

National Seminar
on
Tribal Development in Globalized India
(March 20-21, 2015)

REPORT



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The Department of Public Administration, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur and Rajiv Gandhi Tribal University, Udaipur jointly organized a National Seminar on Tribal Development in Globalized India on March 20-21, 2015 at the Seminar Hall of University College of Social Sciences and Humanities, MLSU, Udaipur.

Tribal area development (TAD) is a constitutional mandate for the union and state governments in India under Schedule fifth and sixth. Since first five year plan, a number of public policy initiatives have been taken by the government for mainstreaming and holistic development of tribal communities in the country. However, the socio-cultural and politico-administrative issues of these communities are still unaddressed or un-answered so far. The waves of globalization have changed every sphere of human life, economy, polity and society at large up to a significant extent. It is very difficult to decide that, whether the Indian tribal communities should be modernized or to preserve their indigenous culture?

The seminar was an attempt to review and analyze the TAD issues especially its public policy perspective in the era of globalization and to give policy- inputs to the higher echelon of administration.

Aim and Objectives

The objective of the seminar were the following—

1. To review various socio-economic and politico-administrative issues of tribals in globalization.
2. To analyze the public policy provisions and their impact on tribal development.
3. To suggest policy reforms for TAD, to policy makers.

Methodology

The seminar's theme was an inter-disciplinary issue and it was broadly divided in to the following sub-themes—

1. Tribal Area Development—administration, policies and programmes.
2. Socio-economic and political development of tribals in India.
3. Indigenous knowledge and culture, tribal customs, rituals and traditions.

4. Impact of globalization on tribal communities.
5. Issues, challenges and impediments of tribal development.

The deliberations made in the seminar were based on the multi- dimensional educational techniques to achieve its expected outcomes. The following academic methods were used in the seminar:

1. Paper presentation
2. Discussion
3. Case studies
4. Panel discussion

Participants

A total 125 delegates and 8 invited experts participated in the seminar. As shown in the table, there were 72 male and 53 female participants come from various walks of academia, administration, civil society and politics. Most of the disciplines related with the study of tribal issues viz.- Public Administration, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Psychology, History and Horticulture were represented in the seminar. Brief profile of the participants is given below-

Profile of the Participants

S.No.	Participants' Background	Number of the Participants
1.	Faculty Members — Science and other subjects — Social Sciences — Humanities	07 47 05
2.	Research Scholars — Science and other subjects — Social Sciences — Humanities	03 50 07
3.	Non-govt. org.	01
4.	Public Representative	01
5.	Administrators	04
	Total	125

Proceedings of the Seminar

The inaugural session of the seminar was held at 10 am under the chairpersonship of Prof. Farida Shah, Dean, University College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Chief Guest of the occasion was Prof. R.K.Mishra, Dept. of Pol.Sc., Government Autonomous PG College, Chhindwara, M.P. The responsibility of 'theme-speaker' was born by Mr. T.C. Damor, IPS, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi Tribal University, Udaipur. This session was started with the *kulgeet* of MLSU and Prof. Farida Shah welcomed all the guests. The introduction and idea behind the seminar was presented by Prof.S.K.Kataria, H.o.D., Dept. of Public Administration and the Seminar Director.

Being a member of a tribal community of Southern Rajasthan, Mr. Damor shared his own experiences ranging from fifth decade of last century to present millennium and concluded that the tribals are in a dilemma between traditional system to modernity. Tribals are facing numerous challenges and the biggest is to be merged in so-called 'civic' societies or to remain traditional one.

Prof. R.K. Mishra expressed his views on impact of globalization on tribal development with special reference to Madhya Pradesh, he pointed towards the dilemma of defining 'development' in tribal context. A very important issue was brought forward - whether tribal development in a globalized India means efforts to bring tribal groups in mainstream development by destroying their distinctiveness and culture, or they should be left isolated and deprived in name of conserving their originality. He attacked upon the materialistic approach to development through 'westernization', and stressed upon need to frame policies for sustainable development of tribal groups while conserving their culture.

Prof. C.R. Suthar gave the vote of thanks to all the guests, delegates, administration of MLSU and RGTU and all the helping hands. Dr. Giriraj Singh Chouhan, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Pub. Adm. anchored the session.

The next session was of a blend of Key-note speech -cum -small technical session and was chaired by **Prof. Nandini Sundar**, University of Delhi. The talk of Prof. Sundar touched upon several critical issues related to the socio- economic status of tribal population, adverse fall outs of development in tribal areas resulting in displacement and deprivation for indigenous tribal population groups, lacunae in the constitutional provisions and modus operandi of provision of social security to tribal population of the country through planning and policy, and extreme vulnerability of tribal population of Central India to militant repression. Attention was drawn to the vast diversity existing in the ethnic-socio-cultural characteristics of tribal groups residing in different parts of India owing to which adoption of a uniform definition or an objective set of criterion for assigning ST status is sure to be insufficient. As a result the *notified* list of Scheduled Tribes fails to encompass all deserving population groups, thus depriving them of the benefits of structured efforts and planned development. The result is that benefits of

reservation are being reaped by notified groups which are in far better condition than those which have not been notified in the Schedule list.

