

TRIBE: PROFILE AND LOCATION

INTRODUCTION

- The term “tribe “ here” means a group of people that have lived at a particular place from time immemorial.
- Anthropologically the tribe is a system of social organisation of social organisation which includes several local groups- villagers, districts on lineage and normally includes a common name, political system, simple economy, religion and belief, primitive law and own educational system.
- Constitutionally a tribe is he who has been mentioned in the scheduled list of Indian constitution under Article 342(i) and 342(ii).

DEFINITION

- **Article 366(25):** Scheduled Tribes mean such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 of the Constitution to be Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 342:** It says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

India is home to a large number of tribes with population of about 70 million. In terms of geographical distribution about 55% of tribals lived in central India, 28% in west, 12% in north-east India, 4% in South India and 1% elsewhere. Tribals constitute 8.14% of the total population of the country numbering 84.51 million (2001 Census) and cover about 15% of the country's area.

THREE TRIBAL ZONES

- The North and North –Eastern Zonee
- The Central or the Middle Zone
- The Southern Zone

THE NORTH AND NORTH EASTERN ZONE

- Eastern Kashmir, Eastern Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Northern Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, etc constitute this zone.
- **The Aka, the Mishmi, the Chulikata and the Naga** are some of the tribes of this zone.

CENTRAL ZONE

- Bihar, Bengal, Southern U.P, Southern Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa come under this zone.
- **The Kondh, the Santrhal, the Bhil, the Gond, the Muria and the Baiga** are only a few of the large number of tribes of this zone.
- The bulk of the tribal population lives in this zone. There is a very high concentration of tribal population in central India. Over 85 percent of the tribal population inhabits the eight states that constitute this zone.

SOUTHERN ZONE

- The Southern zone is consisted of four Southern States – Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
- **The Toda, the Chenchu, the Kadar and Koraga** are some of the important tribes of this zone.

The Small Zone consisting of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Besides these main zones, there is another isolated zone constituting the Andaman and Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal.
- **The Jarawa, the Andamanese and the Nicobarese** are the important tribes of this zone.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBES

- Production without technological aids.
- Mixing economic activities with religion and magic
- Production for consumption
- Absence of currency
- Absence of regular markets
- Absence of profiteering
- Economic backwardness
- Community basis of economic activities
- Absence of specialists

THE PROTESTS

- During The period of British rule, against the land dispossession and subjugation by British and zamindar, India saw the rebellions of several tribal, mainly tribals that revolted against British rule. Some of these are :
- **Santhal rebellion of 1855-56**
- **Chakma rebellion (1776-1787)**
- **Chuar rebellion in Bengal (1795- 1800)**
- **Bhil rebellion (1858)**

MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBES IN INDIA

- Construction of the Hostels for Tribal students
- Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations
- Research and Training
- Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
- Post Matric Scholarships, Overseas Scholarship
- Tribal Advisory Council

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

1. Protective Safeguards

- Educational safeguards- Article 15(4) and 29
- Safeguards for employment – Articles 16(4), 320(4) and 333
- Economic Safeguards- Article 19
- Abolition of bonded labour- Article 23
- Protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation- Article 46

2. Political Safeguards

- Reservation of seats for ST in Lok Sabha and Assemblies- Article 330,332,164
- Appointment of Minister in charge of Tribal Welfare
- Special provisions in respect of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur- Articles- 371(A), 371(B) and 371

CONCLUSION

- The tribal population in India is at different levels of socio-economic development. Over the last 65 years or so, many of the Scheduled Tribes appear to have evolved into two, more or less distinct groups:
- those who have been able to take advantage of the benefits under the Constitution and
- those Scheduled Tribes whom such programmes and protection have failed to reach and who still exist at subsistence level with poor health, education and income levels.

REFERENCES

1. Haimendorf, C.V.F., 1967, "The Position of Tribal Population in India", in P. Mason India and Ceylan: Unity and Diversity, New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 9.

EXPECTED QUESTIONS

1. Who is a tribe?
2. What are the characteristic features of tribe?
3. Define Tribe.
4. What are the three zones of the tribe?
5. What are the measures for the development of tribes in India?
6. Write down the constitutional provisions for tribes in India.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

1. Who are scheduled tribes? (2021)
2. What happens if the language of tribal community is displaced by that of a dominant neighbouring population? Discuss. (2021)