



Enhancing the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Tribal Communities with Entrepreneurship and Skill Training Program in Jharkhand

Mrs. Pooja Kumari,
Research Scholar

Department of Commerce, Vinoba Bhave University Hazaribag, Jharkhand, India.

ABSTRACT

Indian tribal communities, comprising 8.6% of the total population, have played a significant role in conserving India's rich culture and heritage. However, Tribal populations in Jharkhand have long faced socio-economic marginalization and lack of access to mainstream development opportunities. These communities, marked by unique cultural identities and historical marginalization, faced challenges such as cultural barriers and linguistic differences. Providing quality education and skill development programs tailored to their needs can help to break the cycle of poverty and unemployment among these communities. By enhancing their capacities and providing sustainable livelihoods, skill development becomes a transformative force, fostering socioeconomic empowerment and contributing to the holistic development of these marginalized communities. This paper explores the potential of entrepreneurship and skill training programs to bridge this gap. The paper examines the existing socio-economic landscape of tribal communities in Jharkhand, highlighting key issues like poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education and resources. Then it analyses the role of entrepreneurship and skill training programs in fostering self-employment, income generation, and overall social inclusion. Finally, it explores the role of government policies, collaborations, and sustainability measures in ensuring the success of these programs.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Socio-economic Empowerment, Tribal Communities

INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand ("The Land of Forest") is a state in eastern India formed on 15th November, 2000, from what was previously the southern half of Bihar. It is the 14th highest population and the 15th largest state in terms of land area. The state is well-known for its waterfalls, hills, and religious locations. Jharkhand is a blessed land, gifted with tremendous mineral potential and other natural resources. Statehood was the outcome of a lengthy fight commanded substantially by the Adivasis, or Scheduled Tribes. Indian independence provided comparatively little socioeconomic advantage to the people of Jharkhand, resulting in significant dissatisfaction with the Bihar administration, particularly among tribal communities.

The tribal communities started a movement for independence from Bihar, and by the 1980s, their demands had become more aggressive. In the 1990s, the separation movement spill over into the non-tribal groups, which resulted in the formation of a new state. In 2011, Jharkhand's Scheduled Tribes population was 8.6 million, which represents 26.2% of the state's overall population. Jharkhand has the country's 12th largest tribal population, accounting for 8.3% of India's total Scheduled Tribes population. Jharkhand tribes consist of 32 tribes that live in state of Jharkhand. Together they constitute the great majority of the tribal population and among them are included such principle indigenous groups as the Santhal, Oraon, Munda, Kharia, and Ho.

Historical marginalization of tribal communities in Jharkhand.

The historical marginalization of tribal communities in Jharkhand is a result of a combination of historical, economic, and social factors. Colonial policies during the British colonial period led to significant displacement and exploitation of tribal lands, often neglecting traditional land-use practices. Land alienation, a persistent issue post-independence, has left tribal communities vulnerable to exploitation. Jharkhand's rich mineral resources have led to extensive industrialization and mining, causing displacement and environmental impact on tribal communities. Economic disparities, limited access to education, healthcare, and formal employment opportunities, contribute to a cycle of poverty and marginalization. Political marginalization has occurred in Jharkhand, despite its creation as a separate state in 2000. Cultural identity erosion due to globalization and external influences has also impacted tribal communities. Inadequate development initiatives in tribal areas, such as inadequate infrastructure and healthcare services, further exacerbate the marginalization. Government and non-governmental organizations have made efforts to address these issues, but a comprehensive approach is needed to address the historical marginalization of these communities.

Importance of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development as a key strategy for Empowerment of Tribal Communities

Skill development is crucial for the empowerment of tribal communities in Jharkhand, despite their unique challenges and historical marginalization. It enables economic empowerment by enabling tribal individuals to acquire marketable skills, making them more employable and providing income generation opportunities. This reduces poverty and improves financial well-being. Skill development programs also help diversify livelihoods, reducing dependency on traditional occupations and creating resilience against economic uncertainties. Modern and sustainable agricultural practices enhance productivity, increase yields, and promote better land management, contributing to food security and economic stability. Traditional crafts are preserved and enhanced, contributing to cultural preservation and sustainable livelihoods for tribal artisans. Skill development opens doors to formal employment opportunities, reducing informal and exploitative work. Equipping tribal individuals with entrepreneurial skills empowers them to establish their own businesses, fostering economic independence and community development. Skill development also promotes education, fostering motivation to pursue further education. Empowering women within tribal communities enhances their economic independence and contributes to gender equality and social empowerment. Skill development in sustainable resource management and conservation practices helps these communities adapt to environmental changes and mitigate resource depletion impacts. In short, skill development is instrumental in breaking the cycle of poverty and marginalization among tribal communities in Jharkhand, providing opportunities for economic growth, cultural preservation, and community development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Tharu & Yadav, 2018) The study focuses on the socio-economic conditions of the Tharu communities and the impact of skill development programs on two villages in Lakhimpur Kheri District. The Central and State Government Skill Development Mission aims to address the issue of youth training and career opportunities in Uttar Pradesh by involving all stakeholders, including trainers, employers, sponsoring departments, and trainees. The mission aims to establish holistic skill development plans, involving collaboration between the Central Government, State Government, and Lakhimpur Kheri Administration. To achieve its objectives, the program requires increased publicity in Lakhimpur Kheri's tribal communities.

