



## LIFESTYLE OF THE TRIBALS IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

*In India, tribal communities have been residing since the past and even in the present existence there are tribal groups throughout the country. Tribal groups are the people that are normally isolated and dwell in forests and hilly areas, the educational levels are low amongst them and they are engaged in various kinds of jobs such as selling products, some migrate to the other regions to work as agricultural laborers and so forth. This research paper focuses upon the lifestyle of the tribals, and the outside world, education of the tribal groups and nutrition programming for tribal children. These areas provide the information that how tribals lead their daily lives and how globalization, technological advancements, educational institutions and rules, policies and norms implemented by the government and other authorities have influenced the lives of the tribal people.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Tribal Groups, Globalization, Education, Nutrition, Lifestyle, Communities*

### INTRODUCTION

The Tribes in India were occupied by groups of nomadic people, who survived on the basis of hunting and the gathering of wild fruits, tubers, and edible roots. The objects such as bows and arrows, a dagger, an axe, a digging stick, some pots and baskets, and a few tattered rags constitute most the belongings of the tribal people. Their dwellings are normally made of a thatched hut in one of the minor arrangements where they reside during the monsoon rains and during the winter season. But during the summer seasons, tribal societies divide up and individual family groups set a camp in the open, under overhanging rocks or in temporary leaf-shelters.

Tribals are normally nuclear families, consisting of a man, his wife, and their unmarried children. For all practical purposes, husband and wife are associates with equal rights, they have the similar rights in making decisions, and this equality of status means that the family may live with either the husband's or the wife's tribal group. Each such group holds hereditary rights to acquisition of land, and within its boundaries its members are granted rights to hunt and collect edible roots and tubers. The tribal groups are characterized by a strong sense of independence and personal freedom. No tribal group, in any part of the country feels bound to any particular region, and they possess the ability to transfer from one group to another; the men and women are free to select their companions with whom they desire to be part of their day to day lives. Marriage rules are based on the exogamy of patrilineal clans; as long as they examine the rules of clan exogamy young people have the right to choose their own life partners. Spouses can disconnect from each other without any formal procedures, but the kidnap of a

woman who is still living with her husband is condemned of as morally wrong.

Tribal communities reside in different kinds of ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas; the social, economic and educational development states amongst the tribal groups vary in accordance with the areas, regions, their way of life and occupations that they carry out. While some tribal communities have implemented a normal way of life, they are very simple in their living and are even secluded from the other groups of people.

The tribal population of India constitutes around 8.6 percent of the total population of the country which is greater than any other country in the world. The total tribal population in India is 104,281,034; amongst this, the rural population is 93,819,162 while the urban population is 10,461,872. The tribal population is growing along with the Indian population but its rate is lower as compared to that of the total population. The total population of India from 1951 to 2011 has increased by 849.46 million; the tribal population from 1951 to 2011 has augmented by 85.1 million. The percentage of tribal population to total population has increased only 3.31 percent from 1951 to 2011. The forest area absorbs an important place in the existence of the tribal groups as well as the economy of the country. The tribal way of life is very much influenced by the forests areas right from their birth to death. It is ironic that the tribal groups of India, who are considered to be the poorest groups, are dwelling in the areas where the richest natural resources are found. Past history of the country illustrates that, tribal groups have been derived to the places due to the trade, industry and cost-effective concerns of different governing groups (B.Ezhilarasu, 2014).



## EFFECT OF GLOBALIZATION ON TRIBALS

The effect of globalization is the strongest on the tribal groups, the reason being they are very simple and have no voice: (B.Ezhilarasu, 2014).

