



AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON FOREST RESOURCE AND TRIBAL WOMEN LIVELIHOOD IN INDIA

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Abstract

The study is going to an attempt to tribal women livelihood on forest in India. Forest is an integral part of tribal life. They lead life on forest resource. It is a right of tribal. It's denied by colonial period after the independence removes some restriction on forest by government. The tribal women have a heritage of close association with forests. As per the 2011 census, the tribal population of India, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. India is largely high portion of tribes in comparatively other countries. To investigation of historically forest is home for tribes their dependency is on this. The present study is an exploring to concern of forest to tribal women livelihood for this followed secondary source. There are most of areas covered by forest, there many tribes are depends on forest resource to lead life. The forest policy and act gives legal right to tribal to consume forest resource as well as genuinely role in empower the tribal women livelihood and human rights of tribes and many laws enacted in context of forest to improvement in forest regulation and protection instructions about consumption forest. The present study has been undertaken to investigate the tribal women livelihood contributions of forest resources and livelihood of tribal women by forest resources.



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Introduction

The last decade, Tribal is undeveloped community inhabiting in forest across the our country, their many issues out of that forest resource and their livelihood before British enters our country forest was for them heaven but after this they have to face and fight against this issues. India is observed to be residing in all the forest rich areas as large number of tribals are still dependent on forests for their livelihood and culturally attached to the nature. There are

many economic activities has been occurred in tribal areas to collecting forest resource by tribal women. India is largest country which is largely portion of consumed by tribes. The tribes know as an indigenous people of our country, it's known in various name like '*janjati*', '*Adivasi*', '*magasalele Hindu*' aboriginals and tribal people. The Indian Constitution refers to them as "Scheduled Tribes" of the total global population of these marginalized people. Tribal communities know no other way to livelihood and survival. The tribes are indigenous people in our country. Tribes in India indentify by different name and pronounced by different researcher those who thoroughly study of life of tribes. 'The term of 'tribes' clearly defined in Indian Constitution. Only the term of 'Scheduled Tribe' explained as "the tribe or the tribal communities or parts of or group within tribes or tribal communities". The word 'tribe' is generally used for a socially cohesive unit associated with different regions.

According to 2011 census, total population 1,21,08,54,977 out of that tribal population 10,45,45,716 and its percentage is 8.6 the extreme economic and educational backwardness of the tribe's in the country has drawn the attention of the state and Central Governments. Indian is large and majority of tribes has been inhabitant in India. In India, forest land area was very by and large existed. The British established a mode of forest governance that imposed restrictions on local forest dwelling communities through a definition of forests as national property for colonial. After the independence the tribal people are expected to get right back but not any kind of changes in forest act but did like this to keep same as. The scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, established on the grounds that the forest rights act, was passed in 2006. It empowers people who keep up forest areas and protect forest resources, and individuals who gain their livelihood from forested areas, to mention the legitimate rights to the forest land them use. During this tribal have rights to freely adopting resource of forest for their individual development and family. If we glance on the after independence India has imposes many restriction on utilize of forest resource to non-tribal by government non-tribal has exploited of tribes, encroachment of non-tribes people, industrialization, for this deforest. Forest is the main resource for a tribal community.

Their entire life revolves around the forest. They not only depend upon the forest for their daily needs but also their economic and socio-cultural needs. Forest is considered a sacred resource by the people who are living in and around the forest. Forest and tribal women have a very close connection with each other. They have the responsibility to collect the forest products.

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They collect fuel wood, fruits, leaves, mushroom, fodder for livestock, and other Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) for their household use and their livelihood. Initially, the originated tribes and inhabitant in forest they are very close to nature, everything of tribes is forest total life of tribes depend on forest. The economy of tribes leads by forest resource, it's mostly worked by tribal women they are helps to raise economy tribal household. It does very precisely understand and presented thought of researcher in this study. It's very important aspects which tribal women are playing role to help house economy and highlight on forest policy how to axillaries to tribal development.

Objective of the Study

- 1) To study the livelihood activities to enriches socio-economic life of tribal women household.
- 2) To understand the forest policies and Acts is an enhancing tribal women livelihood.
- 3) To study problems during the collecting forest resource by forest department and non-tribal people.

Research Methodology

The present study is in form of analytically exposes every activity in relation of forest concern to tribal women livelihood. Through this study understanding the relation of forest and tribal many researchers has on the forest resource and tribal women livelihood. Therefore, for this study followed secondary sources for analysis the livelihood pattern of tribal women collecting forest resource, many researchers has ponder on tribal livelihood pattern through their articles, research paper and innovative work on this issue tribal livelihood and forest.