(Agarwal, et al., 2020) The paper examines the training programs for handicrafts in Jharkhand, India, focusing on the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs) of Sabars and Birhor. It evaluates the feasibility of livelihood options through these crafts and highlights the inherent craftsmanship of tribal people. The paper concludes that sustainable livelihood can be achieved with the right training environment, which should be comprehensive and tailored to their lifestyle. The training should provide handholding until it reaches self-sustenance, where tribal people become experts in managing the entire supply chain of a product.

(Sinduria & Lugun, 2024) The paper examines the role of vocational education in the economic empowerment of the Adivasis in Jharkhand. The Adivasis, who are predominantly engaged in agricultural activities, face poor socio-economic and educational conditions, poverty, and low literacy rates. Most attend traditional college courses, leaving them with unskilled skills that hinder their employment prospects. The study suggests that providing vocational and skilled education to the Adivasis youth can enhance their employability in the labor market, improve their economic conditions, and ultimately lead to their economic empowerment. This will help improve the socio-economic conditions of the Adivasis in Jharkhand.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the impact of skill development programs on socioeconomic empowerment within tribal communities in Jharkhand.
- To Explore the role of skill development in fostering entrepreneurship within tribal populations.
- To Investigate the impact of skill development programs on gender roles and empowerment, particularly focusing on women within tribal societies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the data collection from the secondary sources. The secondary data for the study were gathered from journals, published articles, government documents, websites, newspapers, e-books, and magazines.

Socio-Economic landscape of Tribal Communities in Jharkhand

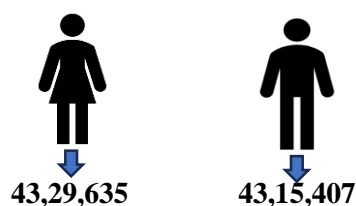
Nearly twenty years have passed since Jharkhand was an independent state, for generating opportunities and development for the region's diverse Tribal communities. The Tribes of Jharkhand include 32 scheduled tribes that reside in the state. Even though they live with different socio-cultural practices, they are all considered Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand. These tribes have their own rules and traditions that help them live together and use the resources they need to survive. The tribal population of Jharkhand is predominantly dependent on agriculture for subsistence. They care a lot about their environment because it affects their lives in many ways. They love and protect the forests because they use them for everything they need, like food, homes, tools, and medicine. The tribal people are used to having lots of plants around them. They are connected to nature and the environment both socially and economically. Even though they have a rich cultural heritage, they face many challenges in their daily lives. They have not had many opportunities to learn new things or use technology, and they live in areas that are far away from the rest of society, near the forests. They mostly depend on farming and things they get from the forest to make a living. Some tribal people are very talented in art and crafts, but they don't know how much they can do with their skills. Because there aren't many job options where they live, many tribal people have to leave their homes and find work in other parts of the country.

District wise population of Schedule tribe according to Census 2011

District	ST Population	% ST Population
Bokaro	255626	12.40
Chatra	45563	4.37
Deoghar	1809672	12.13
Dhanbad	233119	8.68
Dumka	571077	43.22
East Singhbhum	653923	28.51
Garhwa	205874	15.56
Giridih	238188	9.74
Godda	279208	21.26
Gumla	706754	68.94
Hazaribag	121768	7.02
Jamtara	240489	30.40
Khunti	389626	73.25
Koderma	6903	0.96
Latehar	331096	45.54
Lohardaga	262734	56.89
Pakur	379054	42.10
Palamau	181208	9.34
Ramgarh	201166	21.19
Ranchi	1042016	35.76
Sahibganj	308343	26.80
Saraikela Kharsawan	374642	35.18
Simdega	424407	70.78
West Singhbhum	1011296	67.31
Total	8645042	26.21

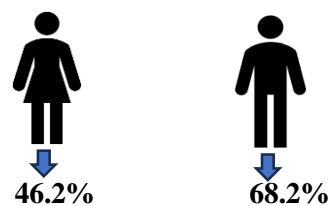
Source: Census 2011

Sex wise population of STs in Jharkhand



(Total Population 8645042)

Sex wise literacy rate of STs in Jharkhand



(Total Literacy rate 57.1%)

