

**STATUS OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS (PVTGS) IN INDIA :  
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH**

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**Abstract**

Tribal population in India is of significant size spread across the many states of the country. Among the tribal communities there are certain tribal groups who are endangered and are low on socio-economic indicators. With low birth rate and high death rate amongst the Scheduled Tribes there existed an inequality in the rate of development also. During the fourth Five Year Plan, a sub-category was created within Scheduled Tribes to identify groups that considered being at a lower level of development. a sub-category was named "Primitive tribal group". The features of such a group include a pre-agricultural system of existence, which is practice of hunting and gathering, zero or negative population growth, extremely low level of literacy in comparison with other tribal groups. Groups that satisfied any one of the criterion were considered as PTG. At the conclusion of the Fifth Five-year plan, 52 communities were identified as being a "primitive tribal group", these communities were identified on the basis of recommendations made by the respective state governments. At the conclusion of the Sixth Five year plan 20 groups were added and 2 more in the Seventh Five year plan, one more group was added in the eighth five-year plan, making a total 75 groups were identified as PTG. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). These primitive vulnerable tribal groups have specific needs and they require special assistance and help in form of government policies and programmes.

**Key words:** PVTGs, Schedule tribes, Drop Outs, social organisation, NTGs, Primitive, vulnerable

**Introduction**

India is a pluralist and multi-cultural country, with rich diversity, reflected in the multitude of Culture, religions, languages and racial stocks. The population of the country comprises different castes, communities, social and ethnic groups. India, a second most populous country in the world, has also the second largest concentration of tribal population, perhaps next only to Africa; in that tribal population there are groups which are socially-economically under developed called *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)*. Overall schedule tribal population in India is about 10 crore. 75 such groups of tribal are in 18 States and 1 Union Territory have been identified and categorized as *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)*.

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### **Methodology**

This paper based on analysis of secondary data. There are various government published data available in online and offline mode are used for this paper. Secondary data is available through agencies like office of registrar general of India (Decadal census). Records of national sample survey office (NSSO), different rounds of health and family welfare Govt. of India, UNICEF data on family and health care in India, annual reports published by Chhattisgarh Tribal Development department, many reports published by NGOs like DASRA and Folklore foundation on the status of health and family welfare among schedule tribes of Chhattisgarh.

### **Who are tribes?**

In a general term, A group of people which lives in a isolated geographical area, speaks a common languages, follow common culture and socially economically deprived called tribes. Word tribe has come from the Latin word 'tribus' which signifies a particular type of common and political organization which is alive in all these societies. The name 'tribe' refers to a category of people and designates a step of development in human society. As a type of society, the term signifies a set of typical features and as a point of advancement; it connotes a definite form of social organization.

According to L.P. Vidyarthi; the tribe is a social group with definite territory, common name, common district, common culture, and behavior of an endogamous group, common taboos, and existence of distinctive social and political system, full faith in leaders and self-sufficiency in their distinct economy. According to D. Thakur and D N Thkaur (1994) the term tribe commonly signifies a group of people speaking a common language, observing uniform rule of social organization and working together for common purpose. The word 'tribe' has not been defined anywhere in Indian constitution of India, but it states in article 342 that the 'schedule tribe' are the tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which the president may specify from time to time by public notification. Britishers added the category of tribe firstly in early 19<sup>th</sup> century so it was a colonial construction. In 1881 census, the term used for them was forest tribe. During pre independence era the whole policy for tribe was policy of neglect and saga of exploitation. Due to this, the rich people like property owners and moneylenders slowly and gradually grabbed their land and forest. They were turned into bonded laborers, leading a life of extreme poverty and misery. The excessive encroachment on their rights in forestland led to an expression of anger in the form of riots. Thus, independent India inherited a complex tribal problem from the British colonial system.

### **What are the particularly vulnerable tribal groups? Need for identification**

Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) is a government of India classification created with the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development indices. The Dhebar Commission (1960-1961) stated that within Scheduled

Tribes there existed an inequality in the rate of development. During the fourth Five Year Plan, a sub-category was created within Scheduled Tribes to identify groups that considered being at a lower level of development. Based on the Dhebar Commission report and other studies, a sub-category was named "Primitive tribal group". The features of such a group include a pre-agricultural system of existence, which is practice of hunting and gathering, zero or negative population growth, extremely low level of literacy in comparison with other tribal groups. Groups that satisfied any one of the criterion were considered as PTG. At the conclusion of the Fifth Five-year plan, 52 communities were identified as being a "primitive tribal group", these communities were identified on the basis of recommendations made by the respective state governments. At the conclusion of the Sixth Five year plan 20 groups were added and 2 more in the Seventh Five year plan, one more group was added in the eighth five-year plan, making a total 75 groups were identified as PTG. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

**Overview of Demographic composition of Tribal Population in India**

India is a one of the most important country which have diverse tribal population. Overall schedule tribal population in India is about 10 crore. The percentage of schedule tribe in total India's population is 8.6%. Percentage of Schedule Tribe in Rural area is 11.3% and in Urban area is 2.8%.

