

Tribal Livelihood and Governance



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1. *Tribal Livelihood and Governance: Regional Concerns*
edited by V. Srinivasa Rao
2. *Disadvantaged Tribes of India: Regional Concerns*
edited by V. Srinivasa Rao
3. *Challenges of Tribal Development: Contemporary Social Concerns*
edited by V. Srinivasa Rao
4. *Tribal Integration in India: Northeast and Beyond*
edited by V. Srinivasa Rao

Tribal Livelihood and Governance

Regional Concerns

Edited by

V. Srinivasa Rao



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Foreword

I am very glad to know that the Tribal Welfare Department, through Tribal Cultural Research & Training Mission (TCR & TM) and the Centre for Regional Studies (CRS), University of Hyderabad, have collectively organized the national seminar with Andhra University and Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh on *Tribal Policies and Programmes in India: Regional Reflections in the Context of Globalisation*. In order to document the proceedings of the national seminar, it is welcoming step to bring them as a publication into four edited volumes on the sharing of multiple scholars from different parts of Indian Universities on the best practices of tribal issues in Indian states.

There is no point in bauxite mining when the local tribals are opposing it. The state government is not going to lose much by giving up on bauxite mining. Peace is more important and we should see that locals don't turn Maoists.

Chief Minister, **Sri Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy**
in the District Collectors' meeting held in June 2019

As the editor of this volume, Dr V. Srinivasa Rao, has rightly quoted in the 'Introduction' chapter of the book entitled *Disadvantaged Tribes of India: Regional Concerns* by citing the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy, the approach of the present Government of Andhra Pradesh towards tribal welfare and their development in the state is very positive. The government is committed towards strengthening its hands to formulate best policies and to implement them for the tribal development. The government is already implementing 'NAVARATNALU' a flagship program towards well-being of all on saturation mode including STs of the state.

I appreciate the efforts put in by TWD, TCR & TM in organising the national seminar on tribal issues with the financial support of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. I also appreciate the wholehearted efforts put in by Dr V. Srinivasa Rao, who is the coordinator of the seminar and also the editor of this book Tribal Livelihood and Governance: Regional Concerns, in attracting academic insights on tribal issues from around 80 scholars who are expertise on their research.

I am sure that the publications will provide a critical insights to understand on tribal issues in India. The findings posed by eminent research scholars across the country are crucial for consideration during the policy formulation towards the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes.

Smt. Pamula Pushpa Srivani
Deputy Chief Minister (TW)
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Preface

The livelihood sources of scheduled tribes in India differ from one region to another, and from one tribe to another. The tribal regions are diverse in terms of having natural resources such as forest, water, land, etc. Similarly, few tribes live in or around the forest, a few away from the forest. Based on these diversities of tribal regions and also even among themselves, the administrative structures have also been executed since different five year plan periods. That is why the tribal regions are divided as Fifth and Sixth Schedules. The policy initiatives such as MADA, ITDAs/ITDPs have also been designed to address these diversities among the tribal regions across India. The traditional livelihood sources of tribes have become meagre due to several reasons especially after the 1990s. The tribes, who used to depend on forest and forest-based minor products and related natural resources for their daily sustenance, have been migrating in search of alternative livelihood sources. In some cases, the tribes depend on government welfare schemes for their sustenance.

The issue of livelihood and its associated issues such as land and forest are core issues of tribes in Indian livelihood strategy. This volume explores various issues, strategies, programmes of tribal livelihood practices and issues around it. This volume presents various case studies on tribal livelihood, land and forest from eight states such as Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura. These states represent different geographical regions from north to south and east to west. What we can understand from the analysis of these case studies from different states across India is that there exists diversity on the issues of tribal livelihood. For example, the study from Arunachal Pradesh reveals that community participation is an important step in biodiversity conservation through increased incentives for local communities by enhancing means to promote livelihood. The study also

revealed unique practices of cultural conservation of resources. Similarly, another study from Odisha found that changes in the modes of interactions between nature and community help to transfer their agricultural practices from shifting cultivation to an individual mode of agriculture on *patta* land. However, some studies in this volume, for example, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana present their arguments to highlight various historical injustice to the tribal livelihood. These studies would be an added advantage to address various policy gaps and frame community-friendly livelihood programmes as in the case of Arunachal Pradesh and Odisha.