Source: National Commission for Schedule Tribe

List of all Tribes and their population in Jharkhand

S.No.	Name of Tribes	Population as per Census 2011	S.No.	Name of Tribes	Population as per Census 2011
1	Asur	22,459	17	Kanwar	8,145
2	Baiga	3,582	18	Karmali	64,154
3	Banjara	487	19	Kharwar	2,48,974
4	Bathudi	3,463	20	Khond	221
5	Bedia	1,00,161	21	Kisan	37,265
6	Binjhia	14,404	22	Kora	32,786
7	Birhor	10,726	23	Korwa	35,606
8	Birjia	6,276	24	Lohra	2,16,226
9	Bhumij	2,09,448	25	Mahli	1,52,663
10	Chero	95,575	26	Mal-Paharia	1,35,797
11	Chick-Baraik	54,163	27	Munda	12,29,221
12	Gond	53,676	28	Santhal	27,54,723
13	Gorait	4,973	29	Savar	9,688
14	Ho	9,28,289	30	Sauria-Paharia	46,222
15	Kharia	1,96,135	31	Oraon	17,16,618
16	Kol	53,584	32	Parhaiya	25,585

Social status of tribal communities

The social status of tribal communities in Jharkhand, India, is influenced by historical, cultural, economic, and political factors. These communities have faced marginalization and exploitation due to factors like displacement, land alienation, and resource scarcity. They maintain distinct cultural identities, which are crucial for social cohesion. Land rights and displacement issues, economic disparities, and limited access to healthcare contribute to these issues. Political representation and social discrimination also affect their social status. The Jharkhand government and central government have implemented affirmative action programs and preservation policies to address these issues. Efforts are also underway to revitalize and preserve tribal cultures through cultural programs, festivals, and language preservation initiatives.

Economic status of tribal communities

The tribal economy of Jharkhand is primarily based on agriculture, forest produce, hunting, fishing, livestock, labour work, and household industries. Agriculture is the primary livelihood for tribes like Santhal, Oraon, Munda, Banjara, Bedia, Binjhia, Birjia, Ho, Kanwar, Parhiya, and Savar, who grow various crops like paddy, maize, wheat, marua, kurthi, gondhali, pulses, and vegetables. However, they lack proper land, irrigation facilities, tools, and fertilizers, leading to insufficient crop production. Forest produce, such as Mahua and Tendu leaves, is the backbone of the tribal economy, used for food and selling in local markets. Hunting, fishing, and livestock rearing are also important sources of income for some tribes. Labor work, particularly wage labour, is a sub occupation for most tribes, working in various sectors such as farms, mines, factories, hotels, and road construction.

Cultural role of tribal communities

Jharkhand's tribal communities, also known as Adivasis or Scheduled Tribes (STs), have a rich and diverse cultural heritage. These communities, which include various indigenous groups, have distinct customs, languages, and practices. Major tribal languages spoken in the state include Santhali, Mundari, Ho, and Oraon. Traditional dance and music, such as Chhau, Jhumar, and Paika, are integral to their cultural celebrations. Festivals, such as Sarhul, Karma, and Sohrai, involve worshipping nature, deities, and ancestors. Art and craft traditions, such as dokra metalwork, bamboo, and cane crafts, showcase the artistic skills of the tribal people. Traditional attire reflects the cultural diversity of the tribal communities. Despite their rich heritage, tribal communities face challenges like marginalization and displacement.

Educational status of tribal communities

Tribal communities in Jharkhand have historically faced educational disparities due to geographical isolation, socio-economic marginalization, and cultural differences. The government and organizations have made efforts to address these challenges and improve the educational status of tribal populations. In remote tribal areas, access to schools and educational infrastructure can be limited due to lack of proper transportation and communication facilities. The educational system needs to be culturally sensitive to the needs and traditions of tribal communities, and families may prioritize immediate economic needs over investing in their children's education. The government of Jharkhand and national initiatives have implemented schemes and programs to

improve the educational status of tribal communities, including scholarships, residential schools, and special provisions. Promoting bilingual education, incorporating tribal languages alongside regional/national languages, may also be beneficial.

Tribal communities in political system

Tribal communities in Jharkhand, an eastern Indian state, have a significant role in the political system. The state was created in 2000 to address the socio-economic and political aspirations of the tribal communities. The Constitution of India allows for the reservation of seats in legislative bodies for Scheduled Tribes, ensuring their representation in the state legislative assembly and parliament. Tribal political parties focus on the rights, culture, and sustainable development of tribal areas. Tribal leaders hold key positions, including the Chief Minister's office. Tribal communities have a history of political activism, advocating for land, resources, and cultural preservation. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play a crucial role in local governance, allowing tribal communities to participate in elected bodies at village, block, and district levels. Despite political representation and affirmative actions, challenges such as socio-economic disparities, industrialization displacement, and land-related issues continue to impact tribal communities.

