



An Assessment of the Livelihood Status of Marginalized Communities in Eastern India

2021

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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIVELIHOOD STATUS OF THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN INDIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Livelihood is the dynamic term with respect to time and place, its meaning vary from place to place and depend upon availability of recourse in particular geographical area, people culture and practice. The depletion of forest Changes in the external environment can affect assets, activities or outcomes. The livelihood sources are changes in behaviour are known as coping strategies. If coping behaviour is constantly necessary, then the livelihood strategy becomes a survival strategy, leading to erosion of assets. Poor households in risky environments adopt coping strategies to protect their livelihoods. These strategies include, intensification of existing income activities, diversification into new activities, migration, drawing upon social relationships and informal credit networks, drawing upon assets and adjusting consumption patterns etc. Tribal communities where there always exist a symbiotic relationship between their livelihood pursuits and the surrounding natural resource base like the forest, land, water bodies, mineral resource and other flora and fauna. Around 90% of tribe's populations in India were depending on land directly or indirectly for their survival (Verma 1995). Their economy was primarily agro based. Land is the only tangible asset for them. Apart from the land forest is the second source of their livelihood. They used to collect various minor forest products from forest their survival. There economy was subsistence in nature.

The present report highlights the livelihood status in four states namely Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Bihar and particularly focuses on the poor and marginalized sections of community such as tribals, backward castes, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and transgender. The report covers the current status and trends in employment and occupational status, household income and expenditure, household's assets and liabilities, savings and debts, food security, health and nutrition and risk and vulnerabilities of these target groups. The report has referred to various secondary data and citations on livelihood from national and international agencies, while portraying the current livelihood scenario in the above mentioned four states. The report suggested 18 suggestions for better implementation and quality outcome of the various livelihood activities, which are already being carried out by different institutions, in the above mentioned four states.

BACKGROUND:

The terms 'livelihoods', 'poverty' and 'development' have different meanings in different societies and people. Development implies a better quality of life and enhancement of opportunities, and better access to assets and services to marginal communities: particularly the Adivasis, women and other marginalized communities.

The Eastern India especially - states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh - where poverty still is high. With every fifth Indian still below the poverty line, the country needs to take huge strides to alleviate poverty as per SDG index 2019-2020 -2030 released by NITI Aayog report just before 2019 ended. The index is aimed at measuring performance vis-e-vis the UN mandated SDG, the latest edition made it clear that India is far from the first Goal- no poverty by 2030. India's overall score of 50 (out of 100) in this respect was, in fact, lower than 54 in past year. Bihar and Odisha slipped by 12 points each where Jharkhand slipped to 9 point and Chhattisgrah 1 point.

Jharkhand bifurcated from Bihar and came into being on 15 November 2000 after a century-old demand articulated by the people of central India. Despite holding 40% of India's mineral wealth, economic development of the state has not been sufficient to trickle down to the people in need. The poverty level in Jharkhand, as measured by the Tendulkar Committee, is one of the highest amongst all large states with high levels in both rural and the urban parts.

Out of 24 districts 18 districts are coming under aspirational districts. As per population basis most poverty-stricken district is Garwah where 53% people living in BPL as per Govt record and more than 25% population living in Ramgarh. This also raises questions on Jharkhand's better-off districts. Poverty is relatively low in industrially developed districts such as Ranchi, Bokaro and Dhanbad, but how did it reach this low level? Was it by raising the level of living of the poor or displacing the poor from their traditional locations? Spatial analysis shows a high concentration of poverty in the mining areas for example. This suggests that greater development has not necessarily led to lower deprivation

Being centrally located amid all the poor states, i.e., Bihar in the north, West Bengal in the east, Uttar Pradesh in the west and Odisha towards the south, Jharkhand also attracts a large inflow of cheap labour. The entire eastern belt of Jharkhand, close to West Bengal, has a high concentration of poverty. Some of the industrially developed areas like Bokaro and Dhanbad are in this zone. For many generations, the poor have been settling in and around mining and basic industry centres in search of better livelihoods. Once removed from their traditional surroundings for a few years, they cannot return, yet the new surroundings have been unable to deliver on the initial promises and expectations. Three state came into force in Jharkhand from Bihar, Chhattisgarh from MP and Uttarakhand from UP.