There is a need for extensive study of the migration patterns of tribal population which has given rise to discrepancies between scheduled areas and actual ST strength in those areas. Revisions are required in the Scheduled list in accordance with the migration patterns.

Substantiated by data, attention was also drawn to the extremely poor status of tribal population of the country as reflected in various indices of income, health, human development etc. Unfortunately, the conditions are getting worsened over time and the ST population of the country is much worse off than many other backward groups, even the SCs.

Consequent upon the development projects undertaken in the name of infrastructural development, bio-diversity conservation and globalization which has severely encroached upon the traditional tribal habitats, the tribal groups have been ripped off from their '*Jal, Jangal & Jameen*' which has placed them in constant struggle to protect themselves, their traditions and their land. As per figures 6.0 million population in India was displaced because of development projects of which 40 percent were STs. 2/3 rd of this displaced population has not been rehabilitated. Moreover, the indigenous tribal groups are prone to constant military repression for no fault of theirs.

Following obstacles and causes have been identified:

- To integrate provisions related to protection of ST rights, Tribal development and welfare in the plans and policies of ministries which directly affect the tribal populations, viz. Ministry of Mines, Ministry of coal etc. The fact that constitutional bodies which have been entrusted the task of tribal welfare are not the direct stakeholders of ST affairs has resulted in gaps between problems and policies.
- Lack of a pan-India strong political leadership
- Increasing disbelief and scepticism in tribal population towards capability of electoral system to meet their needs.
- Dilution of ST strength due to division of common interest groups among different States.

The following recommendations have been made:

- Rethinking over Schedule-V. Due representation of the smallest and remotest deprived and marginalized population groups having tribal characteristics in the Scheduled list.
- Tailored reservation policy in line with distinctive demographic and ethnic characteristics of Adivasi groups of the region.

- Affirmative action to address militants repression, land acquisition and displacement.
- Making education approachable and understandable. Educating in local language.
- Extending political security through creation of a separate State, particularly comprising the adivasi dominated regions of Central India - Gondwana State. Thus need for a second linguistic reorganization has been stressed upon.

Some papers were also presented in the session and it was emerged that there is a need for a public participatory approach and consideration of the grass-root problems while designing policies of tribal development. Dr. Shruti cautioned against destroying tribal identity in name of globalization and efforts to bring the marginalized sections into mainstream. A need to conserve the originality, distinctiveness and tribal identity has been emphasised upon Dr. Anju Beniwal drew attention towards the caste discrimination in educational institutions at all levels touching upon discrimination being faced by the tribal children at time of cooking and serving of mid day meals in the schools of rural areas to the students of higher education institutions in urban areas. She underlined the need to involve social anthropologists in the process of framing policies for STs.

In next session Prof. Mishra expressed his ideas in particular context of Madhya Pradesh, the tribal population cannot be a potential beneficiary of the globalization for the following reasons—

- Ineffective and apathetic administrative system
- Lack of political will
- Not considering the needs and conditions at grass-root level while framing of plans and policies, neither do the benefits of development reach to this level
- Failure of tribal population to provide a potential market for service sector
- Weak position as a seller and a buyer
- Backward agricultural practices
- Insufficient increase in wages in face of inflation, particularly in unorganized sector.

Some manifestations of continued deprivation and accentuated backwardness of tribal population are:

- High death rate/ high birth rate
- Disease deaths/ delivery deaths (mother mortality rate)
- Decline in work participation rates in rural areas
- Big divide between male- female literacy rate
- Increasing drop out ratio (especially of females)

Thus practically the tribal welfare schemes and development have failed to extend any benefits to these population groups.

Improvement in education system has been considered as an effective way of increasing awareness among the tribals. There is a need to make the education friendlier by designing courses in local languages and incorporating familiar concepts related to tribal life and culture in the curriculum. Further, it has been emphasized that *land* should be considered as a *basis of life* rather than a property, and framing laws accordingly.

Subsequent studies underlined the deteriorating socio-economic condition of the tribal population and increasing marginalization, displacement, forced migration consequent upon encroachment of forests thus diminished control over land, forest and water. This has resulted into continued exclusion from infrastructure, health and education, accentuated the rural urban divide, identity crisis for indigenous tribal groups. The following suggestions made for safeguarding the rights of tribals were:

- Increasing legal literacy
- Recognition and remuneration of tribal knowledge for environmental management
- Proper marketing of tribal products
- Increased and effective role of NGOs in creating awareness in imparting education and ensuring rights of the tribal people at grass root level
- Freedom of choice to tribals regarding the extent of cultural transformation consequent upon development.