Governance is another important issue that drastically changed the tribal socio-political relations among them and also with outside communities. Introduction of the Fifth and Sixth Schedules in the Constitution to divide the tribal regions under two different administrative and governance guidelines, and Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act during the post-liberalisation period were two important policy initiatives that heavily influenced the traditional tribal governance practices in India. These two policy initiatives were extremely appreciated before they were made as policies. However, research studies show that there are several gaps in its actual implementation. The traditional governance system of tribal communities in India used to settle their core issues including livelihood practices at the habitation level. Even the disputes on the rights over the livelihood sources, forest products or on common land, were easily discussed among themselves in the traditional governance system.

The seven case studies presented in this volume from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, north-east states including Manipur and Odisha on the issue of governance and autonomy are very important to understand the background for tribal unrest in India. The issue of governance including the implementation of Fifth and Sixth Schedules are important concerns from these states. The administration of the Fifth Schedule, including the implementation of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and *gram sabha* in non-north-east states and the administration of the Sixth Schedule including the district autonomous council and its powers have become major governance regional concerns in tribal regions. For example, most of the scholars are of the opinion that the autonomous district councils in the north-east have neither been able to do anything for the development of tribes nor involves the poor tribes in the development activities. It has also created a conflict situation between tribals and non-tribals in the region. On the other hand, there always exists a continuing conflict between state and autonomous district councils over the powers and functions over the Sixth Schedule. Another important issue in Manipur is that the rift among the people between the valley and hills is ever-growing. Equally, on the other hand, the tribal people in the Fifth Schedule states are also not happy with the implementation of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act. According to the case studies presented from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, the powers and functions of *gram sabha* are nominal in scheduled

areas. The control of *gram sabhas* over the natural resources including land, forest and other minerals, in scheduled areas do not seem to be according to the provisions laid in the Act. Therefore, all the cases studies from different regions reveal that the traditional governance system in the tribal areas is no way equal to the modern governance practice.

The present volume on *Tribal Livelihood and Governance: Regional Concerns* brings myriad findings while interpreting various case studies from different states with reference to tribal livelihood and governance in India. The findings on these issues presented in this volume would be a great resource to policy formulation to address the existing gaps in tribal policies and programmes. This volume, thus, encapsulates the core issues of tribal livelihood and governance at a larger interest with more relevant regional priorities.

V. Srinivasa Rao

Acknowledgement

Editing a book is an endeavor with a great challenge and its success purely depends on authors' contribution and their cooperation. I really appreciate and thank each and every author who contributed the paper for building this volume. Papers included in this volume were reviewed and sent to the respective authors with comments, observations and suggestions for improvement. The editor is thankful to the authors for their timely cooperation. Without their cooperation and contributions, it would not have been possible to bring out this volume. However, the editor is not liable in any way for the arguments, discussions and opinions expressed by the authors in their respective papers in this volume.

I would like to put on record my highest sense of gratitude to TCR&TM, Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, for giving me the opportunity to organise the national seminar and bringing this volume as an outcome of the seminar. I thank Smt. Pamula Pushpa Srivani, Deputy Chief Minister (Tribal Welfare), Government of Andhra Pradesh, for writing the foreword to this volume. I express my thankfulness to Sri E. Ravindra Babu, the Mission Director, for his encouragement and constant support to publish this book; Sri Adinarayana Rao Balivada for taking initiative every time and offering valuable suggestions. Without their initiative, it would not happen to bring this academic and research outcome. I could not thank enough Sri V. Chinaveerabhadru, the former Mission Director, who initially supported this endeavor. Mr Anand Kumar for support during the course of this assignment.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad; Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University, for their timely suggestions and cooperation to accomplish the task of conducting national seminar which was a driving force for the outcome of this volume. I thank Prof. Arun Kumar

