

The Evolution of Tribal Communities in Post Independence India

Debajyoti Gupta

Keywords: Evolution, Tribal Communities, Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Tribal Development.

Abstract:

Since its independence, India has actively focused on addressing the challenges faced by its scheduled tribes, making significant strides towards their resolution. Unlike the British colonial regime, which largely limited its interaction with these communities to discussion without action, often isolating tribal peoples to keep them apart from 'civilized' society under the guise of protection through indirect governance, post-independence India has taken a markedly different approach. The British period is noted for keeping tribal communities segregated from the broader societal developments, effectively sidelining them from the nation's evolving narrative.

In contrast, the period following independence has seen a concerted effort by both the Central and State Governments to enhance the socio-economic status of tribal populations and to ensure the preservation of their constitutional rights. This has been part of a broader policy aimed at integrating tribal communities into the national mainstream, fostering a harmonious adjustment between tribal and non-tribal populations. Such a policy of integration, or progressive acculturation, seeks not only to safeguard tribal interests and heritage but also to involve these communities actively in the national development process. The government's initiatives in this direction have laid a solid foundation for the tribes' seamless progression towards a future marked by inclusive growth and equal opportunity.

Introduction:

India is a vibrant tapestry of cultures, with a remarkable diversity that includes 573 scheduled tribes scattered across its vast landscape (Rao & Ramu, 2014). These communities, each with its unique identity, communicate in over 270 languages, highlighting the country's rich multicultural heritage (Sindhi, 2012). Recognizing the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of these tribal populations, the Indian Constitution mandates the government to take active steps towards their development (Sethi et al., 2019). Key constitutional provisions, such as Article 275, prioritize financial assistance for the upliftment of tribal areas, while Article 244 and the Fifth Schedule outline the governance of Scheduled and Tribal Areas (Sengupta, 2018).

In a concerted effort to promote the welfare and development of tribal communities across India, the government has instituted the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) as a mechanism of Special Central Assistance (Nayak et al., 2020). This initiative is a cornerstone of India's approach to addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by its tribal populations, aiming to elevate

Debajyoti Gupta*

Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Tripura University

E-mail: debajyoti111.gupta@gmail.com; OrcidID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-2726-5992>

*Corresponding Author: debajyoti.philosophy@tripura.univ.ac.in

their socio-economic status through targeted financial support. The TSP is designed to funnel resources directly into projects that have a tangible impact on the lives of tribal families, encouraging self-sufficiency and sustainable growth within these communities (Dilip, 2016).

The scope of funding under the TSP is extensive, covering a wide array of sectors that are crucial for the holistic development of tribal areas. This includes investments in agriculture and horticulture, which empower tribal families to leverage their traditional knowledge and resources for commercial farming practices (Dungdung & Pattanaik, 2020). Similarly, support for minor irrigation and soil conservation projects ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, vital for the long-term viability of tribal agriculture. In the realm of animal husbandry and forestry, the emphasis is on promoting practices that align with the environmental and cultural ethos of tribal communities, while also opening up new avenues for income generation (Rowkith & Bhagwan, 2020).

The TSP also underscores the importance of education, cooperatives, and the fisheries sector as pillars of community development, enabling tribal populations to diversify their skills and economic activities. Support for village and small-scale industries underlines the government's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship and local craftsmanship, providing tribal communities with the means to flourish in a modern economy while preserving their heritage (Chowdhury et al., 2022).

Moreover, the inclusion of basic needs programs within the TSP framework ensures that the fundamental requirements of tribal populations, such as access to clean water, healthcare, and sanitation, are met (Kujur et al., 2021). This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate economic needs but also lays the foundation for sustained improvement in the quality of life for these communities.

The dual strategy for tribal development, which combines protective measures with developmental initiatives, represents a balanced approach to integrating India's tribal populations into the national development agenda. Legal and administrative safeguards are in place to protect tribal lands, cultures, and rights, preventing exploitation and disenfranchisement. Concurrently, planned development schemes under the TSP aim to empower tribal communities through education, infrastructure development, and economic opportunities (Rashmi & Paul, 2022).

This multifaceted strategy is reflective of a broader vision for India's development, one that values diversity and seeks to ensure that progress is inclusive and equitable. By acknowledging the unique contributions of tribal communities to India's cultural mosaic and economic fabric, the government aims to foster a sense of unity and shared destiny, ensuring that the nation's growth benefits all its citizens, regardless of their geographic or cultural origins (Chouhan, 2022; Yadav, 2021).

