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## Problems of professional education in tribal areas of India

**Ravi Kumar Sharma**

### Abstract

This is the era of LPG, and India has adopted the open economy policy for its development. Development is a very broad terminology. When we talk about development we talk about holistic development not about individual development. Holistic development means inclusive growth and inclusive growth means development of all caste, creed, race, region, religion and gender. Though India is developing at a faster pace but still a big portion and population of the country is not the part of this development. In India the development has two faces one is shining India and the other is poor Bharat. The tribal population and tribal areas of the country is excluded from this development. Though the tribal development is taking place in India but it is taking place at a very slow rate. If government want to speed up the rate of development among tribal population they have to take the corrective steps to increase the level of professional and higher education among tribal population. More development opportunities should be provided to this tribal population in order to bring them to the mainstream of economic development. The development of the tribal population can be achieved only through their educational development.

**Keywords:** Holistic development, inclusive growth, L.P.G., professional education, higher education

### 1. Introduction

Education is the back bone of any country. For making any country powerful and civilized the citizens of that country must be educated. It is the basic duty of any government to educate its citizens. Education is very essential for each and every individual and plays a very vital and important role for the development of an individual. The individual development is the development of the country. That's why every country in modern world is trying to achieve the country's development through educational development. India is not different from other countries. Government of India is also putting a lot of efforts and money to educate its all population.

India is a country of great diversity. On one hand there are metropolitan cities which compel us to think that India is a developed country on other hand we have poor tribal population which are far beyond the development. In these tribal areas basic facilities like schooling, hospitals, roads, electricity, universities are not present, which force us to think that we are living in some different world. If we analyze the social structure of India there are some communities who have good educational level but we have a big tribal population which have a very low level of education.

### 1.1 Tribal Population in India

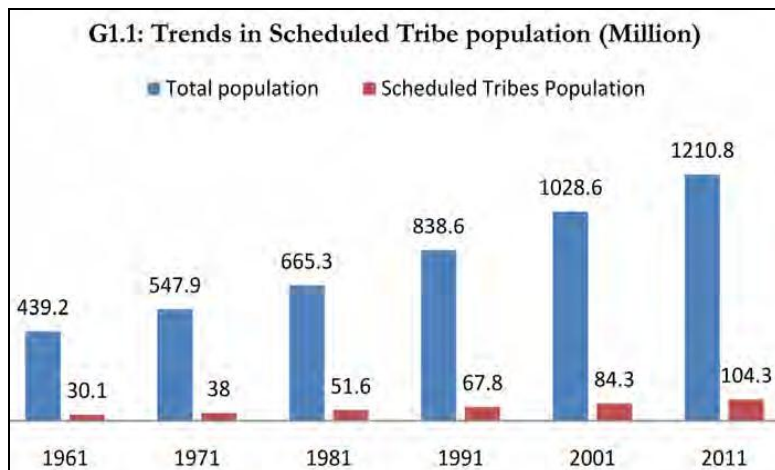
In India, there are more than 533 tribal communities scattered all over the states and majority of them lives in difficult terrains, interiors of forests or remote areas which are difficult to access by mainstream population. Because of this geographical isolation, they are often excluded from developmental activities. In India, Scheduled Tribes constitute 8.6 per cent of total population numbering 104.28 million (Census of India, 2011) <sup>[4]</sup>. This in fact has lead to the socio-economic backwardness of the community. Lack of sufficient educational institutions in tribal areas, poverty, and lack of nutritional and healthcare programmes are some of the important problems causing the situation. Besides, low literacy, poor enrolment at schools and high dropouts from schools are also significant among them (Suresh and Rajasenan, 2014) <sup>[7]</sup>.

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**Trends in Proportion of Scheduled Tribe Population  
Census Year, Total population (in millions)**