<b>Scheduled Tribe Population and Decadal Change by residence:2011</b>						
	<b>ST Population,2011</b>			<b>Decadal Change, 2001-2011</b>		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
INDIA	104,281,034	93,819,162	10,461,872	23.7	21.3	49.7

(Source-Tribal profile at a glance 2014, Ministry of Tribal affairs, Government of India)

**Overview of Demographic composition of PVTG'S in India**

75 tribal groups in 18 States and 1 Union Territory have been identified and categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

1. **Andhra Pradesh ( including Telangana)** - 1. Bodo Gadaba 2. Bondo Poroja 3. Chenchu 4. Dongria Khond 5. Gutob Gadaba 6. Khond Poroja 7. Kolam 8. Kondareddis 9. Konda Savaras 10. Kutia Khond 11. Parengi Poroja 12. Thoti
2. **Bihar (including Jharkhand)** - 13. Asurs 14. Birhor 15. Birjia 16. Hill Kharia 17. Korwas 18. Mal Paharia 19. Parhaiyas 20. Sauria Paharia 21. Savar
3. **Gujarat-** 22. Kathodi 23. Kotwalia 24. Padhar 25. Siddi 26. Kolgha
4. **Karnataka-** 27. Jenu Kuruba 28. Koraga
5. **Kerala-** 29. Cholanaikayan (a section of Kattunaickans) 30. Kadar 31. Kattunayakan 32. Kurumbas 33. Koraga
6. **Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)** - 34. Abujh Marias 35. Baigas 36. Bharias 37. Hill Korwas 38. Kamars 39. Saharias 40. Birhor
7. **Maharashtra** - 41. Katkaria (Kathodia) 42. Kolam 43. Maria Gond

8. **Manipur** - 44. Morram Nagas
9. **Orissa**- 45. Birhor 46. Bondo 47. Didayi 48. Dongria-Khond 49. Juangs 50. Kharias 51. Kutia Kondh 52. Lanjia Sauras 53. Lodhas 54. Mankidias 55. Paudi Bhuyans 56. Soura 57. Chuktia Bhunjia
10. **Rajasthan** - 58. Seharias
11. **Tamil Nadu** - 59. Kattu Nayakans 60. Kotas 61. Kurumbas 62. Irulas 63. Paniyans 64. Todas
12. **Tripura** - 65. Reangs
13. **Uttar Pradesh (including Uttarakhand)** - 66. Buxas 67. Rajis
14. **West Bengal** - 68. Birhor 69. Lodhas 70. Totos
15. **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** - 71. Great Andamanese 72. Jarawas 73. Onges 74. Sentinelese 75. Shom Pens

**Overview of Demographic composition of particularly vulnerable tribal groups in Chhattisgarh**

The tribes of Chhattisgarh are unique by nature and marked by very distinct features. One third of state's population is tribal population. Total population of the state is 2, 55, 45,198 and out of it tribal population is 30.62%. The total population of PVTG's is 1,55057. It is almost 2% of total tribal population of Chhattisgarh. There are almost 42 tribes in Chhattisgarh and all are remarked by rich and diverse social culture and traditional identity. Tribes are cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh. However, they are socially and economically very backward. Social indicators bear high degree of vulnerability of states tribal population. IIPS found in a report that 20 out of 27 districts are economically backward and especially geographically isolated districts are at the bottom of the developmental pile. In Chhattisgarh, government has identified five tribal groups as PVTGs based on their extreme under developmental stage, isolated backwardness, Primitive way of life and poor economic and health condition.