Invited lecture by Dr. Suman Pathak in session III stressed on the need for an 'empowerment' centric approach rather than a 'development' or 'welfare' centric one. 'Empowerment through entrepreneurship' could be adopted as an effective approach to empower the tribal population groups:

- Need for investment and marketing of tribal innovation and produce
- Handloom, decorative items, medicinal plants can be potential sectors
- Tribal skill development through dedicated cluster development programmes
- Tribal tourism

Subsequent papers also identified the deteriorating socio-economic conditions of the tribal groups consequent upon development induced encroachment upon tribal habitats. Increasing vulnerability of tribal population due to ineffective policies, faulty implementation, apathy of administrators and practitioners towards tribal problems, weak political representation were identified as prime causes for their distress. It was expressed by a delegate that encroachment on tribal habitat and development policies are apathetic towards tribal possessions;

suppression and harassment have installed insecurity and unrest in tribal communities to such an extent to have given rise to left extremism (naxalism).

On day second, the first technical session was chaired by Prof. S.L. Sharma, University of Rajasthan. Prof. Sharma talked upon concept of globalization and a very realistic picture of the pathetic life conditions of tribal communities of India wherein *their very existence is at stake*. His speech and papers presented during the session have identified the issues, problems and challenges of tribal groups and tribal areas, and extensively deliberated upon the factors and causes responsible for existing situation with a historical as well as contemporary perspective, identified the lapses in administration and governance, planning and execution of policies and suggestions were put forward to address these burning issues.

Second session of the day was chaired by Dr. Arvind Mahala, Govt. S.K. College, Sikar. Dr. Giriraj Singh Chouhan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pub. Adm., MLSU delivered a special lecture in which he analyzed the whole issue of globalization and tribal development with the lens of new public management, public choice approach and good governance. A comprehensive range of issues were touched upon and critically analysed in the deliberations of Dr. Mahala and other paper presenters, which can broadly be summarized as under:

- The inclusiveness of the constitutional definition of Scheduled Tribe.
- The adequacy and efficacy of dedicated constitutional provisions for safeguarding tribal life, culture, society and economy.
- Status of health, education and other cultural aspects of tribal society
- Role of planned initiatives in development of tribals.
- Socio-cultural challenges being faced by tribal communities in face of development.
- Administration and governance of tribal areas.
- Role of political representation in safeguarding and promoting tribal interests.

The valedictory session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. M.S. Rathore, Associate Dean, UCSSH and Chief Guest were Prof. Hemendra Chandalia. In his speech Prof. Chandalia said that the waves of globalization are severally affecting our lives and tribal communities are no exception. It is the duty of state to take care for preservation of tribal culture and customs across the country. Prof. Rathore analyzed the theme with an artist's view and advocated for a holistic public policy for sustainable development of tribals.

The following observations form a common thread across the various discourses:

- There is an urgent need to review the constitutional provisions and policies aimed at tribal welfare and development.
- Administrative reforms need to be refurbished to make the administrative machinery more sensitive and flexible to meet the actual needs of the tribal people.

- Concrete initiatives for tribal education and spread of awareness regarding the constitutional safeguards, civil rights and rightful share in resources needs to be taken up by the government, NGOs, academic institutions, at public and private levels.
- **Stripping off of tribal people from their natural possessions- *the Jal, Jangal & Jameen*- has been the prime cause of their miseries.**
- **As a result of indiscriminate development policies and programs, the position of tribal groups has in fact worsened on all parameters of human development.**
- Lack of strong political representation, independent of party support, has ignored the voice of this under-privileged and deprived segment of population at all levels of planning, policy formulation and decision making.
- Tribal development aimed at joining tribal communities to mainstream development should not harm the indigenous tribal knowledge, culture and values. Socio-cultural distinctiveness should be preserved amongst the race for development and globalization.

The studies commonly agree that there is an urgent need to tailor the policies, plans and welfare schemes to local needs. Indiscriminate development has jeopardized the life and culture of tribals. Hence an approach safeguarding their freedom of choice, socio-cultural uniqueness and giving them equal status is the need of the hour.

Major recommendations may be summarized as under:

- Review of the listed population groups in the Scheduled Tribe list. Several communities, more backward than the listed groups, are currently excluded from the list. They need to be identified and given place in the Schedule.
- Introduction of creamy layer concept in reservations for tribal population so that the reservation benefits can be availed by the have-nots and intra-community disparities may be eliminated.
- Encouraging public participation in the process of formulation of policies and programs affecting tribal areas.
- Area specific micro-level planning for tribal regions, precisely tailored to the needs and specificities of inhabiting tribal group.
- Involvement of domain experts / academicians in planning process.
- Reviewing the land acquisition practices in tribal areas and ensuring proper rehabilitation measures.
- **Imparting education to tribals in their local languages.** Developing study material in local language and incorporating familiar concepts to make education more friendly and understandable.