Further, our analysis shows large pockets of poverty in areas close to forests. Jharkhand is a hotbed of Naxalism, which is a cause as well as an effect of persisting poverty in the state. The well-known Naxal war zones of Jharkhand—Palamu, Chatra, Latehar, Gumla and Lohardaga—are home to almost a fifth of the state's poor population. Jharkhand falls under Agro Climatic Zone-VII where rainfall is around 1,100 – 1,300 mm per year. The main source of livelihood is Agriculture. SECC 2011 data shows that Jharkhand has 29% land surrounded by forest, only 27% land is utilized in agricultural activity where-as only 11% of land is irrigated. As mentioned, Agriculture was found to be the primary occupation of the people in the state. And as it is the case, land is the major component of their livelihoods and a depiction of it. It's not only the size of land but also the altitude (low, medium and high land) and the availability of irrigation

matters in ensuring livelihood security. They are still dependent on the traditional mode of cultivation where the productivity is very low. Though, about 82 percent of the households have agricultural land only 37 percent of them are irrigated. Leasing in and leasing out practice is prevalent here but, most of the people, who own agricultural land, cultivate it on their own. When observed about the social category which possesses higher land, Schedule Tribes dominate the numbers. Mostly the SCs and OBCs have leased in land about 21 percent each. This may be due to the fact that the SCs own less percentage of land. The incidence of leasing in is less prevalent among the STs and Others.

Majority of the individuals who leased in land have done it under 'Bataiya2' system (87.80%) followed by 'Patta'3 (9.56%). 'Bataiya' system was found to be more prevalent and much higher in Garhwa, Lohardaga and Palamu districts. 'Leasing in' land amounting to 51 to 100 decimals is quite frequent among all social categories but Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe tops the list. Higher percentage of respondents is seen to be cultivating only Kharif crops, and Rabi and Kharif are the second most cultivated crops across the populace. Maize is the main crop cultivated in uplands during Kharif season. Irrespective of the type of land, wheat and potato are the other two major crops cultivated during Rabi season. Higher percentage of families who adopted System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is 1 to 30 decimals (33.86%) of lowlands. Irrespective of land type and size adoption, SRI method was highest in Chatra and Simdega. Most of the households have some livestock mainly to supplement their income.

Jharkhand has 2333.55 of forest area where 688.27 land put to non-Agricultural use, about 575.78 land is Barren & unutilised land. Permanent pasture & other grazing land is 87.46, cultivable waste land 283.62, land under miscellaneous trees 124.27, other than current fallow (upto 2-5years) 751.61, Current fallow land is 1363.05, Net Area sown is 1762.47 and Area Sown more than once is 263.04.

Employment and Occupational Status: Among Schedule Tribe 55.7 percent are working. Among OBC category 56.4 percent are working. Among others 58.0 percent are working. Looking at work participation by gender, it is found that 72.5 per cent of the male population and 68.7 per cent of the female population are engaged in some kind of activity. At overall level 27.5 per cent of the population is not engaged in any activity. Thus, it may be summarised that there is still a significant proportion of qualified workforce that has remained out of the workforce. There is a need to offer suitable opportunities for gainful employment to those sections of the population in order to improve their livelihood status.

Agriculture is the main primary livelihood among the rural population as 71.9 percent mentioned agriculture as their main source of living. Around 52 percent of the populations are involved in some kind of secondary livelihood activity. About 27.8 percent are working as agricultural labour whereas 39.3 per cent are involved in non-agricultural work. Among the minority classes like Schedule caste and Schedule Tribe the tendency to work as casual labour as a means for secondary livelihood is more.

Lack of employment opportunities has pushed large number of population to other areas in search of employment. In-state migration is higher among Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste. Migration outside the State is highest among Others Category and Other Backward Class. Looking across social category it is noticed that in the treated area among the Schedule Caste (37.8%) category a significantly higher proportion have mentioned out-migration. This is followed by OBC (31.8%), others (27.3%) and Schedule Tribe (25.7%).

