

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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The tribal people were the most primitive amongst the contemporary inhabitants of India. They are at a standstill in the archaic stage and distant from the touch and contact of modern development induced society at large. They live in the forest, mountainous regions, and valleys known by a range of names such as Janjati, Girijans, aboriginals, adivasis etc. The constitution of India has referred to them as the Scheduled Tribes.

Broadly ‘Tribe’ is defined as a group of families live together as one community under one or more chiefs/leaders and unified by languages and customs at large. This larger understanding has dominated over time to become highly acknowledged for all rationale. An explicit widespread characteristic of a tribe is its remoteness from the main stream dominance of Hindu Culture at large. Scheduled Tribes (STs) are aboriginal, have their own distinguishing culture, organically remote and low in socio-economic status. Further, the tribes have remained outside the sphere of the basic development process due to their habitation.

1.1 Tribes in India

Government of India has scheduled the tribal groups in the Constitution and facilitate them with special provisions for their welfare and developments. Majority of the tribal areas are tough territory like mountainous, unapproachable plateau, dense forest areas of the country, consequential to the bypass of developmental programmes and schemes. Thus, infrastructure, development, basic facilities in tribal areas for education, roads, healthcare, communication, drinking water, sanitation etc. are still in poor of poorest conditions (refer to Table 1.1.1 and 1.1.2). The total tribal populations of India, is 8.6 per cent (census of India, 2011). There are more than 550 tribal communities in India,

among them 75 are considered as primitive tribal group. The tribal population is identified as the indigenous inhabitants of our country.

Table 1.1.1 gives the Status of all India ST households. The table shows that in 86.53 percent of the household, the monthly income of the highest earning household is less than 5000 rupees. On the other hand, only 8.95 percent of the household are having monthly income between 5000 to 10000. It is worth mentioning here that only 3.91 percent ST households are there who have government job with monthly income more than 5000.

Considering the backwardness and isolation of tribe, government has taken the initiatives to uplift them and incentivize them for their mainstreaming. For this purpose, government has provided them agricultural land for but the table shows that 42.59 percent of the household owing unirrigated land while only 18.06 percent having irrigated land.

| Category | Number of Households | Percentage |
|---|----------------------|------------|
| Monthly income of highest earning household is <5000 | 1,70,79,464 | 86.53% |
| Monthly income of highest earning household is <5000-10000 | 17,65,828 | 8.95% |
| Monthly income of highest earning household is >10000 | 8,33,487 | 4.48% |
| Household with government job and reporting monthly highest income>5000 | 7,71,326 | 3.91% |
| Household having motorized two/three/four wheelers and fishing boats | 19,50,904 | 9.88% |
| Households own both landline and mobile | 1,34,759 | 0.68% |
| Households without any phone | 1,13,26,696 | 57.39% |
| Households owing mechanized three/ four wheelers agricultural equipment | 3,18,096 | 1.61% |
| Households having Kissan Credit Card (KCC) with credit limit of Rs 50,000 and above | 3,24,667 | 1.64% |
| Total Households owing un-irrigated land | 84,06,236 | 42.59% |
| Total Households owing irrigated land | 35,62,142 | 18.05% |
| Total household owing other land | 25,31,055 | 12.82% |
| Households with irrigation equipment | 10,06,885 | 5.10% |

Source: Socio-economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011, [GoI](#).

Table 1.1.2 gives the literacy rate scenario of tribe in India. The table clearly explain that the literacy rate of tribal in India increased over time as in 1961, it was 8.53 percent which is 59 percent in 2011. Government have taken many steps to enhance the literacy rate among tribal.

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1961 | 13.83 | 3.16 | 8.53 |
| 1971 | 17.63 | 4.85 | 11.3 |
| 1981 | 24.52 | 8.04 | 16.35 |
| 1991 | 40.65 | 18.19 | 29.6 |
| 2001 | 59.17 | 34.76 | 47.1 |
| 2011 | 68.5 | 49.4 | 59 |

Source: Annual Report 2016-17, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Educational scheme such as establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Hostels for ST boys and ST girls along

with that primary school have also been established under Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP) for the educational upliftment of tribal people.

1.2 Tharu Tribe

Tarai is regions broaden amid the northernmost reaches of the Gangetic Plain and the southern foothills of the Greater Himalayas, a stretched-out area that overlap southern Nepal and northern India. This region is ecologically varied, hosts a lot variety of cultures, languages and landscapes. Tharu is an ‘umbrella-ethnonym’, uniting a variety of historically endogamous groups that speak different dialects and are also distinct in many socio-cultural aspects. The Tharu live in the Tarai and surrounding areas of Nepal and are also found in Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and Bihar, where they are recorded as scheduled tribes.

Tharu typically resides in the Tarai belt of U.P. more specifically they are living in the District of Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich and Balarampur. Tharu villages are also found in Uddham Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand. Tharu tribe was proclaim as scheduled tribe in U.P. in the year 1967, along with four other tribes. In June, 1967 five tribes of U.P. namely Bhoksa, Bhotia, Jaunsari, Raji and Tharu. After the division of U.P., only Tharu, Raji and Bhoksa are now the part of U.P. and rest two goes to Uttarakhand. The Government of India came with an amendment act and in January 2003 included ten new tribes in tribal list which were earlier in the category of scheduled caste. These tribes are Bhaiga, Kharwar, Gond, Sahariya, Pankha, Chero, Khairwar, Bhuiya, Parahiya, and Agaria.