Methodology:

The methodology section of a research study provides a detailed account of how the research was conducted, including the data collection methods and sources. For a study focusing on the upliftment of the tribal population in India post-independence, the utilization of secondary

sources plays a pivotal role. Below is a detailed description of the methodology employed in this study:

Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive research design, leveraging secondary data to analyze the socio-economic development of India's tribal population post-independence. This approach allows for a comprehensive examination of governmental policies, the influence of colonial legacies, the contributions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and advancements in health and education sectors affecting tribal communities.

Data Collection

Secondary data collection is the primary method used in this research, drawing on a variety of sources to ensure a broad and nuanced understanding of the subject matter. The following sources were meticulously selected and analyzed:

Books

Academic books and historical texts provided in-depth insights into the historical context of tribal communities in India, governmental policies over the years, and the evolution of tribal rights and welfare measures. Books written by subject matter experts offered theoretical frameworks and historical narratives essential for understanding the complexities of tribal development.

Websites

Official websites of government departments, such as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, were crucial for accessing up-to-date policy documents, reports, and statistical data related to tribal welfare programs. Additionally, websites of international organizations and research institutes offered comparative analyses and global perspectives on indigenous and tribal welfare strategies.

Articles

Peer-reviewed journal articles served as a primary source for current research findings, scholarly debates, and case studies focusing on tribal development. Articles from reputed journals in the fields of sociology, anthropology, and development studies provided empirical data, theoretical analyses, and critiques of existing policies and programs.

Reports and Publications

Reports from NGOs, voluntary organizations, and international bodies like the United Nations were instrumental in gathering data on ground-level initiatives, success stories, and challenges in implementing development projects. These reports also offered insights into the health and education status of tribal populations, highlighting areas of progress and concern.

Data Analysis

The collected data underwent a thematic analysis to identify recurrent themes and patterns relevant to the study's objectives. This involved categorizing the data according to key topics such as policy initiatives, the role of British colonialism, NGO contributions, and advancements in health and education sectors. The analysis aimed to trace the trajectory of tribal development post-independence, evaluate the effectiveness of various interventions, and understand the socio-political dynamics influencing tribal welfare.

Ethical Considerations

Given the study's reliance on secondary sources, ethical considerations primarily revolved around ensuring the credibility and reliability of the sources used. This entailed a critical evaluation of the authors, publication venues, and the data's relevance and accuracy. Additionally, proper citation and acknowledgment of all sources were maintained to uphold academic integrity and respect intellectual property rights.

Through this detailed methodology, the study endeavours to provide a comprehensive analysis of the upliftment of India's tribal population post-independence, highlighting the multifaceted efforts of the government, NGOs, and other stakeholders in promoting tribal welfare and development.

Role of the Government:

The Government of India's approach to tribal welfare and development is anchored in a vision of integration, aiming to weave the country's tribal populations into the national fabric without eroding their distinctive cultural identities (harishankarBanothu, 2016). This policy, often referred to as progressive acculturation, seeks to foster a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, enabling tribal communities to enjoy the benefits of economic and social progress while preserving their unique ways of life (Mosse et al., 2002). The ultimate goal is to create a responsible partnership between tribal and non-tribal citizens, characterized by mutual respect and shared values.

Foundations of the Integration Policy

The policy of integration is not about assimilation, where tribal cultures would be absorbed into a dominant culture, losing their distinctiveness. Instead, it is about creating spaces within the national mainstream that respect and nurture tribal identities, ensuring that tribal communities can thrive on an equal footing with the rest of the country (Mondal, 2020). This approach is predicated on the belief that India's diversity is a strength and that the full participation of tribal communities in national life enriches the entire country (Kumar_Behera, 1991).

Constitutional Commitments

India's constitution lays down a dual mandate that forms the bedrock of the government's tribal policy:

1. **Protection of Distinctive Ways of Life:** The constitution recognizes the importance of protecting the unique cultures, languages, and traditions of India's tribal communities. This includes safeguarding their lands, forests, and resources, which are not only vital for their economic sustenance but also for the continuation of their cultural and spiritual practices (Shriraam et al., 2021). By securing these rights, the constitution aims to ensure that tribal communities can continue to live in accordance with their ancestral traditions while adapting to the changes of the 21st century.
2. **Protection from Social Injustice and Exploitation:** The constitution is unequivocal in its commitment to protect tribal populations from social injustice, exploitation, and discrimination. This entails a range of legal and policy measures designed to prevent the dispossession of tribal lands, protect tribal populations from economic exploitation, and ensure their access to justice (Lal, 2019). Moreover, the constitution seeks to uplift tribal communities by providing them with equal opportunities in education, employment, and political representation, thus enabling their integration into the national mainstream on their own terms.

