

## EDUCATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SCHEDULED TRIBES

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### Abstract

*Culture and education can be regarded as two sides of a coin. Cultural development occurs when it is transformed and preserved. A well-educated citizen can contribute much to the society and for its development. When cultural transformations occur as a result of the provided education, it will lead to positive social changes. This social change brings needy transformations in the moral values and ethics. Education plays a key role in the attempt to provide cultural and economic prosperity of tribes. While the literacy rate of common population is 29.34%, literacy of tribal population is 6%. Even though the curriculum, school calendar and year plan are organized considering tribal culture they are not being implemented properly. Teachers are forced to ignore tribal students' daily habits, festivals and beliefs because most of them are not among the tribal citizen. Many projects have been started by government of India and state governments for the upliftment of Scheduled tribes. This paper describes the importance of education in cultural development of tribal section of the population. Problems regarding the education system and various programs for the upliftment of tribal people have been included.*

Keywords: Education and Culture, Challenges faced by the Scheduled Tribes , Education aspect, Government Schemes.

### Introduction

Education is the key to success. Scheduled tribes are the most marginalized section of Indian society. Education of marginalized section of a society needs urgent changes and developments. It plays a key role in the attempt to provide cultural and economic prosperity of tribes. Although there are many programs and policies being implemented for educational reformation of tribes, they are not running desirably. To revamp tribal education there should be a grass root level analysis of their culture, traditions, strengths and weakness. Meaningful teacher pupil relationship should be ensured for proper classroom transactions. Since tribal sector have wide and rich cultural heritage they need to be preserved and transmitted. Undesirable tradition and beliefs should be manifested in a proper manner. Education assures all these and proper education have the power to eradicate imbalances, thus mainstreaming of tribal population will happen. Proper educational facilities and amiable learning environment promoting their culture will help the tribal students to come out of the circle.

### Need and significance

Education plays a keen role in cultural development. Culture impacts the education system of a nation. It is strongly bonded to the teaching methods and the student behavior (Sabuj Ahamed 2022). A study conducted by Bhuriya in 2010 reveals that many tribes were forced

to be part of the general culture of the society. It will not be practical. They should be given awareness about the general population and the problems they are facing today. Proper education should be provided to eradicate these differences. This article deals with the importance of culture, education and the major challenges faced by the tribal population.

### **Objectives**

- To analyze the contribution of education to the cultural development of a nation.
- To understand major challenges faced by tribal education sector in India.
- To identify major programs and policies implemented by the government for the development of tribal population in our country.

### **Education and Culture**

Culture and education can be regarded as two sides of a coin. Cultural development occurs when it is transformed and preserved. A well-educated citizen can contribute much to a society and for its development. When cultural transformations occur as a result of the provided education, it will lead to positive social changes. This social change brings needy transformations in the moral values and ethics, social orders, cultural norms and traditions. The educational ideas contribute to cultural transmission, promotion, personality development, cultural diffusion and eradication of cultural lag. Without education cultural development cannot take place and without understanding the culture, education cannot be provided as per the need of each individual.

Importance of cultural norms and values are to be introduced from the elementary level itself. Each and every one in this world acts a part of the society from birth itself. It is the culture that helps them to live as a member of the society in cooperation and peace. Education helps an individual to live in harmony with the nature. Education helps in decision making process to acquire a positive attitude towards the changes in the society. Formal education through schools, universities and colleges along with informal education from parents, neighbours, life experiences and society help in cultural changes. These changes may be transmitted from one generation to other also.

Culture is a complex whole which constitutes art, music, customs, values, beliefs, tradition and old tradition. Cultural development contributes to economic growth of a nation as well. As education and culture are inseparable, it contributes to the whole round development of a nation especially marginalised sections. There is a need of preserving the good elements of existing cultural and transmit it to the next generation. Desirable changes are to be happened for cultural backwardness as well. Education can play all the roles by providing good curriculum and curricular experiences. (Soumya & Arulsamysavarimuthu, 2020)

### **Education of the Scheduled tribes**

Tribal education is a matter of concern. For their development tribes should be educated and should be made self-sufficient as they are facing exploitation from the mainstreamed section of the society. Their lands have been taken away and forced to live in the remote areas with no basic facilities. The problem is that it will not be easy for such a group to be mainstreamed without changes in their cultural norms, beliefs and tradition.