| Schedule Tribe Name | Sex Ratio | Child Sex Ratio | Literacy Rate | | | Total Population |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|------|--------|------------------|
| | | | Total | Male | Female | |
| Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Pathari, Rajgond | 966 | 938 | 61.2 | 73.5 | 48.4 | 5,69,035 |
| Kharwar, Khairwar | 945 | 942 | 58.05 | 70.3 | 46 | 1,60,676 |
| Saharya | 945 | 955 | 30.4 | 38.6 | 21.7 | 70,634 |
| Parahiya | 976 | 920 | 47.2 | 61.9 | 32.5 | 901 |
| Baiga | 927 | 944 | 28.5 | 37.4 | 18.9 | 30,006 |
| Pankha, Panika | 935 | 985 | 55.8 | 67.8 | 42.7 | 24862 |
| Agariya | 944 | 953 | 24.6 | 33.4 | 15.1 | 17,376 |
| Patari | 1095 | 1182 | 56.5 | 71.2 | 42.9 | 132 |
| Chero | 936 | 936 | 40.9 | 51.7 | 29.3 | 42,227 |
| Bhuiya, Bhuinya | 965 | 1004 | 38.7 | 50.2 | 26.7 | 15,599 |
| Bhotia | 880 | 854 | 58.6 | 66.8 | 49.4 | 5196 |
| Buksa | 905 | 953 | 50.6 | 60.9 | 39.1 | 4710 |
| Jaunsari | 919 | 965 | 50.6 | 60.4 | 39.8 | 3720 |
| Raji | 855 | 1000 | 35.6 | 42.1 | 27.6 | 1295 |
| Tharu | 961 | 959 | 54.6 | 66.3 | 42.5 | 105291 |
| All Schedule | 952 | 944 | 55.7 | 67.1 | 43.7 | 1134273 |

Source: Statistical Profile of STs in India, 2013

These were earlier listed as scheduled castes of Uttar Pradesh. A brief overview of Tribal population in Uttar Pradesh is mentioned in Table 1.2.1. In terms of population Tharu tribe is the largest tribe as total population of Tharu tribe is 105291. Further, on the ground of literacy rate Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Pathari and Rajgond collectively have highest literacy rate while Agariya having the lowest literacy rate.

1.3 Rationale of the Study

The socio-economic conditions are very important for an individual's life. The tribal people fail to meet their basic necessities due to irregularities in their income. Further, uncontrollable factors such as unemployment, illness, exclusion, discrimination, lack of information, illiteracy etc. push them towards vicious poverty trap. Further, poor conditions or unavailability of the infrastructure in their locality like Road,

Communication, Hospital, School and Sanitation etc. increases their vulnerability and risks to be in poverty trap. All discussed conditions are prevailing in the district of Lakhimpur Kheri. Here, Tharu tribe is lagging behind in economic status as compared to other population. The study attempts to elucidate socio-economic conditions of Tharu tribe from various points of view which range from Socio-cultural, Economic, and sources of livelihood, financial status, health and education, influence of modernity. This study mainly highlights the present socio-economic conditions of Tharu tribe in the light of their traditional living system and impact of various development programmes implemented for the betterment at large.

In spite of the best efforts made by Government of India through planning exercises and spending crores of rupees on tribal welfare programmes, the real benefit of development have not reached the poorer section of tribal communities. The real benefits have been availed mostly by some better off members of the tribal society. A majority of the tribal people continue to be poor in varying degrees. The percolation effect or in other words the trickle-down effect on tribal is marginal and insignificant. Still poverty exists in the midst of plenty. As on today not less than forty percent of the tribal families are below poverty line. The various reasons for the slow progress of tribal development are attributed to besides half-hearted treatment of government; social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors are responsible for the backwardness of tribal communities.

The study is based on the options and inputs received from the socio-economic conditions of tribal community of Tharu. The study mainly concentrated on the socio-economic variation in Tharu population. The study is about going through to distill the importance of socio-economic condition of Tharu tribal people in their life, thus, unwillingness to share the information, incomplete or incorrect information and non-

responses to a few questions may not be ruled out. Further, Palia and Nighasan blocks are situated under the forest protected area of DUDHWA national Park, thus, all Tharu populated villages situated inside the forest area which is little bit tough to commute.

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To study socio-economic characteristics of tribal population of Tharu
2. To investigate the impact of socio-economic factors on household income of Tharu Tribe

1.5 Research Hypothesis

1. H₀: Land ownership does not significantly affect the income level of a tribal household
2. H₀: Occupation does not significantly affect the income level of a tribal household
3. H₀: Education level does not significantly affect the income level of a tribal household
4. H₀: SHG membership does not significantly affect the income level of a tribal household
5. H₀: Household Characteristic does not significantly affect the income level of a tribal household.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The present study has been organized in following pattern:

Chapter 1 deals with the introduction of the present study. Firstly, this chapter talks about the tribe and its definition in general. Secondly, it focuses on socio-economic status of tribe in India as a whole. Further, it explains, the Tharu tribe and other tribes that resides in Uttar Pradesh. After that the rationale of the study and research gap has

been discussed in this chapter. Finally, this chapter explain the objectives, research questions and hypothesis of the study. **Chapter 2** gives the description of available literature related to the present study. **Chapter 3** depict the research methodology that has been used for commencing the present study. This chapter explains the chosen area of study, research design, sample and sample design, data sources, area and period of study, data collection method and data analysis. **Chapter 4** describes the scenario of socio-economic status of Tharu tribe of the study area. In this chapter the living condition of the tribal household have been assessed. This chapter also tried to find out the tribal access to government schemes and programmes. **Chapter 5** tried to find out the determinant of tribal household income. Multiple regression analysis has been used to fulfill the above objective. **Chapter 6** conclude the present study, bind up the major finding and give policy suggestion of the discussed problem.