The government's policy of progressive acculturation involves several strategic interventions:

Economic Development: Initiatives aimed at improving the economic viability of tribal communities through access to land, capital, education, and markets. This includes the promotion of sustainable agriculture, forestry, and other traditional livelihoods, alongside opportunities in the modern economy (Malhotra et al., 2021).

Education and Healthcare: Enhancing access to quality education and healthcare services for tribal communities, with a focus on inclusivity and sensitivity to cultural nuances. This is crucial for building capacities within tribal societies and ensuring their well-being (Bori, 2023).

Political Empowerment: Ensuring representation of tribal communities in political processes and decision-making bodies at various levels, thus giving them a voice in the governance and development of their regions (Priyadarshini & Abhilash, 2019).

Cultural Preservation: Supporting initiatives that preserve and promote tribal languages, arts, crafts, festivals, and rituals, acknowledging these as integral to India's cultural heritage.

By adopting this multifaceted approach, the Government of India aims to ensure that tribal communities do not merely survive but thrive, contributing to and benefiting from the country's development. The integration policy, thus, is a testament to India's commitment to its pluralistic ethos, seeking to build a nation that celebrates diversity and fosters equality and justice for all its citizens, including its most marginalized communities (Arun Sapre & Gori, 2023; Bagavandas, 2021).

Role of NGOs and Voluntary Organisations:

The synergy between governmental efforts and the work of NGOs is underpinned by the understanding that the task of developing Scheduled Tribes cannot be accomplished through government efforts alone. The grassroots connections, dedication, and service orientation of voluntary and non-governmental organizations make them vital partners in this endeavor. They are often better positioned to implement government schemes in tribal areas more efficiently and effectively, thanks to their local insights and flexible operational methodologies. Their ability to connect on a personal level and adapt to the unique needs of different tribal communities enables a more tailored and impactful delivery of services (Singh, 2018).

To support and leverage the potential of voluntary organizations in the realm of tribal development, four key schemes have been designed:

1. **Grant-in-aid for Voluntary Organizations Working for Scheduled Tribes:** This scheme provides financial support to NGOs working on the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. It includes initiatives such as coaching for tribal students and awards for the special incentive to improve infrastructure. By enhancing educational and infrastructural support, this scheme aims to uplift tribal communities and offer them better opportunities for growth (Negi & Azeez, 2022).
2. **Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts:** Recognizing the double disadvantage faced by tribal girls, this scheme focuses on boosting literacy and educational attainment among them, particularly in districts where literacy rates are alarmingly low (Patra et al., 2021). Through targeted educational programs, scholarships, and support mechanisms, it aims to empower tribal girls with education, paving the way for their socio-economic upliftment.
3. **Vocational Training in Tribal Areas:** With an emphasis on skill development, this scheme introduces vocational training programs in tribal areas. By equipping tribal youths with marketable skills, it opens up new avenues for employment and entrepreneurship, thus contributing to the economic advancement of tribal communities.
4. **Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:** Previously known as the scheme for the development of primitive tribal groups, this initiative focuses on the most marginalized segments within tribal societies. By providing comprehensive support in terms of health, education, housing, and livelihood opportunities, it seeks to safeguard these groups from exploitation and enhance their overall well-being (Pradeep Kumar, 2022).

These schemes underscore the multifaceted approach required to address the challenges faced by tribal communities. Through collaborative efforts between the government, NGOs, and voluntary organizations, there is a concerted push towards not just economic development but also the preservation of tribal cultures and identities, ensuring that progress is inclusive and respectful of diversity (Kapoor et al., 2021).

