



International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Identity of Tribals

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ABSTRACT:-

The word tribal describes the rights of the tribal people. If anyone started to enjoy the earth and the water-forest-land and other natural resources on it, it is of course the tribal group. Therefore, it is important to understand the identity of the community which has been the custodian of these resources for the past thousands of years. Identity of the tribal society has not only lived for thousands of years, but they have preserved that identity. The history of tribal people has not been written in a clean manner. Besides, its history has not been allowed to be brought into the mainstream. The rich tradition through natural resources is a witness all over the universe and the evidences has not been able to destroy since many years. That is the real identity of the tribal groups which is to be preserved and lived.

Keywords:- Constitution of India, Indigenous People, Aboriginal, Birsa Munda, Umaji Naik, Khwaja Naik, Tantya Bhil, Tribal, PESA

Who are the tribals? And what are their rights? Further argument would explain the same, but reading those words is of no use. It is very important to understand the word tribal historically and constitutionally, and for that reason intellectuals should move forward to convince the tribal society of its importance. Scholars have given various names and terminologies of tribal society, the ancient Aboriginal or the original inhabitants (Aborigines) Primitive tribes 'So-called natives' (So-called Aborigines). The term 'Scheduled Tribes' as introduced in the Constitution of India gives justice to the tribal society in the true sense. Bringing the tribal society into the mainstream is as much the work of the intellectual class as it is the work of the government. In order to carry their proper duties the government should understand the tribal culture and traditions. Today Draupadi Murmu is sitting at the highest position of the country as the 15th and the first tribal woman president of the country, but the grassroots tribal society has yet to see its dawn of development. It will not be achieved by giving a position to a tribal person; on the contrary, it is necessary to implement different schemes. It is very important to analyze the reason why the tribal community has been given reservation, by the way, many schemes have been implemented and the government has included them in many ways in the last seventy years. All the same, where the existence of the tribal society rests on the word 'native', they are challenging the existence of the very tribals by asserting the word 'vanvasi'. Even after seventy five years of independence the scheduled tribes are compelled to struggle for its basic title 'Tribal', who is to blame, then?

Globally, the tribal society lives in the rural areas and is the most beneficiary society in the primary plans of the government, but its development has been stunted for the past several years. Therefore, it is very important for every intelligent person in the tribal society to understand the term and make it a rational movement. It is necessary to acquire the knowledge of the Constitution and move to the roads if needed for the rights. It is equally important to put the society on the edge of all-round educational development. Jaipal Singh Munda was elected as a member of Constituent Assembly which debated on the new Constitution of the Indian Union. He fought for the rights of the tribal communities with his brilliant mind and positive approach. The intellectual fight ignited by Jaipal Singh Munda for the rights of the tribal community should be carried forward by every tribal person today.

Although the tribal society is a society that preserves unity, today the development of the society is stunted due to some neutral intellectuals in the society such as members of legislative assembly, members of parliament, lawyers, judges, businessmen, professors, doctors, engineers, village servants, *talathis*, clerks, etc. He who can make a big contribution should come forward and give it in the interest of the tribals since the politicians do not tend to strive for the welfare of the society but to politics. If we look at the history of the reformers in the world history, the real development of the society has been brought about by the common people. Hence action needs to be taken by commons.

Tribal society is a rational society. Tribal society is not a mindless society, like other human beings, they own positive approach and progressive vision. They can make their important and invaluable contribution in every field of the country, if given an opportunity. The main stream society dares not to consider them ignorant or mindless. When they talk about the fight for rights, they mean constitutional rights, and while making these demands, they are conscious and their intellects are in the right place. The tribal society has been accused of being mindless so far; consequently it helped to suppress the rights of all the tribals. The government should soon issue a manifesto of the rights of the tribal community, promote tribal culture and traditions and bring them into the mainstream of the country in order to not let suppress the community any more. Else the fight will continue.

When will the government and business tycoons going to accept that tribal people have the right to water-forest-land which has been preserved by them for ages? Water-forest-land is owned by tribal people for ages. Birsa Munda, Umaji Naik, Khwaja Naik, Tantya Bhil and many other tribal revolutionaries consistently fought against British rule to confirm tribal's rights. They fought till the last breath. Today, Water, Forest and Land have been acquired by the government and many big companies have monopolized it. That is why the tribal community has to go on the streets and protest to reclaim their rights. The original owner of the land does not get land, the original owner of the water has to buy and drink it, and the original owner of the forest is being driven out of it. Things like water-forest-land are being robbed from the tribal community. Then the big question arises, why is the government not

taking measures on it? Tribal society wants development but our resources are being taken away from us. But for the justice the tribal community will continue to fight, it will not stop.

Another question also arises as to who has the monopoly over the tribal areas and districts. In 1996, Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India. It gave some relief to the tribal community in terms of some rights, particularly in tribal areas. But many loopholes were found by other organizations. All the same, many higher educational institutions have obtained linguistic or religious minority's institutional status. The very status delivered injustice to those who have qualified NET/SET/Ph.D.s. It also raises a question that on one side there is a law and policies for the development of tribals, on the other side practices of the same is neglected. Then how PESA is supposed to be an instrument of development for tribals? Various schemes and policies are proclaimed respective governments for Tribal zones but corrupted bureaucracy create hindrances in the implementation of the same which keeps tribals deprived of the beneficial schemes meant for their development. Also, the government should properly plan the expenditures of the funds allotted for the developmental projects for tribal society. The various schemes should be managed in such a way that the overall development of the tribal society takes place. It should not be remained only on paper and percolate in reality. The researcher also wants that the culture and history of the tribal to be preserved. Tribal art, tradition, architecture, the heritage, culture is hundreds of thousands years old not only in India but in the whole world therefore it needs to be declared as world heritage and preserved. This heritage is the real heritage of the world and should be preserved by the country's respective governments. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9 August each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. It was first pronounced by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1994, marking the day of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in 1982. Since then the day is observed every year across the world. Responsibility of development has been taken up by system, but why is it not visible? In India, the constitution is committed towards development of every section of the society, but why is the government failing to achieve the overall development of the tribal society? It is time for the intelligent people of the tribal society to come forward and think about it and take initiative if needed.