Review of Literature

In this study reviewed a number of studies and investigate occurred across the country, to display the contribution of tribal women to utilize the forest resource to livelihood of household. It discussed their view as follows.

- 1) **M.A. Islam et.al. (2013)** this study is stated that the livelihoods of tribal communities traditionally dominated. Forest resources play a vital role in the livelihoods of tribal people through direct paid employment and NTFPs based self-employment largely product collected through forest as a livelihood activities for tribal people in the area.
- 2) **Sasmitha padhi et.al (2021)**, The research paper aims to explore various attributes of the forest-based activities among ST women in the Karafuto district of Odisha like; their

affiliation to the group, utilization of money derived from forest-based livelihood, and challenges that they face in forest-based livelihood of tribes.

- 3) **Phulamani Soren (2020)** this paper is a study of tribal livelihood on forest resource hereby stated that highlight on that non-timber forest products have played the vital role in tribal livelihoods and in fulfilling people daily needs, especially of food and medicine.
- 4) **Malik et al. (2010)** Women's work is critical for the survival of tribal households both in terms of provision in food and income as well as in the management of resources
- 5) **D. Sudaram** underlined the importance of the tribal forest interference with emphasis on tribal women and their concern in historical perspective towards the forest resources dependence.
- 6) **Sasmitha padhi et.al (2021)**, The research paper aims to explore various attributes of the forest-based activities among ST women in the Karafuto district of Odisha like; their affiliation to the group, utilization of money derived from forest-based livelihood, and challenges that they face in forest-based livelihood of tribes.
- 7) **Asha Dagar et. al. (2022)**, the study was conducted in tribal area of Southern Rajasthan. The objective of the present study is to study the livelihood pattern among tribal women. It can be concluded that crop based livelihood activities was the main occupation for more than half of the tribal respondents. None of the respondents opted crop production as a secondary source of livelihood.
- 8) **Priyanka Velip (2016)**, This paper is an attempt to document the daily struggles of the women in my own community the Velip community, which is considered as one of the Tribal communities of Goa. Tribal people especially poor tribal women are more dependent on natural resources as means of livelihood and the ones who look after family needs. Women play an important role in sustaining family needs.
- 9) **Uma Ramaswamy (2014)**, In this study, an attempts to look at whether things have changed for women living in the forests of Jharkhand and Assam by undertaking rigorous field research in the remote villages of these two states. The study exposes that the role of women as economic agents and their contribution to the Gross National Product through agro forestry and by collecting a variety of non-timber forest produce deserve to be recognized in future policy framing exercises.

An Overview on Forest Resource concern to tribal women livelihood

The tribal community is by and large deprived community in India. There are many issues of tribal apart from forest resource livelihood. Forest resource is integral part of tribal economy of tribal household and close relation with nature. The nature is everything is delivered to tribal through this grow up them. Forest is golden life of tribal before entered British in India, British has imposed legislation by this exploitation of tribes rights which forest resources. Their livelihood issues are arises from then. Tribal women are actively worked in forest and collecting resource to raises family income. The forest resources are an important contributor to the tribal women livelihoods among all tribes. This is main function of tribal women in tribal community. This is an important base of tribal women livelihood their life is passes in forest. Before independence, tribe's economical source is their economic bone of tribal which forest resource like timber and other medical plants are highly demand. The study envisages that forest resource how is in changes of economic activities of tribal women, there is substitute economic source of tribal women empowerment. Out of the total population of tribes a number of tribes which is tribal living in mostly remote countryside and dependent on forest resource and allied activities, mainly the collection of "non-timber forest produce" (NTFP) utilize to as "minor forest produce" (MFP). Its seems, since the British amidst in forest policy has been changing time to time and added the new provisions regarding tribal development and sustain the rights of tribal, protect forest resources, consumption of forest. Forest is symbolic relation of tribal. They very close to forest their livelihood is totally depend on forest products. The forest-based economy is generally considered as a women's economy. Women are the primary gatherer of forest products. They collect the forest products for daily household consumption as well as for their livelihood. Their life and economy are completely interconnected with the forest, which directly impacts their socio-economic and cultural life. In a nutshell, their life and livelihood are completely dependent factors on the forest, which is poses that many risks and challenges for their survival. Although several programs and policies have been formulated to support their livelihood, there is still no visible impact reflected in their socioeconomic lives.