Educational Facilities

The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme offers financial support to ST students for post-matriculation studies at recognized institutions across India. This program ensures 100% funding from the Ministry to the State Governments and UT Administrations that administer the scheme, in addition to their existing financial commitments. Furthermore, the Ministry extends financial aid for the establishment of Book-Banks in institutions offering professional courses such as Medicine, Engineering, Law, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Chartered Accountancy, Business Management, and Bio-Sciences (Patil, 2022). Every year, the Ministry selects 9 outstanding ST students to receive financial assistance for pursuing Post-graduate, Doctoral, and Post-Doctoral studies at foreign universities and institutions. Additionally, the merit-upgradation scheme organizes coaching classes at reputed colleges to enhance the competency of ST students, improving their performance in competitive exams for admission to Medical and Engineering courses. The coaching scheme supports Pre-Examination Coaching for tribal students preparing for various examinations conducted by the UPSC, SSC, Banking Services Recruitment Boards, and more (Dr. Basavaraj Bheemaraya, 2022).

Special Pre-Examination Training Centres have been established for ST and SC candidates, preparing them for UPSC exams, including those for the I.A.S and I.P.S.

Initiated during the Third Plan, the Girls' Hostels scheme plays a crucial role in promoting education among ST girls by providing Central assistance to States/UTs for constructing new hostel buildings or extending existing ones.

The Boys' Hostels scheme, which mirrors the objectives, terms, conditions, and assistance pattern of the Girls' Hostels scheme, has been operational since 1989-90 and was integrated with the Girls' Hostels scheme during the Tenth Plan.

Ashrama schools have been established to offer basic education and vocational training to tribal students. These schools provide education and training in fields such as agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, farming, beekeeping, and handicrafts, among others.

Various Programme for Tribal Development:

The Constitution of India, established in 1950, articulates under Article 343 the recognition of certain races and ethnic groups as distinct national entities. Over the years, this categorization has evolved, though the foundational attributes outlined by the British have endured (Minz, 2020). Central to the vision of India's founding leaders was the imperative to propel the nation towards development, with a keen emphasis on safeguarding the tribal regions from exploitation. In 1958, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru championed the nation's advancement, advocating for the cultivation of indigenous culture over foreign influences, and for the preservation of national rights in rural and forested lands. The fiscal support for these tribal areas was encapsulated within five Indian initiatives, transitioning in their fifth phase from separate national grants to inclusion within standard budgetary allocations (Darmawan, 2019).

Nehru proposed the oversight of amakhosi districts by a dedicated minister, tasked with executing special programs across distinct sectors within these regions. The initial plan concentrated on bolstering education, healthcare, economic development, and the establishment of communication infrastructures. Subsequent plans prioritized economic upliftment through agriculture, small-scale industries, forestry, cooperatives, and specialized development zones. The strategy remained unchanged through the Third Plan, while the Fourth and Fifth Plans introduced Area Development Plans, targeting specific regions for comprehensive development (Vidyarthi, 1972).

Government efforts in social welfare span five primary areas: economic, educational, health and sanitation, housing, and social and political services. At the state level, Special National Development Blocks and Government Economic Development Boards have been established to harmonize national policies with local initiatives, including livestock improvement and small-scale irrigation projects suited to hilly terrains. Support for traditional crafts through grants and loans, as well as initiatives for educational and healthcare expansion, highlight the government's commitment to holistic tribal development (Vandana & Bhattacharya, 2023).

To date, 184 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), 277 Modified Area Development Plans (MADA) for tribal regions, along with 73 sub-projects for National Organized Groups, have been initiated, providing financial aid to tribal communities. The Sixth Plan assisted 39.67 lakh tribal families, with the Seventh aiming to support 40 lakh individuals. Literacy rates among Scheduled Tribes have seen a significant rise, from 8.54% in 1961 to 16.35% by 1981. Healthcare expansion is evident in the establishment of 1542 Primary Health Centre's and 10489 sub-centres in tribal districts.

Technological interventions, such as radio and television broadcasting, have been leveraged to connect and inform tribal districts, with substantial coverage expansions during the Sixth and Seventh Plans. To combat exploitation, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was founded in August 1987, facilitating the sale of forest products by tribal people. Special provisions by the Seventh and Eighth Finance Commissions for forest area improvement, alongside the New Forest Policy of 1988, underscore a shift in perspective towards tribal communities, recognizing them as stewards rather than exploiters of forest resources, and involving them actively in forest conservation and development efforts. Despite these initiatives, the legacy of division and infrastructural deficits necessitates continued and enhanced efforts to elevate tribal areas to national development standards.