1. Native population throughout the world live upon the impacts of the expansion of globalization; they dwell in the last perfect regions, where resources are still plentiful and rich, such as forests, minerals, water, and genetic diversity. All the resources are intensely sought by worldwide corporations; they are attempting to eliminate the long-established societies from their areas.
2. New progressions in technology, the reorientation toward export-led development, and the main areas of satisfying global financial markets are all driving forces in the extinction of countless number of native communities which are positioned in their path.
3. Traditional sovereignty over the hunting and gathering rights of the tribals has been a question of concern as there has been development of new global economic agreements.
4. Agreements regarding new trades, agreements, constructions and investments have permitted the extraction of natural resources, has forced the native dwellers to move out of their dwellings and areas. The construction of big dams, pipelines, mines, roads, energy developments, military invasions have resulted in extinction of the tribal communities.
5. Tribal groups largely depend upon the biological diversity, the knowledge and the information regarding their dependence and how to effectively make use of biodiversity in a commercial way has generated global rules on the patenting of generic resources.
6. The tribals are regarded as the most isolated and secluded groups of population; international trade, decisions made regarding the export development strategies and rules regarding investment are not discussed with them and the native communities. National governments make the decisions without consulting them.

## TRIBES AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Though Indian tribes have their own areas and spaces where the tribal communities reside, this prevents them from being secluded; they and their neighbouring communities are mutually dependent and have had long term communications for dealings, as a result of which their social and cultural aspects have often been a subject matter of exterior pressures. Even those communities that are now remote, for instance in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, were not so in the past.

## EDUCATION OF THE TRIBAL GROUPS

As it has been understood regarding the tribal communities that they reside in secluded areas, in forests and hills; they are normally isolated and do not render any kind of participation in the outside world. They look out towards

conducting some business or work in order to earn money, they are normally engaged in minority jobs such as agricultural laborers or sell products such as ornaments, medicines or toys. The level of education amongst the tribals is low, they do not recognize the significance of education and even if their children attend schools, they normally drop out at an early stage before adequately honing their educational skills.

There are 573 tribal communities in India with diverse socio cultural lives that are at various stages and levels of socio-economic development. Most of the tribal areas lack the basic infrastructure such as roads, transport, communication facilities, electricity, medical facilities and so forth. The literacy skills amongst the tribals are low or absent, and a significant number of tribal children are outside the education system. There has to be formulation of norms, rules, procedures and policies regarding the system of education not only amongst the tribals but also amongst other groups of the population. The national and the provincial governments of India have distinguished the special features of the tribal groups and they have adopted the approaches and norms that are essential for the tribal groups. There has been establishment of community schools in accordance with the norms and policies. The village community has been granted the power and authority to recruit the teachers, formulate rules and regulations regarding the admission of students and pedagogical methods and teaching and instructional strategies have been adopted within the school systems (K.Sujatha, 2000). These schools have enabled the isolated tribal communities to recognize the significance of education and make them realize that education is extremely imperative for an individual to enable him to enhance his future life prospects.

## CONCLUSION

The tribal communities in India are stated to be very simple in their living; they lead an uncomplicated and a Straightforward life; they reside in forests and hilly areas, their dwellings are normally thatched huts and they are dependent upon the forests to look out for edible roots and fruits to meet their nutritional requirements. The men are normally hunters who hunt in order to meet their day to day food requirements. The educational and the literacy levels amongst the tribal groups are extremely low; they do not recognize the significance of education and do not believe in sending their children to schools. There has been spread of the significance of education amongst the tribals by establishing of community schools but when the tribal children attend school, they do not depict any kind of enthusiasm in acquiring the knowledge and the concepts; hence the consequence is early drop out.

The tribal people believe in making money to earn their living, they are transferable and migrate from one region to another in search for jobs or work; they work as agricultural labourers, sell products for other products such as food and in the present existence, they sell products for money. The tribal people possess efficient knowledge regarding the treatment of illnesses, supernatural powers or how natural products are utilized in cure and treatment of illnesses, disease, infections or any other problems. Tribal people are dwelling in remote areas though they are communicative in nature for the purpose of



earning a living; on the other hand, they are not able to raise their voice if they are being invaded by the external groups for the acquisition of resources.

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