**Scheduled Tribes Population (in millions)**

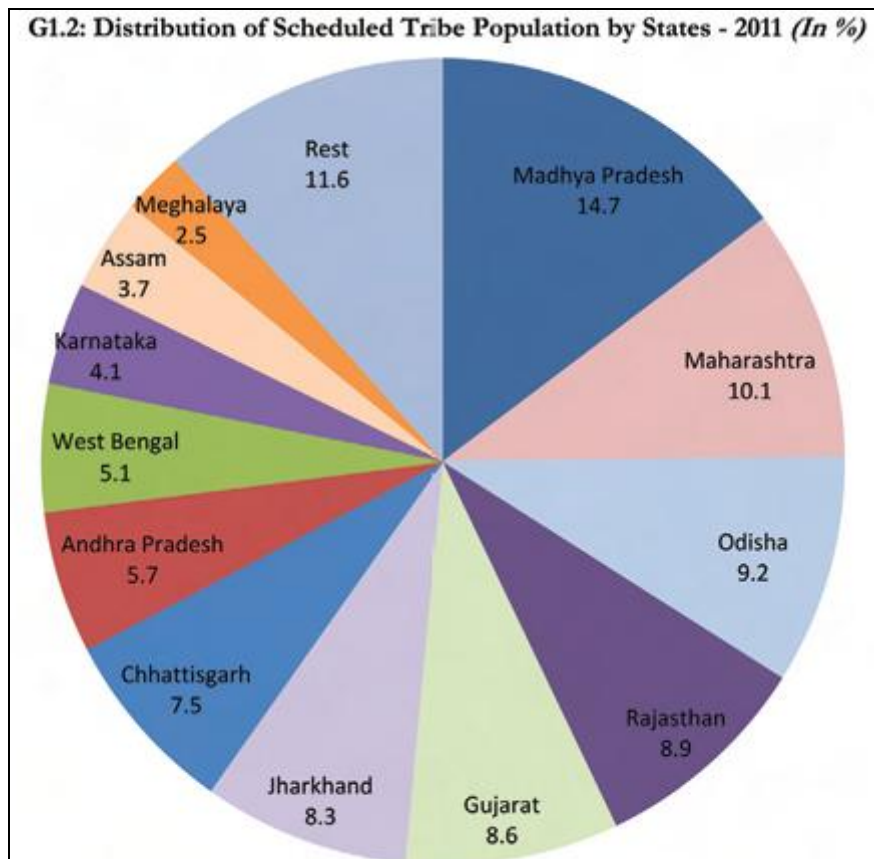


**Source:** Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013 [6], Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statics Division, Government of India, www.tribal.nic.in, Page No. 02.

**Graph 1:** Trends in Scheduled Tribe Population (Million)

More than half of the tribal population are concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat. Almost 90 per cent of them reside in

rural areas particularly in difficult terrains, interiors of forests or remote hilly areas which are normally less accessible to the mainstream population.



**Source:** Presentation “Scheduled Tribes in India, Census 2011” by Registrar General of India, May 2013

**Source:** Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statics Division Government of India, www.tribal.nic.in, Page No. 03.

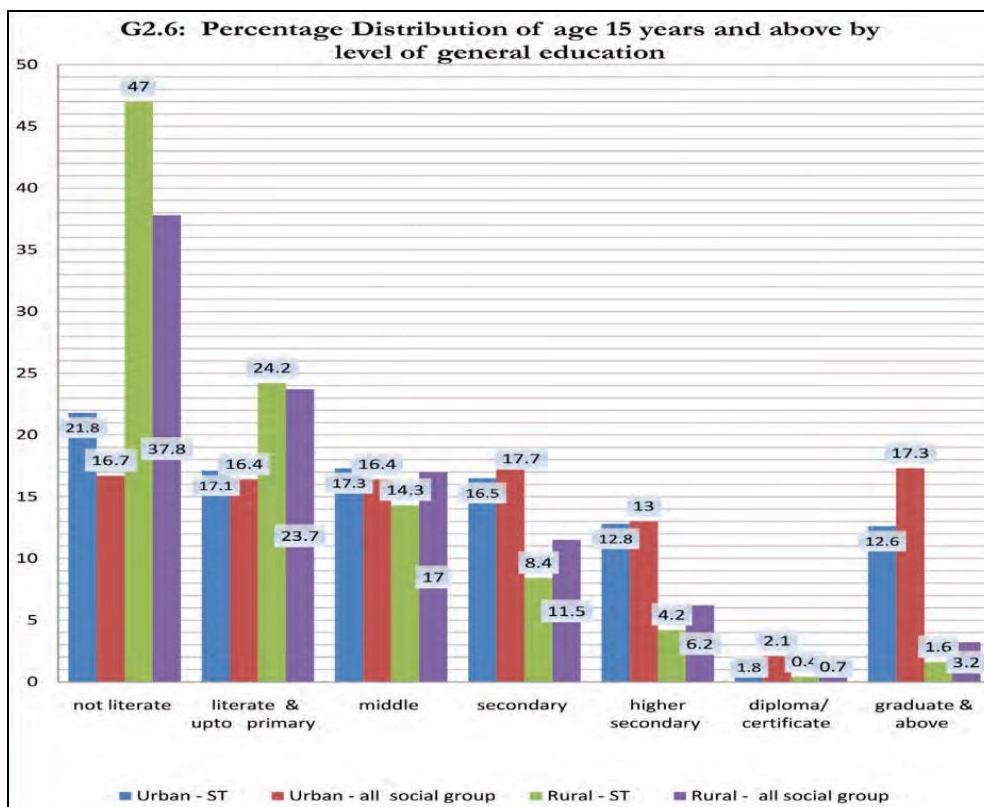
### 1.2. Literacy among Tribal Population in India