Livelihood pattern of Tribal communities

The tribal population in Jharkhand primarily engages in agriculture, using indigenous knowledge and methods like organic farming and constructing bunds of locally available stone. Forests are crucial for their livelihood, providing firewood, food, fodder, and medicines. Sal, a significant tree in Jharkhand, is used for leaf plate making and medicinal purposes. Bamboo products, such as baskets, soop, brooms, and containers, are also used for economic enhancement. The forest also contains valuable fruits, such as amla, imli, karanj, kendu fruit, kusum seed, and mahua fruit, which are used for domestic and commercial purposes. Seasonal food items like rugra and mushrooms are also collected from the forest. Many medicinal plants, such as Palash, Satawar, Kalmegh, Banpyaj, Sarpghandha, Amla, Harre, Bahera, and Musli, are used to treat various diseases, passing on their indigenous knowledge to the next generation.

Entrepreneurship and Skill Development initiatives for Tribals in Jharkhand

The government's initiatives for skilling tribals in Jharkhand focus on providing vocational training, access to resources, and financial assistance. These initiatives aim to create economic opportunities for tribals, allowing them to make a living and support their families. These initiatives also aim to help tribals gain the skills they need to access better job prospects, as well as to help them become self-sufficient and independent. Additionally, the government is trying to bridge the gap between tribals and mainstream society, helping them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the modern world.

- **Grameen Udyami Yojana:** In order to promote inclusive and sustainable growth among tribal groups, the National Skill Development Corporation funded the Grameen Udyami Yojana, which is operational in Jharkhand. This scheme Implemented under the Sansadiya Sankul Pariyojana, this scheme aims to achieve goals like reduced forced migration, increased employment opportunities for tribal youth, and conservation of natural resources. It targets 49 ST clusters across 15 Indian states.
- **Block Level Institute for Rural Skill Acquisition (BIRSA):** The Block Level Institute for Rural Skill Acquisition (BIRSA) is a vital part of the Mukhya Mantri Sarathi Yojana (MMSY) which was introduced by the Jharkhand government in July 2023. It aims to provide skill training to young people, ages 18-35, and up to 50 for those from reserved categories such as ST, SCs, and OBCs, throughout Jharkhand. The program offers free training in a variety of skill sets, increased employability, and unemployment allowance for up to 1 year after successful completion of the program.
- **Kalyan Gurukul:** Kalyan Gurukul is the flagship program of PREJHA Foundation, which provides placement-linked skill development of STs, SCs, BCs and Minorities. With this mission, PREJHA Foundation envisions designing, implementing, and scaling up self-sustainable initiatives that will develop skills and enhance livelihoods for Scheduled Tribes (ST), Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), Scheduled Castes (SC), Backward Classes (BC) and Minorities. Kalyan gurukul are the residential skill development centre. Construction, Manufacturing, Logistics, Infrastructure, and Apparel are some of the sectors where Gurukuls offer full-time, short-term training. Modern infrastructure and significant up-to-date technology are used to provide technical training, simulating the real-life work environment. Soft skills, such as spoken English, life skills, manners, etc., are added to the technical instruction in addition to attempts to understand ethics and discipline.
- **Eklavya Model Residential School:** According to the 2011 Census, India's literacy rate is 74%, with Jharkhand at 68% and STs at 57.13%. The literacy rate among females in the ST category falls further to 46.2%. remedial initiatives to provide quality education to SCs and STs include reforming Eklavya Vidyalaya/Ashram Vidyalaya on the pattern of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, offering improved infrastructure, ICT enablement, remedial education, vocational education, promoting sports to reduce dropouts, and so on. The department offers residential schools for students coming

from ST, SC, and OBC categories.

Total number of schools: 143 residential schools + 32 Paharia Day Schools = 175 total schools.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a central government programme that offers free short-term skill development programmes to all segments of society, including tribal people and underprivileged groups, throughout India, including Jharkhand. The PMKVY increases a person's employability and improves their livelihood by educating them with skills they can use on the job.

CONCLUSION

Entrepreneurship and skill training programmes have enormous potential to empower tribal communities in Jharkhand, propelling them towards a better socioeconomic future. Entrepreneurship and skill training programs can help tribal communities gain access to new skills, resources, and opportunities. This can help increase their income, improve their standard of living, and create more jobs in their region. Additionally, these programs can help break down traditional barriers and create a more positive and inclusive environment. Successful implementation requires tailoring programmes to meet unique requirements, increasing stakeholder participation, and assuring sustainability. By providing tribal communities with the necessary tools and resources for success, we can unleash their entrepreneurial spirit and pave the road for inclusive prosperity in Jharkhand.

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