Education plays a key role in this attempt it will provide cultural and economic prosperity of tribes. While the literacy rate of common population is 29.34%, literacy of tribal population is 6%. All the governments have spent funds for tribal education but still they are not visible as a development. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribe's commissioner have postulated that no improvement in tribal sector can be visible unless they are being provided with suitable education. It is found that there is no scarcity of tribal schools, scholarships, basic facilities in schools and lack of incentives. But to attract tribal people to these and educating them is difficult.

### **Challenges Faced by tribal students' Education**

It's an alarming fact that even teachers are not able to see tribal students as mainstreamed. The difference in attitude, culture, tradition, personality etc. are not seemed to be adjustable by the teachers basically from the main stream section of the society. Even language plays as a barrier for the teacher pupil interaction. These are coming out as discrimination among class mates also.

Even though the curriculum, school calendar and year plan are organized considering tribal culture they are not being implemented properly. Teachers are forced to ignore tribal students' daily habits, festivals and beliefs because most of them are not among the tribal citizen.

Learning environment plays an important role in creating mental readiness among children. Most of the tribal schools do not provide amiable environment for proper learning experiences. so child dropout rate is very high in tribal schools. The situation is not different in tribal youth education and their employment sectors.

Article 350 A postulates the importance of mother tongue in classroom transactions. The language of instruction has become a problem for tribal students, because their native language is entirely different from those of the teachers in the classroom. As a result, they are not interested in the classroom activities. It is to be appreciated that efforts have been started now a days to educate Gonds, Bhils, Santals and other groups in their own language and they are responding well. (Bhuriya,2010)

### **Government sponsored programs for tribal development**

Many projects have been started by Kerala government for the upliftment of tribes in collaboration with kudumbasree. Special project for sustainable development of tribes is intended to provide jobs under kudumbasree and decrease the poverty among tribes. It was started as a pilot project in Idukki, Wayanad, Palakkad and Kasargod districts. In the second and third phase it has been expanded all over Kerala. A program for providing food in Paniya colonies have been started. It was a 100 days program. The food will be made as per tribal people's requirement. MLP (micro level planning) is a program for tribal peoples social, economic cultural and sustainable development. It ensures peoples participation and making them aware of their prevailing problems. Food support program (FSP) if for providing food grains and to meet the malnutrition and poverty among tribes. women headed families are given priority in this program. (Kudumbasree kerala,2023)

Parents are provided with funds to meet the marriage expenses of girls, especially daughters of widows and incapacitated parents. *Van bandu kalyan yojana is an India govt program for tribal upliftment. (Scheduled tribes development department,2023)*

Adivasi Mahila Sshaktikaran Yojana, AdivasiShiksha Rinn Yojana, Micro credit schemes, Tribal Forest Dwellers Empowerment Scheme and Teak Growers Scheme are some of the India government programs for tribal development.(Ministry of tribal affairs government of India,2023)

### Conclusion

There are lots of issues facing by the tribes in India. Education eradicates all the drawbacks of a system by confronting it and providing practical solutions for problems. Apart from school education, awareness programs should be conducted among tribes such as literacy campaigns and health campaigns. It is found that language used by the teacher for curricular transactions is not grasped by the tribal students easily. Therefore, effective materials for learning experiences may be provided in schools in their mother tongue also. Schools and educational opportunities should be easily accessible Allocation of proper scholarships should be ensured. Social security, which is a matter of concern for tribes should be provided. Policies and programs should be implemented in a desirable and tribal friendly manner to ensure the mainstreaming of tribal people.

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