

## **‘Mobile Phone’ can prove ‘silver bullets’ in Inclusive Growth of Primitive Tribe’s**

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Despite residing in primitive life style birhor’s— an endangered nomadic primitive tribe finds associated with the latest telecommunication technology— ‘Mobile Phone’ including Radio, TV and dish TV too. Study find’s that birhor residing in several tanda’s situated in the hilly terrains across the Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhatisghar are not untouched with the impact of Cell Phones.

With the sturdy initiative of the government Cell Phones can be prove silver bullets in their holistic development of the primitive tribe groups (PTG’s) including birhors’. The most obvious advantages of mobile are immediacy, intrusiveness and interactivity – all crucial in the development.

Now-a-days for the same price as a goat, mobile phones are becoming an affordable way for the tribe members to take advantage of modern day technologies without losing their wonderful, rich traditions. While studying the life style of the birhor’s its’ found that cellular phones have had a major impact on the primitive tribes’ lives and the way that we perform every day tasks. Cell phones have enabled us to do various tasks all at the same time, told Babulal Birhor of Dohakatu at Ramghar district. “Cell phones have also enabled families to keep in closer touch with each other while we go out to earn,” added Somra Birhor of the same birhor tanda.

Even in the most remote tribal regions across the country, where indigenous people have almost no access to news in a language they can understand, where almost all communication is done by word of mouth, ‘Cell Phone’— a simple tool that can gives them a new kind of power to improve their lives.

A quick cell phone call can lead to food deliveries for hungry children, government investigation of police brutality, payment for workers, even access to needed medications in those remote areas. In a bid to facilitate the poor tribes Knight International Journalism Fellow Shubhranshu Choudhary developed the cellular network ‘CGNet Swara’ or ‘Voice of Chhattisgarh’ in the month of February 2010 now a boon for the tribes. When he became a Knight Fellow, Choudhary realized that most of the indigenous people in India’s Chhattisgarh region had no access to newspapers, television or radios that broadcast in their native languages.

Most of the villages, though, had at least one cell phone, so he developed a system and trained the villagers to send and receive reports over the phone in their own native tongue. Once reports are confirmed by professional journalists, they are distributed by cell phone. Choudhary also posts the reports online in both English and Hindi. Media outlets have started using the system as a resource for news about the tribal districts. Often, those who listen to the reports become activists who push for change.

After a report that two health centers in Jashpur, Chhattisgarh, had been closed for the past two years, listeners complained to the chief medical office. Now, one center has reopened.

Now Choudhary is expanding the service. He's just wrapped up another filled-to-capacity workshop for citizen journalists eager to make their voices heard. This time, the majority of participants were from the tribal districts of Orissa, on the east coast, historically a desperately poor area with nearly half of its 80-million residents living well below the poverty line.

In Kenya this 'Mobile technology' has proven to be very beneficial for the traditional tribe. The Kenyan government is leveraging mobile devices to help the 'Maasai' (a tribe) cope with one of Kenya's worst drought in history that has threatened their ability to graze and water their cattle. With the help of mobile devices and information shared by researchers, herders can find out where to bring their cattle instead of roaming for hundreds of miles in search water and pasture.

For those who live in more remote areas, the Maasai recharge their phones using solar panels provided by the government or diesel generators. Besides getting information about grazing lands and watering holes, the Maasai also use their phones to trade and find the best deals when selling or trading cattle. They also use the phones to contact doctors or get medical help, which are not readily available in their remote villages.

Taking lessons from these examples state government should take sturdy initiative to use this tool (Cell Phone) as 'Silver Bullets' in the holistic development of the PTG's in Jharkhand too.