If we talk about the many forest legislation how to restrict on forest resource utilization which is Forest Act-1865 provided the legal sanction to the forest administration in various provinces of India and empowered the colonial state to acquire monopolistic control over India. . It was first formal step to regulate the collection of forest resource by the forest dwellers. Forest
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Act-1878 its categorized and reserve areas forest across the India and made provision deal with forest conservation fine, offence and imprisonment. Many reported that this Act came as a nightmare for the tribal and indigenous communities living in and around the forest for their survival. National Forest Policy 1988 is made a soft resolution in regard forest utilize legislation needs of local tribal communities. Therefore, emphasis was given on involvement of tribal people in the protection, regeneration, and development of forests as well to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest (NFP, 1988). The NFP 1988 also assures that the customary rights and concessions are fully protected. The land area of India totals 328.7 million hector of which 142.5 million ha. (43.3%) is under agriculture, forests cover 76.5 million ha. (23.27%). According to the State of Forest Report (FSI 1997), the actual forest cover is 63.34 million ha (19.27%) of which 26.13 million ha. are degraded. In India, the study is going to focus on forest and tribal livelihood its rethoritical enrich life of tribes through forest resource. 18% of land is largely land covered by forest, majority of tribes are inhabitant in forest and their life depend on this.

According to the 1971 Census Report is showed that a majority of the tribal lived in the countryside and relied mainly on agriculture. From an economic point of view, the tribes could be classified as semi - nomadic, the cultivators and the settled cultivators, living completely on forest produce. Forests are the main source of subsistence for them. They collect their food from them; use the timber or bamboo to construct their houses; collect firewood for cooking and in winter to keep warm; use grass for fodder, brooms and mats; collect leaves for leaf plates; and use medical plants for dyeing and tanning. The forest region are also inhabited by non - tribal, who depends on forests for fuel, fodder and so on. If we the particularly about the tribal people in case of historical background of tribes is their inhabitant in forest. Forests have the potential to improve the livelihoods of forest dwelling people, particularly tribal people, who are among the most disadvantaged groups in Indian society.. In one word, except those tasks which are a taboo for them, they do all the work 18% land out of total land spread forest. The first state which largely spread forest area in Orissa and different state forest areas there declared tribal areas. The governments strictly protect the forest areas in all state of India. Tribal people are struggling for their human right in case of forest consumption; forest is main source of food, shelter, clothes of tribes.

Conclusions

Thus, this study is an understanding the forest resource and tribal women livelihood. Tribal women is playing important role in collecting forest resource. So, through this study has been highlighted on economic activities done by tribal women through collecting forest resource. It is base of tribal economy; it's mainly work done by women. Initially, they are totally dependent on forest resource but in British entered in India have imposed some legislation and exploitation of tribal by deforestation. There are many provision has been made regarding forest consumption. Tribal women what kind of resources collects from forest and how help to raise family income. There are many issues of tribal women during the collecting resource. Tribal's violation of human right by imposing restriction on tribal resource consumption and deforestation. Tribal women are main work which is collecting many types forest resource and to help family. In other words tribes are facing many problems and human rights in case of forest resources. The policy recognized the symbiotic relation between the tribal people and forests. Therefore, emphasis was given on involvement of tribal people in the protection, regeneration, and development of forests as well to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest. It's not new phenomenon because tribal are king of forest. Presently, a number of tribes are inhabitant in forest not yet connected to mainstream and development. Before the independence forest is everything for them to utilize the resource to living protection them deforestation is largely by non tribes so tribes are comes in contact of mainstream. The access of forest enriches life of tribal women. In India, many made law related to foresee.

The National Forest Policy 1988 included for the first time the elements of community ownership of resources and addressed the important relationship between tribal and forest. It provides critical subsistence support to the communities, particularly belonging to vulnerable tribes during lean season. Further, women have a significant role in collection, use and marketing of NTFP. Its restricted on unitize of forest resources. It is a very big challenge before tribal women. Adivasi women are central to the economy of their society. They take part in forest production, gather forest produce, do wage labour where available (from government or forest department works, tendu leaf and road contractors etc) and almost single handedly bear the whole burden of domestic work, child-rearing, rearing of cattle/livestock, going to markets to sell their produce, do the marketing for their families etc, many activities is done related to forest by

tribal women. Tribal women has to face during collecting forest resources by forest department and non- tribal people.

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