- Political empowerment through creation of tribal dominated electoral constituencies. It has been observed that the ST reserved constituencies, in regions where the ST groups do not form an absolute majority, fail to provide political representation to maximum possible ST population. Careful drawing of boundaries, according to local social geography, will go a long way in political empowerment of ST populations.
- Inclusive development without damaging local culture
- Fixing accountability of the failures of administrative machinery in addressing tribal issues.
- Decentralizing the accountability of tribal development from Tribal Welfare department to all stakeholder departments. Every department may be required to submit periodic reports on benefits distributed to tribal areas under various schemes.
- Fixing minimum tenure of service in tribal areas, and linking it to promotions, in order to encourage government servants to serve in tribal areas.
- Setting up of an effective monitoring mechanism for effective execution of tribal welfare plans and policies.

Dr. Seema Jalan, Associate Professor in Geography, MLSU presented the report of the seminar and vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. C.R. Suthar.

Recommendations of the Seminar

The invited speakers, paper presenters and the participants of the seminar have given the following suggestions and recommendations to the policy makers for better administration in tribal areas in India—

1. Since the 'land and forest' are the core issues for tribal area administration in India, hence it is imperative to provide land and forest rights and entitlements to the indigenous people for their ensured livelihood. Land conversion under section-90B of Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955 is to be reviewed, since agriculture land of the tribal communities is being converted in to residential and commercial land and then being transferred to non-tribal people.
2. Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) constituted as per para 4(1) of Schedule –V of the Constitution of India and chaired by the Governor of the State should meet regularly and its recommendations must be implemented in letter and spirit.
3. *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006* should be implemented effectively. In Rajasthan only 30, 000 forest lease has been issued to 92.38 lac ST population by January, 2015 and; either *Van Adhikar Samitis* (FRCs) have been abolished or they are dysfunctional.
4. Forest lease being given under the said Act are individual. No 'community-forest right' has been given so far in Rajasthan and it is found that there is a lack of co-ordination

between the agencies (Forest dept, TAD and Collectorate). So a sound system of co-ordination must be ensured.

5. Customary laws of tribal community must be codified by a law commission to control the incidences like –*Moutana* (blood-money or death ransom) and *chadhotara*.
6. The creamy -layer concept in reservations for tribal population may be introduced so that the reservation benefits can be availed by the have-nots and intra-community disparities may be eliminated.
7. In order to encourage government servants to serve in tribal areas the minimum tenure of the public servants in tribal areas may be fixed, and it should be linked to the promotions.
8. An effective monitoring mechanism for effective execution of tribal welfare plans and policies must be created and accountability of the failures must be fixed to employees and departments.
9. Delimitation of various seats of public representation is to be done carefully. It has been observed that the ST reserved constituencies, in regions where the ST groups do not form an absolute majority, fail to provide political representation to maximum possible ST population. Careful drawing of boundaries, according to local social geography, will go a long way in political empowerment of ST populations.
10. The indigenous tribal knowledge for environmental management and traditional medicines should be recognized and encouraged.
11. There must be a separate and effective legislation to control superstitions like – *Daayan pratha* etc.
12. The labourers involved in the collection of small -forest products may be insured on the lines of Madhya Pradesh.
13. The rates of the daily wages under MGNREGS should not be less than the prevalent rates for other works in the state.
14. The ‘*phala*’ or small habitation of tribal areas must be empowered as Gramsabha.

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Programme - Schedule

Day-First (20-03-2015)

Time	Session	Resource Person
9.0 am - 10.0 am	Registration	Team of the University
10 am - 11 am	Inaugural session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Farida Shah, Dean, UCSSH, Chairperson • Prof. R.K. Mishra, Chief Guest • Sh. T.C. Damor, VC, RGTU, Theme-speaker
11 am - 11.30 am	High-Tea	
11.30 am - 1.0 pm	First Technical Session	Prof. Nandini Sundar, University of Delhi, Key-note speaker
1.0 pm - 2.0 pm	Lunch	
2.0 pm - 3.30 pm	Second Technical Session	Prof. R.K. Mishra, Govt. Autonomous PG College, Chhindawara
3.30 pm - 5.0 pm	Third Technical Session	Dr. Suman Pathak, Sharda University, Greater Noida

Day-Second (21-03-2015)

Time	Session	Resource Person
9.30 am - 11.0 am	Fourth Technical Session	Prof. S.L. Sharma, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
11.0 am - 1.0 pm	Fifth Technical Session	Dr. Arvind Mahala, Govt. S.K. College, Sikar
1.0 pm - 2.30 pm	Valedictory Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. M.S. Ratore, Chairman • Prof. Hemendra Chandalia, Chief Guest