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V. Srinivasa Rao

Editor and Contributors

Editor

V. Srinivasa Rao is Head and Associate Professor in Centre for Regional Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. He previously worked in the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP) in University of Hyderabad (2009–2017) and Maulana Azad National Urdu University (2007–2009). Before he joined the teaching and research field in the university system, he worked in CARE-India (2002–2007) on the issues such as education, health, food security, and livelihood in the tribal areas of Northern Andhra Pradesh in a project called 'Sustainable Tribal Empowerment Project' funded by the European Union (EU). He edited the book entitled *Adivasi Rights and Exclusion in India* (2019), published by Routledge, London. He also authored two books out of which one is published by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. He has published his research findings in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*, and *Indian Journal of Public Administration*.

Contributors

Rony K. Baby is Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at St Dominic's College, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala. He is very actively involved with tribal issues in Kerala both as an activist and also as a researcher. As the coordinator of the Travancore Rubber and Tea (TR & T) Plantation Agitation Committee, he is one of the leading faces in Kerala demanding lands for the landless people. He writes to the local and national newspapers on the burning issues of the state.

R. K Bijeta is currently teaching in the Department of History at the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh. She obtained her MA, MPhil, and PhD in the Department of History, Assam University, Silchar, Assam. Her area of research specialisations includes

Ethnic History and Culture and History of Northeast India. She has authored *Raid and Resistance: Politics of Nagas in Colonial Assam* (2018) and published edited book *Debating Northeast India: Mapping Ethnic Identity Formation* (2017) and also contributed to a number of research papers in various reputed journals and edited books.

Rahul Chimurkar is Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science at Lakshmi Bai College, University of Delhi. He has presented many papers in national seminars sponsored by University Grants Commission and published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals. His areas of interest include Indian government and politics, the study of tribal societies and Indian political thought.

Jayanta Choudhury presently works as Associate Professor at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre (NIRDPR-NERC), Guwahati. Before joining NIRDPR-NERC, he worked in the Department of Rural Studies, Tripura University and State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development, Tripura. He did his PhD and Masters in Rural Development from Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal. His area of interest includes inclusive rural development; rural development planning and project management; financial inclusion, and social enterprises. He is author/editor of sixteen books and has published more than 45 research articles in national and international journals and in edited volumes.

Vulli Dhanaraju is currently teaching History at the Assam University (Central University), Diphu Campus, Assam. He obtained his MA, MPhil and PhD degrees in the Department of History from University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. He was a Teen Murti Fellow during 2008–2010 at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. His area of research and specialisations includes tribal history, subaltern history, and environmental history. He has authored and edited several books and published his research findings in various reputed research journals.

Mihin Dollo has a postgraduate degree in botany and is a postgraduate gold medallist and Chancellor's gold medallist for academic excellence. He has edited books, and has published 29 research papers in national and international journals and 28 articles in national and international magazines and bulletins. Presently, he is working as Director (Natural Resources) in North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project under North Eastern Council, Government of India, Ministry of DoNER, Shillong.

Bhavya Jain is currently a PhD scholar at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Her MPhil thesis titled *Changing Livelihood Practices among the Sahariyas in Rajasthan* was completed in 2019 from TISS, Mumbai. She has worked with tribes such as Gonds and Korkus in Central India and holds her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Delhi.

Mercy K. Khaute is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Her areas of research interests and experiences lay on subjects ranging from constitutional and administrative law, medical law, environment law,

human rights, and gender issues. She is also Associate Managing Editor of the International Journal of Legal Studies and Research.

Roshni Kujur holds a PhD and currently is Assistant Professor in the PG Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Sambalpur University, Odisha. She has published several articles in national journals and presented papers in different national and international seminars. Her area of specialisation is political theory and tribal politics.

