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## “Empowerment of Tribal Women: An Anthropological Perspective”

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### Introduction

Diversities and disparities are the basic component of India's geographical area. The people of India include a very large number of tribes (84.3 million) which are a valuable part of our national life with its rich cultural heritage. The tribes in India constitute 8.2 percent of the total population while women in tribal community majority depend on the women. Status of tribal women relating to their socio-cultural problems, their access to employment, education, food, health etc. have not properly been focused. Despite constitutional protection and assonances, even after six decades their status is found to be lower not only the women in general population and scheduled caste women but in also lower than the status of tribal men.

### Constitutional Provision for the Tribal Welfare

For the Tribal Welfare of tribal people the constitute Assembly adopted Article 46 of the constitution which reads as "The state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of SC and ST and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation" Though this article constitutes one of the most important elements of the directive principle of state policy. Several other specific provisional have also been made in the constitution for the overall upliftment of tribal people which can be classified into three aspects.

A. Social:[Article-14,15(4),16(44),338,339,340,342]

B. Economic:[Article-46,275(1),335]

C. Political: [Article-243(o), 244(1), 244(21), 330,332]

### Concept of Empowerment and Tribal women

Empowerment of women involves many thing- economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights and so on. The Indian society is a patriarchal society in which women's position within the structure and duties towards, the family precedes their rights as individuals, many who argue for empowerment of women to do either with or without a full understanding of the conflicts between the historical and contemporary status of women in the patriarchy and the goals of empowerment.

#### **4. National policy for Empowerment of women-**

The objective of National policy for empowering women adopted by the government on 20 March 2001 is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The policy will be widely disseminated so as to concierge active participation of all stake holders for achieving its goals.

##### **Specifically the Objectives of this policy include**

- I. Create an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential.
- II. The de jure and de facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres political, economic, social cultural and civil,
- III. Equal access to participation and decision making of women in socio-economic and political life of nation,
- IV. Equal access to women to healthcare, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance employment, rural remuneration. Occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.
- V. Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination all forms of discrimination against women.
- VI. Changing social attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both women and men,
- VII. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process,
- VIII. Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child,
- IX. Building and strengthening partnership with civil society, particular women's organization,

In order to meet goals the ministry of women and child development is implementing several schemes such as support to training and employment programs for women (STEP), swayam sidha, swadhar, short stay (SSH), family counselling centre (FCC), -condensed course of education of women (CCEW), Awareness Generation Programme for rural and poor women (AGPRPW), Apart from these measures many specific schemes for tribal women are being run viz. Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY). Micro-credit schemes, NSTFDC etc. But hardly any impact is visible on them. They are still living amidst several inherent natural problems-like over work, invasion of sexually exploitive market forces in tribal society, overwhelming illiteracy, high fertility, high malnutrition and high maternal mortality rate. all these

together compel them to live sub human condition of life where problem are ready to welcome this innocent community.

### **Problem in the way to empower tribal women**

For healthy nation it is necessary that all sections of society lags behind or is not able to benefit from development policies the nation ought to be concerned. It has been a continuing complaint of tribal women that the process of development witnessed by the country was by passed them and they have been left high and dry. Their anxieties are deep consciousness. Although of forts are being made through the planned development process but the level of source is for behind the desired targets. To unearth the main hurdles which are preventing them to join the mainstream of Indian society? The main obstacles can be fiend in following ways:

**i. Poverty-** Poverty is the denial and absence of human dignity in India, nearly 300 million people live below the poverty live in appalling conditions of extreme deprivation perspective poverty that is wide spread in Indian is a sharp contrast to the ideals of solidarity. Social justice and equity that are embodied in the Indian constitution the tribal are the poorest social group having more than so per mentioning that poverty has feminine face, whose family food security in adverse, the female are the first to be affected. Despite the presence of a number of schemes, there has not been much change in poverty levels, over the years.

**ii. Illiteracy-** Education is not only a means of adjustment into the society and all round development, but it is also an end in itself. Education affords perfection to the life and it is closely associated with socio-economic development. The literacy rate among the women belonging to the scheduled tribe is 34.8 percent as against 53.67 percent for the all India women's average. Due to overwhelming illiteracy they are ignorant of modern means life.