The word tribal describes the rights of the tribal people. If anyone started to enjoy the earth and the water-forest-land and other natural resources on it, it is of course the tribal group. Therefore, it is important to understand the identity of the community which has been the custodian of these resources for the past thousands of years. Identity of the tribal society has not only lived for thousands of years, but they have preserved that identity. The history of tribal people has not been written in a clean manner. Besides, its history has not been allowed to be brought into the mainstream. The rich tradition through natural resources is a witness all over the universe and the evidences has not been able to destroy since many years. That is the real identity of the tribal groups which is to be preserved and lived.

Since the seventeenth century, many revolutionaries protested to preserve the tribal identity, fought single-handedly against the British. The invaluable contribution of these tribal heroes in India's independence cannot be forgotten. Be it Birsa Munda, who resisted through revolution or Jaipal Singh Munda, who fought for the society through law and education. They fought hard till the end to preserve their identity. In other countries too, tribal people constantly sacrificed their lives to preserve their identity. Indian constitution has given special status to tribals as Schedule Tribes and has conferred special rights. The constituent assemble had accepted that tribals are natives.

The United Nations has done the greatest work to preserve the identity of indigenous tribal groups in the whole world on August 9, 1994 to protect the language, culture, traditions, customs, rituals, rights and resources of tribal groups. In the 21st century, the tribal group has truly awakened intellectually and legally. However, many challenges have arisen to preserve and survive the tribal identity in the modern era. Today, the tribal community has to face many challenges such as scarcity of water in villages, problem of tribal malnourishment among women and children, immigration in search of education and employment etc. It shows that the fight has not over yet, it requires more perseverance and consistency.

August 9 is the World Tribal Day. This day is important for the tribal people of the whole world and it is a declaration of the existence, home and rights of the tribals. According to the resolution passed on December 23, 1994, August 9 was declared as International Day of the Indigenous People that "we stand with the indigenous (indigenous) communities of the world." On this occasion, the then Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, uttered the following words: "On this historic occasion, we call for self-reliance, self-government, traditional territories and indigenous communities committed to the full interpretation of the United Nations declaration for all their rights including natural resources." The tribal community has the right to all the resources of the world, not just water, forest and land, and the General Assembly committed to protect the indigenous people and their rights. After extensive discussion on many important factors in this General Assembly, All countries were directed to observe World Tribal Day on August 9. The day was the Magna Carta for 461 tribal tribes across the world and in India.

In the United Nations in 1994, the total number of members of the world was 192; they all come together and discussed many issues related to protecting the rights of tribals. In it, the basic issues of health, employment, education etc. were kept in front of the eyes. The aborigine tribal groups who lived did there and still do the important work of preserving the water-forest-land and environment. But still the tribal community was struggling for its livelihood in the corner and grassroots of the world. Education, health, employment were far away from these factors.

The tribes of the world who remained in touch with their culture and tradition and remained united with that tradition and life. All those tribes started to live as native tribes in that region. Therefore they had little contact with the city and the modern world. At the global level, through various media and social work organizations and individuals, the United Nations celebrated the year 1993 as the World Indigenous Year. The United Nations has declared the tribal community as indigenous to the whole world. Therefore, this day and decade has a unique significance. In fact, to provide the indigenous people with the right to live and preserve their own historical and unique way of life, namely, the life, integrity, security, Names, places, cultural, spiritual, linguistics, history, tradition, language, dialect, writing system, etc. were involved in many matters, such as the right to conservation of things in the period of 1994 to 2004.

World Tribal Day was declared on 9th August 1994 and many intellectuals in India started discussing the rights given to tribal people in the Constitution of India. The tribal community in India got dual protection from the United Nations Declaration and the rights of tribal people in the Constitution of India. Article 366 defines Scheduled Tribes. Article 342 enumerates the list of Scheduled Tribes living in every state in the whole of India. Article 341

(1) provides for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes. Article 244 (1) 5 There are clear provisions regarding the law applied to the area. Article 14 gives equal rights to the tribals. There is a special provision to complain against the injustice and oppression of the tribals. Therefore, the Prevention of Caste and Tribe Atrocities Act was enacted in 1989. Article 16 (4) has a provision for reservation in government jobs for Scheduled Tribes in proportion to the population. Article 23 has a special provision for protection against human trafficking and forced labor. Article 330 in the Legislative Assembly and 332 in the Lok Sabha has a special provision for reservation of the Scheduled Tribe. The United Nations announced that the tribals are the natives and the importance of the tribal community repeatedly convinced other countries. Since then, the government of every country in the world became committed to the culture, tradition, and rights of the tribal community. And by implementing different schemes for the rights of the tribal community, they are trying to bring the tribals into the mainstream of reform.

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