

BOOK REVIEW**Tribes in Transition: Livelihood, Development and Sustainability****Authors: Singh, Raksha; Sen, Vinod and Sugandhe Anand****New Delhi, Academic Publication, 2025, Pages: 239,****Rs. 995, Hardbound ISBN: 978-93-81492-78-9****Reviewed By****Avadhesh Kumar**

India is globally known for their cultural heritage and diversity. Our country is a good example of unity in diversity. People from different cultures living together are maintaining communal harmony. As per the 2011 census, the total population of India is 1.21 billion, out of whom 8.6% are from various tribal communities. Tribal people from India are globally known for their rich cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. But due to industrialization, urbanisation, globalisation, privatization, liberalization, displacement and migration, tribal people are in a transitional era and facing many challenges to their traditions, culture, rituals and indigenous knowledge in day-to-day life. This book, titled '**Tribes in Transition: Livelihood, Development and Sustainability**', attempts to highlight the various issues and challenges of tribal communities of India. The present book is compiled by Raksha Sing, Vinod Sen and Anand Sugandhe. The book comprises 19 chapters organized into three thematic sections to examine issues of livelihood, migration, skill development, education, sustainability, financial inclusion, and policy interventions. The work successfully integrates empirical studies, case analyses, and policy discussions, making it a valuable contribution to the fields of social work, development studies, and tribal research.

The introductory chapter sets the conceptual foundation by presenting the broader context of tribal transition in India. The editors highlighted the conditions of tribal communities within the larger framework of development, sustainability, and social justice. It discusses how historical marginalization, displacement, and inadequate policy support have shaped the contemporary challenges faced by indigenous populations. The chapter effectively outlines the need for skill development, education, and livelihood diversification to ensure inclusive growth.

Section I focuses on migration and livelihood dimensions. The chapters analyse patterns of tribal migration, changing occupational structures, land rights, and access to resources. The second chapter, entitled 'Dimensions of Tribal Migration in Madhya Pradesh, Anand Sugandhe and Bhanu Pratap Pandey. This chapter analysed migration patterns among tribal communities using comparative census data of 2001 and 2011. It describes how globalization, education, and opportunities of employment influence tribal mobility from traditional habitats to urban and semi-urban areas. The study demonstrates that migration can improve income and awareness but may also disrupt social networks and cultural continuity. Dilip Singh's chapter, entitled 'Tribal life and Livelihood', focused on the post-independence realities and examined the persistent issues such as land alienation, limited resource access, and economic vulnerability. He also discussed diversification strategies adopted by tribes, including seasonal labour, forest-based activities, and informal employment. In the fourth chapter, 'Driving Sustainability: The Contribution of Scheduled Tribes to Development in Madhya Pradesh,' Veerandra Singh Mastaniya and Priya Sengar highlighted the ecological and developmental contributions of Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh. This chapter described that indigenous practices support environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable resource management. Munmun Sen's chapter titled 'Impact of Cultural Practices on Tribal People in India' described how the cultural practices of tribal communities affect their environmental sustainability, health and social structure. Their traditional knowledge promotes biodiversity conservation and maintains social cohesion.

However, rapid modernization and external influences threaten these systems, leading to the erosion of indigenous knowledge and values. The chapter 'National Food Security Act 2013 and its Implications on Tribal Communities' by Mamta Pawar and GR Gangle. They discussed the impact of the National Food Security Act on tribal welfare. The present chapter highlighted the access system of subsidized food grains and its effects on their nutritional status. The contributors also analysed the shifting pattern of expenditure from food expenditure to non-food expenditure, i.e. education, healthcare, and livelihood activities.

Section II of the book, under the theme of 'Skill Development Education and Socio-Economic Progress of Tribes', the joint chapter of Rakesh Kumar Gupta and Anil Kumar Kushwaha titled 'Possibilities and Dimensions of Skill Development in PANDO Tribe in Chhattisgarh' examined the barriers of skill development, such as poor literacy, isolation, and limited institutional support that restrict economic advancement. They suggested that Government training programs, NGO interventions, and community participation are pathways for the empowerment of PANDO tribes. In the chapter titled 'Possibilities and Dimensions of Sports Skill Development in Indian Tribal Areas' by Virendra Kumar Singh. He describes the athletic potential among tribal communities. He argued that the sports activities promote discipline, health, confidence, social integration and also open new economic avenues for tribal youths. Due to a lack of sports infrastructure, coaching, and funding, the tribe could not perform their untapped talent at national and international championships. RS Mandloi titled 'Impact of Modern Education on Preserving Tribal Culture in India' highlighted the dual role of modern education among tribal, on the one hand, it enhances literacy and opportunities, and on the other side, the youth also become alienated from indigenous culture. In his chapter, he recommended promoting culturally responsive education among tribal youth as a means of fostering cultural pride. The joint chapter of Maninder Deep Cheema, Harkanwal Deep Singh and Jatinder Singh titled 'Education of Scheduled Tribes in India: Progress and Gaps' investigated the effect of policies, programs and schemes of education among scheduled