Medical facilities

Various medical facilities have been provided for the tribal's in the tribal areas. In some places, hospitals are established and in many places mobile hospitals facilities have been provided. Many preventive and curative measures to combat the diseases like malaria, leprosy, forest fever, monkey fever, typhoid, small pox, skin diseases etc are undertaken. Medical camps are organized in the tribal areas to enable the tribal's to realize the importance of modern medical facilities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the multifaceted approach adopted by the Indian government to foster the development of tribal areas reflects a deep-seated commitment to inclusive growth and the preservation of indigenous cultures. Through constitutional recognitions, targeted schemes, and the establishment of specialized agencies like TRIFED, India has laid down a robust framework aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by its tribal populations. The strategic emphasis on education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and the preservation of traditional crafts underscores a holistic approach to uplifting these communities, recognizing their pivotal role in the nation's socio-cultural fabric.

Moreover, the incorporation of technological interventions to bridge informational gaps, alongside legislative reforms such as the New Forest Policy, signifies a progressive shift towards recognizing tribal communities as integral stakeholders in the nation's developmental narrative. The notable improvements in literacy rates and healthcare accessibility in tribal areas highlight the positive impact of these concerted efforts.

However, the journey towards achieving equitable development for tribal areas is ongoing. The historical context of division and infrastructural inadequacies presents a complex challenge that demands continuous, focused, and adaptive strategies. As India moves forward, it is imperative that these initiatives not only continue but are also expanded and refined, ensuring that the tribal communities can fully partake in the benefits of national development, thereby enriching the entire nation with their diverse heritage.

References:

- Arun Sapre, A., & Gori, S. (2023). Development-Induced Displacement in India and the Tribal Rights: A Quest for Social Justice. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096231168064>
- Bagavandas, M. (2021). Development of multifactor index for assessing quality of life of a tribal population of India: multilevel analysis approach. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10338-2>
- Bori, J. P. (2023). (Re) conceptualizing and Contextualizing ‘Community’ in Tribal/Indigenous Cultures and Development in India. *International Journal of Community and Social Development*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/25166026221142696>
- Chouhan, V. (2022). Developing a sustainable tribal tourism model vis-a-vis the tribal region of Rajasthan. *Journal of Tourism, Heritage and Services Marketing*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6594696>
- Chowdhury, A., Roul, S. K., & Mete, J. K. (2022). A Review on Tribal Literature Focus on Tribal Education With Special Reference to Tribal Women. *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice*, 22(4). <https://doi.org/10.33423/JHETP.V22I4.5163>
- Darmawan, D. (2019). Tribal Development In India. *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling*, 53(9).

- Dilip, M. (2016). Tribal Development Policies in India-An Overview. *International Journal of Humanity and Social Sciences*, 5(1).
- Dr. Basavaraj Bheemaraya. (2022). INDIAN TRIBAL WELFARE SCHEMES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION: A STUDY. *EPR International Journal of Economic and Business Review*. <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra10579>
- Dungdung, K., & Pattanaik, B. K. (2020). Tribal Development Disparities in Odisha: An Empirical Analysis. *South Asia Research*, 40(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0262728019894129>
- harishankarBanothu. (2016). Tribal Economic Development in India. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Advanced Research Trends*, III(3).
- Kapoor, N., Ahmad, N., Nayak, S. K., Singh, S. P., Ilavarasan, P. V., & Ramamoorthy, P. (2021). Identifying infrastructural gap areas for smart and sustainable tribal village development: A data science approach from India. *International Journal of Information Management Data Insights*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jjime.2021.100041>
- Kujur, A., Kumar, D., Kumar, C., Rana, R. K., & Kashyap, V. (2021). Socio-demographic differentials of cognitive development and nutrition among school children: Evidence from the tribal areas of Jharkhand, India. *International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health*, 33(4). <https://doi.org/10.1515/ijamh-2018-0219>
- Kumar_Behera, J. (1991). Policies and programmes for tribal development in India. *VanyajatiQJ1 Vanyajati*, 59(1).
- Lal, B. S. (2019). Tribal Development In India: Some Observation. *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling*, 53(9).
- Malhotra, A., Nandigama, S., & Bhattacharya, K. S. (2021). Food, fields and forage: A socio-ecological account of cultural transitions among the Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh in India. *Heliyon*, 7(7). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e07569>
- Minz, S. K. (2020). Tribal Development Policies in India : Its Implications and Prospects. *Mukt Shabd Journal*, IX(V).
- Mondal, S. (2020). TRIBAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA: STRUCTURAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES. *GLOBAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH ANALYSIS*. <https://doi.org/10.36106/gjra/7212570>
- Mosse, D., Gupta, S., Mehta, M., Shah, V., & Rees, J. (2002). Brokered livelihoods: Debt, labour migration and development in Tribal Western India. *Journal of Development Studies*, 38(5). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220380412331322511>
- Nayak, S. R., Kant, N., & Anjali, K. (2020). Strategy of using ICT in ODL to disseminate higher education in tribal communities: a case of MP, India. *Asian Association of Open Universities Journal*, 15(2). <https://doi.org/10.1108/AAOUJ-05-2020-0029>
- Negi, D. P., & Azeez, E. P. A. (2022). Impacts of Development Induced Displacement on the Tribal Communities of India: An Integrative Review. In *Asia-Pacific Social Science Review* (Vol. 22, Issue 2).