Comparative Literacy Rates of STs and Total Population (in percent)							
Category / Census	Year	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Total Population		28.3	34.45	43.57	52.21	64.84	72.99
Scheduled Tribes		8.53	11.30	16.35	29.60	47.10	58.96
Gap		19.77	18.15	19.88	22.61	18.28	14.03

Source: Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statics Division Government of India, www.tribal.nic.in, Page No. 13

According to census report 2011 the literacy% of total population of India was 72.99% whereas the literacy% of schedule tribes was 58.96%. There is a gap of 14.03% in the literacy level of tribes in comparison to overall literacy%.

### 1.3. Level of Education, Higher Education in Particular Among Tribal Population



Source: Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statics Division Government of India, www.tribal.nic.in, Page No. 23

Graph 2: Percentage Distributing of age 15 years and above by level of general education

If we analyze the above data we clearly find that according to 2011 census the level of education is very low among tribal population. Specially the scenario of higher education is very poor. Only 12.6% of urban tribal population have either the graduation or postgraduation qualifications. Whereas the 1.6% of the tribal population of India, who is residing in the rural part of the country have the graduation or postgraduation qualifications. It shows that in higher education field tribal population is very behind.

It surely replicates that tribal population of India is even more behind in getting professional education. Their ratio in higher education is very low and for sure they are far behind in comparison to others in getting professional degrees as demanded by modern world and corporate sector.

If government want to increase the level of tribal population of India, govt. must promote the professional education among the tribal population, and for sure the government

have to take the necessary corrective measures which are required to take in order to promote the professional education among tribal population

As we know that this is the era of LPG (liberalization, privatization, globalization) where government jobs are reducing day by day and private sector and private jobs are increasing at a rapid pace. This private sector prefers professionals and for being a professional, there is requirement of a professional degree, this professional degree will be acquired through professional education and this professional education is provided by professional institutions. So the educational trend has been shifted towards the professional degrees from the traditional degrees. These professional degrees are provided by professional institutions.

## 2. Meaning of Professional Education

Professional education is the education of increasing some body's capability, ability and skills in some specific field or activity. Professional education develops an individual in such manner that an individual becomes capable of being perform some specific jobs effectively and superbly. Professional education makes a person to be capable and gifted in doing some work.

### 2.1. Forms of Professional Education

Medical, Engineering, Management (MBA), Tourism, Chartered Accountancy, Nursing, Legal, Dentistry, Textile, Software, Technology, Biotech etc. are the examples of some professional education.

**2.2. Aims of Professional Education** the basic aim of professional education is to

1. Make the degree holder more employable in private sector
2. Increase the employment
3. Decrease/ remove the unemployment
4. Decrease the burden on government/ government jobs
5. Increase the per capita income
6. Economic growth and development of the country
7. Increase in the foreign exchange, as professionals may be hired or posted abroad by the MNCs. We know that this the era of globalization and open economy where geographical boundaries have no meanings.

### 2.3. Importance of Professional Education

Professional education has become very important not only for the governments but also for the entire society, as this professional education assures the job security and make degree holder more employable which is reducing the burden of parents and the respective governments. Professional education is designed as per the need and demand of the market, which make the degree holder more employable.

## 3. Research Methodology

### 3.1 Research Design

The research design used for the study is mainly descriptive as well as exploratory.

The present study explains the educational level of tribal population of India, the level (%) of higher education in particular. The present study is based on the 2011 census report published by the government of India and Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, published by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statics Division Government of India. Since the independence govt. of India has conducted six census in country. The government of India conducts census after every 10 years. The last census was conducted in year 2011.

### 3.2 Analysis and Interpretation

Comparative analysis is used to show the different components of tribal population of India.

### 3.3 Objectives

1. To analyze the educational level of the tribal population in India.
2. To examine the% of tribal population who are

being graduates or post graduates.

3. To understand and identify the main problems of the tribal students pursuing professional education.
4. To suggest corrective measures that can be transformed into policies for the betterment of tribal students pursuing professional education.