tribes. He also examines the barriers, i.e. socio-economic hardships and geographical limitations that limit access to quality education. They suggested that better infrastructure, community engagement and targeted interventions can improve the enrolment rate of tribal girls at all levels of education. In the chapter 'Comparative Study Between the Mental Health and Academic Achievements of the Tribal Students at Middle School Level in West Bengal and Jharkhand' by Hardik Kumar and Sunita Wathry. They examined the relationship between mental health and academic outcomes of tribal students. Gender, locality, parental occupation, and school type significantly affect the psychological well-being and performance. The authors suggested that emotional support, counselling, and inclusive school environments can reduce the mental health issues of students. Rupesh Kumar Singh, titled 'The Role of Tribal Literacy in the Socio-Economic Development of India', critically examined the role of literacy as a tool of socio-economic empowerment of tribal people. Improved literacy rates enable tribal individuals to access employment, government benefits, and civic participation. The author also highlighted the barriers, such as poverty, remoteness, and limited higher education opportunities, in the socio-economic development of nations. Devendra Vishwakarma reviewed in his chapter titled 'Tribal Development in India: Policies and Programs', post-independence policies, development strategies, and welfare schemes. He found that the major gap between policy design and its execution, due to this gap, poverty and vulnerability exist among the tribal people.

In **Section III**, which focused on sustainability, financial inclusion and resource management. The joint chapter of Lalit Kumar and Shivendra Singh titled 'Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Economic Development among Tribal Communities in India' examined the accessibility of financial literacy and financial services among tribal communities. They discussed about the barriers like low literacy, remote locations, and inadequate infrastructure to access financial services. The chapter also emphasized that promoting financial literacy and inclusive banking will play a significant role in sustainable development, and by integrating tribes into formal financial systems, economic disparities can be reduced. In the chapter

titled 'Economic Impact of Tribal Art: Special Reference to Gond Art', the contributors Raksha Singh and Shivangi Sharma highlighted the economic and cultural significance of Gond art. They discussed that practices of traditional art are helpful to provide good livelihood opportunities while preserving their heritage. Traditional Gond art is attracting the global market and providing local tourism and trade for tribal people. They advocate protective measures to sustain artistic traditions and culture-based enterprises that can promote financial inclusion and cultural continuity among Gond tribes. Harshita Singh and Alok Kumar Singh's chapter titled 'Role of Scheduled Tribes in the Conservation of Biodiversity in Chhattisgarh State' focused on the indigenous knowledge systems that support biodiversity conservation. Deforestation, industrialization, and socio-economic pressures affected traditional practices related to forests and sustainable natural resources management. They suggested that integrating local knowledge with modern policies can enhance environmental sustainability and maintain biodiversity. The chapter titled 'Forest Rights Act 2006 Implementation and Assessment' by Manoj Kumar Meena and Anita Joya. The authors examined the importance and role of forest rights act and its role in addressing historical social injustice, conservation of forest resources, environmental sustainability and empowerment of tribal people. The chapter highlighted that the bureaucratic hurdles and the lack of political will are major barriers to the effective implementation of this Act. The joint chapter of Manish Sharma and Vinay Sangam Kushwaha titled 'A Comparative Study of Sustainable Garbage and Management Practices among Tribes in Kothi and Amarkantak Panchayat' analysed the waste management practices in tribal regions. The chapter highlighted that behaviour change, community participation, and customized approaches will promote the tribal people for sustainable garbage management, and cooperation between communities, NGOs, and authorities will also play an important role in environmental sustainability. The chapter titled 'Financial Inclusion among Tribes in Kerala', Saleena Mary & Sanghmitra Kar, focused on financial inclusion initiatives and socio-economic challenges faced by tribes in Kerala. The authors discussed the barriers to financial progress, such as geographical isolation, low literacy levels, and limited access to services, and recommended that

these challenges to the financial inclusion of tribal people in Kerala can be reduced through technological solutions, financial education, and stronger institutional support. The joint chapter of Vinod Sen and Adhraj Singh titled 'Socio-Economic Challenges faced by Tribal Hostel Students in Chhattisgarh Region' critically examined the socio-economic barriers faced by tribal hostel students in Chhattisgarh. They analysed the barriers, i.e. remote geographical conditions, restricted regular attendance, poverty, inadequate resources, and family livelihood pressures, which will create hurdles to getting education.

As is evident that the book successfully integrates theory and field evidence to present a comprehensive understanding of tribal development. Most of the chapters identify and appraise the major areas of tribal studies and development. It is expected that the book will be highly useful for understanding the condition of tribal people in the contemporary era. It will also be helpful to develop a new perspective and evolve a road map for the empowerment of tribal people. The chapter-wise structure allows readers to appreciate diverse dimensions of tribal life while identifying practical interventions for the inclusive and sustainable development of tribal communities. Moreover, this book is a valuable addition to the academic fraternity and will be highly useful to social scientists, policymakers, administrators, researchers, social work educators, practitioners and development professionals.

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