

Tribal Livelihood and Governance



The following books, including the current volume, are the outcome of the national seminar organised by the Center for Regional Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, with the financial assistance from Tribal Cultural Research & Training Mission (TCR&TM), Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of India:

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



RAWAT PUBLICATIONS

Jaipur • New Delhi • Bangalore • Guwahati • Kolkata

ISBN 978-81-316-1165-4

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Published by

Prem Rawat for **Rawat Publications**

Satyam Apts, Sector 3, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur 302 004 (India)

Phone: 0141 265 1748 / 265 7006 E-mail: info@rawatbooks.com

Website: www.rawatbooks.com

New Delhi Office

4858/24, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110 002

Phone: 011 2326 3290

Also at *Bangalore, Guwahati and Kolkata*

Typeset by Rawat Computers, Jaipur

Printed and bound in India

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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 a 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 experts 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

Patnaik, Dean, School of Social Sciences, UoH, for his suggestions. I also thank Prof. Sheela Prasad, Head, Centre for Regional Studies, UoH, for encouragement; Prof. G. Satya Narayana, Principal, College of Arts and Commerce, Andhra University, for local support.

I appreciate Raghuveer Pinisetty for logistical support in Andhra University during the course of seminar; Bommaka Shiva Kumar and Boya Sree Manasa for their academic contributions for this volume.

The editor is also so thankful to Rawat Publications, Jaipur, for timely publication of this academic volume.

V. Srinivasa Rao

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