<b>PVTG'S</b>	<b>TOTAL POPULATION (2005-06)</b>	<b>LITERACY RATE (2002-03)%</b>
Kamar	23288	32.76
Baiga	71862	19.81
Pahadi Korwa	37472	43.58
Birhor	3034	11.58
Abujhmadia	19401	24.24

(Source-[http://tribal.cg.gov.in/h\\_sbt.html](http://tribal.cg.gov.in/h_sbt.html))

### **Brief Overview of Socio-Economic profile of PVTG'S in Chhattisgarh**

Chhattisgarh is a state with very large tribal population, but the conditions of tribe is very miserable. Specially in case of PVTGs. There is very high rate of dropouts from schools, Low health profile, high IMR and MMR, poor hygiene condition. There is clear-cut contrast between the state's index, the level of PVTGs. State is having per capita income of almost 65,000 per annum, and most of the tribes are living below poverty line. Poverty index of the state lowest in the whole country. Health index for tribal population in Chhattisgarh is also very low in fact lowest in the country it is 0.49 is for Chhattisgarh and 0.19 for tribes of Chhattisgarh. Access to drinking water for country is 91% for Chhattisgarh it is 82% and for tribes it is only 43%. Sanitation level for the whole country is 44%, for Chhattisgarh it is 38% and for tribal group of Chhattisgarh is only 27%.

### **.Government initiative and schemes for development of PVTG's**

The Scheme for Development of Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), came into effect from April 1,2008. The Scheme defines PVTGs as the most vulnerable among the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheme therefore seeks to priorities their protection and development. It identifies 75 PVTGs. The Scheme seeks to adopt a holistic approach to the socio-economic development of PVTGs and gives state governments flexibility in planning initiatives that are geared towards the specific socio-cultural imperatives of the specific groups at hand. Activities supported under the scheme include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, installation of nonconventional sources of energy, social security, etc. Funds are made available only for activities essential for the survival, protection and development of PVTGs and not already funded by any other Scheme of the central/state governments. Each state and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration, is required to prepare a long term Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) plan valid for a period of five years for each PVTG within its territory, outlining the initiatives it will undertake, financial planning for the same and the agencies charged with the responsibility of Undertaking the same. The CCD Plan is approved by an Expert Committee, appointed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Scheme is then funded entirely by the Central government. Activities under it may include the following: (a) Livelihood, (b) Employment opportunities and economic development of PVTGs through Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Skilling/ Vocational Training (c) Education, (Literacy, Drop-out, Residential schools in addition to SSA/RMSA). (d) Health (Gap filling for effective health service delivery beyond NHM etc). (e) Provision of safe drinking water (gap filling where line Ministries do not provide complete/universal coverage), (f) Land distribution, land development, (g) Social security, (h) Housing and Habitat, (i) Connectivity (Road and Telecommunication), (j) Supply of Electricity (gap filling where line Ministries do not provide complete/universal coverage), Solar power, with provision of maintenance, (k) Irrigation (gap filling where line Ministries do not provide complete/universal coverage), (l) Urban Development, (m) Culture, (n) Sports including traditional and tribal games and sports, (o) Any other innovative activity for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.

**Chhattisgarh government 11 point programme for development of PVTG's**

- Housing
- Drinking water
- Electrification in un electrified villages
- Health check-up in regular basis
- Food security
- Nutritious food for women and children
- Social security
- Skill development
- Forest right
- Caste and Domicile certificate distribution
- Umbrella and blanket distribution.

**Conclusion**

Primitive Vulnerable Tribal groups of Chhattisgarh as well as at pan India level need proper attention by the government in order to make them gain access to the benefits of the ongoing policies and programmes of both local and the central government. The special assistance programmes targeted at the overall improvement of the socio- economic as well as uplift of the standard of living among the tribal populace in general and of the PVTGs in particular, should be properly implemented in all inclusive manner. States having larger concentration of PVTGs (e.g. Chhattisgarh) should come up with more innovative and participatory approaches. Initiatives like National rural Livelihood Mission, Gram Antodaya Yojna and many more targeted at rural poverty alleviation and providing employment opportunities are doing commendable job by actually empowering and transforming rural India. The livelihood programmes along with skill development schemes and initiative taken up by the central govt. and ably complemented by the state government targeted policies may go long way in benefiting the tribal communities in general and PVTGs in particular. Some basic expected outcome of the ongoing plethora of programmes and schemes are:

- (a) Improvement in enrolment rates in schools
- (b) Reduction of dropout rates
- (c) Increase in immunization rates of infants,
- (d) Increase in health coverage of pregnant and lactating mothers.

However, care should be taken that efforts should not be made to bring these tribal groups (particularly the PVTGs) to the mainstream of the society by completely alienating and uprooting them from their environment, it may actually put their lives in jeopardy. These groups are living in nature in perfect harmony and synchronization with the Mother Nature, any attempt to break or bring a chasm between them and the nature in the name of development would hamper a sustainable and inclusive growth.

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