- Patil, R. R. (2022). Tribal Development in India: Challenges and Prospects in Tribal Education. In *Tribal Development in India: Challenges and Prospects in Tribal Education*. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9789354791710>
- Patra, U., Gayak, J., Karim, S., Halder, S., Sen, A., & Paul, G. (2021). A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TRIBAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES TO PURULIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL. *Journal of Critical Reviews*, 8.
- Pradeep Kumar, B. (2022). Revisiting Major Approaches to Tribal Development in India: A Brief Review of Isolationist, Integrationist and Assimilative Approaches. *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X221122600>
- Priyadarshini, P., & Abhilash, P. C. (2019). Promoting tribal communities and indigenous knowledge as potential solutions for the sustainable development of India. In *Environmental Development* (Vol. 32). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2019.100459>
- Rao, M. S., & Ramu, P. (2014). An Overview of the Tribal Development Policy of India. *International Journal of Academic Research*, 1(1).
- Rashmi, R., & Paul, R. (2022). Early childhood circumstances and educational wellbeing inequality among tribal and non-tribal children in India: evidence from a panel study. *Scientific Reports*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-13889-5>
- Rowkith, S., & Bhagwan, R. (2020). Honoring tribal spirituality in India: An exploratory study of their beliefs, rituals and healing practices. *Religions*, 11(11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11110549>
- Sengupta, M. (2018). Gender, tribe and development: a case study of the Reang tribal community in Tripura (Northeast India). *Asian Ethnicity*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14631369.2017.1301777>
- Sethi, V., Bhattacharjee, S., Sinha, S., Daniel, A., Lumba, A., Sharma, D., & Bhanot, A. (2019). Delivering essential nutrition: Interventions for women in tribal pockets of eastern India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 54(4).
- Shriraam, V., Mahadevan, S., & Arumugam, P. (2021). Prevalence and risk factors of diabetes, hypertension and other non-communicable diseases in a tribal population in South India. *Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 25(4). https://doi.org/10.4103/ijem.ijem_298_21
- Sindhi, Ms. S. (2012). Prospects and Challenges in Empowerment of Tribal Women. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.9790/0837-0614654>
- Singh, R. (2018). "TRIBAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN INDIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES." *Journal Homepage: International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 8.
- Vandana, & Bhattacharya, R. (2023). Contested food, conflicting policies: health and development in tribal communities in India. *Third World Quarterly*, 44(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2022.2141222>

- Vidyarthi, L. P. (1972). Problems and Prospects of Tribal Development in India. *Indian Anthropologist*, 2(2).
- Viswanadha Gupta, P. (2018). Tribal Development in India-Status and Strategies. *International Journal of African and Asian Studies* Www.Iiste.Org ISSN, 48(March 2018).
- Yadav, K. K. (2021). Rajakishor Mahana, Negotiating Marginality: Conflicts Over Tribal Development in India. *Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India*, 70(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2277436x20970293>

HOW TO CITE

Debajyoti Gupta (2024). The Evolution of Tribal Communities in Post Independence India© International Academic Publishing House (IAPH), Dr. Suman Adhikari, Dr. Manik Bhattacharya and Dr. Ankan Sinha, *A Basic Handbook of Science, Technology and Innovation for Inclusive Development [Volume: 1]*,pp. 155-166. ISBN: 978-81-969828-4-3
DOI:<https://doi.org/10.52756/bhstiid.2024.e01.012>