**Table of Literacy rate (2001)**

S. No.	Person	India		Chhattisgarh state	
		Gen (%)	Tribes (%)	Gen (%)	Tribes (%)
1.	Total	64.8	47.1	64.7	52.1
2.	Male	75.3	59.2	77.4	65.0
3.	Female	53.7	34.8	51.9	39.3

The table shows that the literacy rate of Indian and Chhattisgarh state's tribal women is low in comparison to overall female population. The gap of female and tribal female literacy is higher in national context in the compare of Chhattisgarh state.

**iii. Health-** Women's health and nutritional status is inextricably bound with social, cultural , economic factors that influence all aspects of their lives and it has consequences not only for the women themselves but also for the well- being of their children the functioning of households and the distribution of resources. Nutritional status of tribal women and girls is compromised by unequal ages to food by heavy work demands and by special nutritional needs (such as for iron) females are particularly susceptible to illness, particularly anaemia, trapped in a cycle of ill health exacerbated by childbearing and hard physical labours. There are many taboos and myths also which barriers to health practices are.

**Table of Sex Ratio (2001)**

S. No.	Country/ State	Sex ratio	
		Gen	Tribes
1.	Indian	933	978
2.	Chhattisgarh	989	1013

(Source; Chhattisgarh data highlights; the scheduled tribes, Census of India-2001)

The table shows that the tribal sex ratio is higher than the general population. The tribal sex ratio of Chhattisgarh state is higher than the national tribal sex ratio.

**iv. Sexual Exploitation-** One of the important indicators to measure the progress of any community is the development and human right situation of it women. Social violence against tribal women violets not only their bodily integrity but also their freedom from torture and right to security of life. The incidents of sexual violence are not sporadic occurrences, but have a pattern of consistency about them Non-tribal have taken advantage of the poverty of the tribal women, their economic dependence on them or for work. Forest officials allow them to enter the forest and then rape them, knowing that they will not speak out due to fear and their continued dependence on the forest for basic livelihood needs. Many a time sexual contact is a precondition for giving jobs to these women and girls.

### **Proposal for Improvement and welfare of the Tribal women**

A few suggestion for on overall improvements of the tribal women are mentioned here, hence, there is a need to call upon the union and stage governments as well as the NGO's to ensure them in full fledged and holistic way for the betterment of this deprived community-

1. Women's education is general and that of women from scheduled tribes in particular has assumed special significance in the context of human development. Unfortunately, the educational status of rural tribal female is extremely low the main reason for educational backwardness is non-availability of sufficient numbers of educational institutes in the tribal areas. Therefore, at least one function literacy centre should be opened in each gram panchayat area with a view to make all tribal women functionally literate.
2. Almost programs(TDP) it is there tone, suggested that the educated youth from tribal community should be trained and employed door to door propaganda of such schemes and helping them in talking benefits from those programmes.
3. Health and nutrition are two very important basic needs for empowerment of tribal women. To achieve real and Quaker development in health sector, an extensive as well as intensive health, Education and Awareness campaign (HEAC) needs to be given topmost priority and it should mainly stress on nutritional education, benefits of immunization, family planning etc.
4. Government's intervention should encompass training interested candidates along with hectic efforts to vocational guidance and training for development of their skill with a venue to improve their potentate.
5. Despite the elaborate arrangement or agencies, in practice it lacks effectiveness. The excessive departmentalism comes in the way of effective coordination, supervision and control. So there is a need to reduce the number of scheme and programmer under various heads of development for better implementation.
6. The state government should be act deterrent low that prescribes strict penalties for sex offender to stem the how sexual violence against them.
7. Effort should be made to arrest as for as possible the flow of education young person of the tribal community from village to urban centres to that their knowledge, skill and expertise could be utilized for the betterment of own community.

## Conclusion

Empowerment of Tribal women is the day, as it is the surest way of making them 'Partners of development' and bringing them in the main stream of development and property rights in tribal areas. No fruitful solution is likely to emerge without striking at the deep root into the tentacles of the problem faces by them. Only then it will be possible to bring out a total transformation in the lives of this most deprived section of India's population which has been the victim of atrocities, exploitation and social injustice.

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