idle persons. It is therefore urgent to make males aware about their condition and stimulate to take part in socioeconomic development. They should be taught ill effect of alcoholism and addiction to drug. Males are mostly trapped in the nexus of local leaders, outlaws, middleman and those involved in alcohol manufacture in small scale. Awareness programme and strong administrative vigil on out laws is urgent. Females have some other problems. As they are hardworking, cases of human trafficking is common among tribal of study area. Steps should be taken simultaneously to curb this problem as the two problems are interlinked. So many schemes are there to promote tribal but they have failed to pay expected dividend. It is urgent to ensure that benefit of those schemes is transferred to deserving beneficiaries. Tribal population are mostly dependent on forest, so far their economy is concerned. Heavy deforestation and illegal activities in deep forest area are another cause of their migration, although surprisingly they are not much concerned about that. A mechanism should be developed to allow the for certain activities in forest area without in any way damaging them. They must be actively involved in forest management activities. Government of India has passed an act, Forest Right act 2006 keeping tribal in centre. Unfortunately expected impact of this act has not so far been observed. Tribal have vast treasure of traditional knowledge related to health, hygiene, water management and nutrition. Unfortunately, tribal themselves are forgetting that information. Revisiting that wisdom is essential for sustenance of this community.

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