Jaya Kumari is pursuing PhD from the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her areas of interests are minority studies, multiculturalism, politics of knowledge, and tribal studies.

Mahendra S. Lodhi is presently Scientist-E and Head of North East Regional Centre (NERC) of G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development. He did his Masters (MTech) on 'Water Resources Development and Management' from IIT, Kharagpur. So far, he has implemented over fifteen R&D projects on spring rejuvenation, landscape development, livelihood development, etc. He has published about 42 research papers in national and international journals of repute with a good impact factor. He has also written more than twenty short articles in different newsletters and magazines.

Boya Sree Manasa is pursuing PhD in CSSEIP, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. She has published two papers in the edited volumes and also presented her research findings in various national seminars.

Nilakantha Panigrahi is Head, Department of Anthropology and Tribal Development, Guru Ghasidas Viswavidyalaya (a central university), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. He was the faculty for a period of 16 years (From 1997 to 2013) at ICSSR-cum-Government of Odisha research institute at Bhubaneswar. Dr Panigrahi has completed 26 research projects and eleven consultancies. He was the visiting fellow to ISEC, Bangalore under Sir Ratan Tata Trust. He worked as Development Professional in bilateral projects supported by Danish International Development Agency of Denmark for a period of ten years. He has published five research reference books and seventy research articles in different international and national journals and edited books.

Aditi Patel has completed MFA (Sculpture) and is a research scholar at Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CFCS), UOH. Currently, she is Visiting Faculty at Department of Sculpture, JNAFAU, Hyderabad.

M. Pushpavalli is a PhD scholar in Centre for Women's Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

Joly Puthussery is Associate Professor, CFCS, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

Joseph Riamei teaches at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus. He did his PhD from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. His research interest areas include federalism, ethnicity, and conflict studies in South

East Asia; state; democracy; and tribes with special focus on indigenous people's episteme and human rights.

Rocharla Rohith is pursuing research from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT, Dharwad. He has earned a master's degree in English Literature from Mahatma Gandhi University besides an MA in Journalism from Sikkim Manipal University. Currently, his research is structured around the study of tribal history, culture, and literature in selected states of India.

Bikash Kumar Sahoo is an MPhil scholar, School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Uttam Kumar Sahoo is a PhD scholar, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Prasanna K. Samal is Dean, Professor of Tribal Studies; Head, Department of Tribal Studies; and Head, Department of Linguistics and Contrastive Study of Tribal Languages, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak. Before joining IGNTU, he was Scientist Incharge of North Eastern Regional Centre and Head of Socio-Economic Development Theme of G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development. With over thirty years of research and teaching experience, Prof. Samal has published seven books and a monograph; has edited one book, and published over 170 papers in international and national journals of repute, some with a high impact factor and implemented over 25 research and development projects. He is also Director, Centre of Excellence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI at IGNTU.

L. Jitendra Singh presently works with Tata Trust and holds a diverse portfolio of livelihoods, energy, education, and sports programmes at the capacity of Regional Manager, Manipur and Tripura. Prior to the present engagement, he was the coordinator of a United Nations Development Programme-funded project on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), Arunachal Pradesh. He has also worked for the upland areas of North East Indian states through North East Rural Livelihoods Project (NERLP) funded by the World Bank and North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) programmes. He holds a PhD on Ecology and Environmental Science and has a good number of publications in national and international journals.

Ridhima Tewari is Assistant Professor (English), at IIT, Dharwad. She is trained in Literature from Jadavpur University and obtained her PhD from EFLU, Hyderabad. Her research interests lie at the intersection of gender studies, literature, and cultural studies. Dr Tewari has taught interdisciplinary courses at the Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi.

Ngaopunii Trichao Thomas is Assistant Professor at Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. His research interests are in the field of dynamics of local self-governance, indigeneity, and identity politics.