## 4. Problems of Professional Education in Tribal Areas

There are many critical issues and problems in the field of tribal education. They are as follows:

### 1. Medium (language) of study

Medium is the biggest problem for higher/ professional education. It is the biggest constraint faced by the tribal population. The mode of language till 10+2 is local language and the mode of professional / Higher education is purely English. This is the biggest constraint which tribal students face during their higher education.

### 2. Less Applicants

Since we know that only 12.6% of urban tribal population have either the graduation or post-graduation qualifications. Whereas the 1.6% of the tribal population of India, who is residing in the rural part of the country have the graduation or post-graduation qualifications. So its very clear that for further professional education there will naturally be very less applicants. Because of less no. of aspirants most of the professional/ higher educational institutes are not situated in tribal areas.

### 3. Less Number of Professional Institutions in Tribal Areas

Since there are very less no. of graduates among tribal population, so naturally the aspirants for further higher/ professional education will be limited. Because there are very less applicants for higher/ professional education so the professional institutions are not opened in the tribal areas.

### 4. Family's Economic Condition

Generally the family income of tribal population is very low so they are not in the position to bear the high expenses of their children's education.

### 5. High Course Fees

Generally the fees structure of professional courses are very high and the income of tribal population is very low.

### 6. Family Support

The family support is very essential for any student especially for a professional course student. The attitude of parents should be supportive for the students.

7. **Lack of Foresightness:** There is a lack of higher education in tribal population so there is lack of analytical ability among them, because initially professional/ higher education demands heavy investments as a form of course fees and it does not yield any immediate results to their parents. So they prefer their children to engage in some employment so they could support the family income.

8. **The Physical Barriers-** The tribal population mostly live in forests, mountains, remote hilly areas and difficult terrains so its pretty difficult to open and operate any professional / higher education institute in these areas, so tribal population could easily access to these institutions.
9. **Lack of Infrastructure Facilities-** Basic amenities like roads, electricity, water, railways internet, telecommunication etc are not up to the mark in the tribal areas. This is also a main problem.
10. **Problem of Teachers** – Above all if government take an initiative and open any professional / higher education institute in the tribal areas for the welfare of tribal population, most of the faculty members do not want to work and stay in these tribal areas.
11. **Problem of Vacant teaching Positions-** Because of lack of literacy level in tribal areas it is difficult to find quality local teachers for professional/ higher education institutes. Those outsiders recruited as faculty and staff they just use their appointments as a launching pad. The moment they find any good opportunity near their native places they just go there on transfer. This creates again the shortage of faculty members in that institute situated in tribal areas.

#### **5. Suggestions for Improving Quality of Professional Education in Tribal Areas**

1. Provide study materials in local language as much as possible.
2. Special classes for English language should be organize to uplift the level of English among tribal students pursuing professional education.
3. In professional courses mode of exam may be in English but during the class the respective faculty members of professional courses should communicate maximum in local language, if possible. Because there could be a big number of tribal students who can write English language but they may be very poor in understanding and speaking English language in class.
4. The parents of tribal students should provide counseling sessions and they must be educated about the importance of their children's education.
5. Parents of tribal students must be realize that the money they have spent on their children as course fees is an investment not an expenditure.
6. Scholarships should be provide to these tribal students of professional education, as fee structure of these professional courses are very high and income level of tribal population is very low.
7. Residential universities and institutions offering professional/ higher education should be opened in tribal areas for tribal students.

8. Government should try to appoint local teachers as much as they can for the professional/ higher education courses. As these local teachers will not quit the institution and serve for a longer period of time.
9. There should be proper security (physical and social) measures in these residential universities for tribal students, specially for girls.
10. There should be proper monitoring for these institutions offering professional/ higher education. Higher level government officials should monitor these institutes at regular basis.
11. PPP means public private partnership is very important to bring quality in professional and higher education sector. In tribal areas the academic institutions should be opened and run on PPP basis.
12. In academic institutions offering professional/ higher education in tribal areas the industry–academia connection must be there.
13. In these professional institutions the syllabus of the course should be job oriented. It would help the tribal students to get the jobs immediately.
14. Government should try to increase the quantity of academic institutions in the tribal areas.

#### **Conclusion**

The tribal population is way behind from the mainstream population of India with respect to higher/ professional education is concerned. There are low density of higher/ professional education institutions in tribal areas as compared to other parts of the country. Most of the tribal population reside in difficult terrains and because of this geographical isolation this tribal population often find themselves unable to enjoy the fruits of developmental reforms. Government of India and respective state governments are putting their a lots of effort to uplift the level of this tribal population, government have achieved some success but still a lot to be done.

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