Household Income: There is lack of rural non-farm sector employment in the area, and hence, cultivation and wage labour are the main sources of occupation of the populace. Most of the households have very low annual income – only one fourth of the households have annual income of above Rs.75,000. More than half of the households have annual household income of less than Rs.50,000. Around 33 per cent of the households have income between Rs.51,000 to Rs.1,00,000. Less than 3 per cent of the households have more than Rs.2,50,000 as their annual household income. There is huge disparity in the income distribution and this trend is across the different social categories.

It is evident that apart from farming or agriculture there are other means of earning income which can be more lucrative. Looking at average income by primary occupation it is found that households engaged in Service or job employment have the highest annual average income. This is followed by those households engaged in Enterprise or business or handicrafts. This is followed by wage income including migration or MGNREGA, then households engaged in animal husbandry and lastly those households involved in agriculture. It is also clear that working as casual labour can restrict the households in a lower income level as those engaged as casual labour are earning significantly lower income. In spite of minimum wage laws and other labour laws the income from working as casual labourer continues to be grim.

For improvement of livelihood conditions it is desirable to get engaged in salaried work. Engaging in Handicrafts or Micro-enterprise or Business or Animal husbandry can also be good ways to earn higher income and hence can be encouraged among households for better livelihood.

Household Expenditure: Food expenditure comprises majority of the household expenses across social category. Among other social categories which include General Caste the average monthly expense is significantly higher as compared to the other social categories.

A little more than 80 percent of the populations are below poverty line. The incidence of poverty is found to be very high among the STs and a little low among OBCs. Surprisingly, it is seen high among the General/Others social group as well, which include the upper caste Hindus.

Savings and Debt: Savings habit is prevalent but is varied for different social categories. Highest percentage of Scheduled Caste (6%) are reported to save less than Rs.500 in both Treated and control blocks followed by Scheduled Tribes. Altogether 78.7 percent of sampled households reported that they did not save any money during last 12 months prior to survey. Around 70.3

percent of respondents who can write his/her name have saved some money within last 12 months prior to the survey. Media habit also shows a positive relationship with saving status as the higher number of respondents who have been listening to the Radio or watched TV have saved money during the last 12 months. The families with female SHG members also demonstrate better saving habits. Saving money at SHG found to be higher in control blocks compared to treated ones.

Majority of respondents having outstanding loans are seen to have one outstanding loan only, 7 percent of the respondents having two outstanding loans. Three and more outstanding loans are comparatively more frequent among Other Backward Class and Scheduled Caste in both Treated and Control Blocks. The most significant reason for taking the loans is for meeting medical and expenditure on farming inputs and it has no relation with the total number of loans taken by an individual. Taking loans for cultivation and meeting social expenses are other common reasons for taking loans followed by construction of houses or its maintenance. Highest percentage of individuals, in all social categories reported to have taken loans from friends or relatives or neighbours (42.9%) followed by money lenders (21.7%). Only about 21 percent of the households have taken loan from Bank and only about 10 percent from SHGs. A higher percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have taken loan from SHGs than the other social groups in both Treated and control blocks.

Risk and Vulnerabilities: Apart from the natural calamities and disasters, Jharkhand is prone to many water and vector borne communicable diseases, which get compounded by poor health knowledge, poor sanitation and scarcity of drinking water. The last decade has shown the increasing severity of drought situation in Jharkhand. The total food production has decreased in the year 2010 by half. The state has faced deficit of rainfall in the year 2010 by 47%, 10 lakh hectare of area could not have plantation of paddy. Palamau district of Jharkhand has shown decreasing rainfall in last 22 years. Decreasing trend in the rainfall in Jharkhand during the last monsoon season has been noticed. Severe heat wave conditions are noticed in the years 2004, 2005 & 2010.

The incidence of food scarcity in the last 12 months was found to be very high among Scheduled Caste (27.41%), Scheduled Tribe (24.08%), low among Other Backward Class (17.79%) and 'Others' (19.80). The reason for high food insecurity among the SCs and STs is their social and economic deprivation. As can be seen, more than half of the Scheduled Caste (57%) who availed of the PDS system faced food scarcity. Similarly, 43 percent of the Scheduled Tribes and 40 percent of OBC's faced food security in spite of availing PDS. Hence, access to PDS alone is not the only means to combat food scarcity in the state. Around 18 percent of the households went to bed hungry on some nights, whereas, 3.05 percent of the households slept hungry every night.

Access to household, community and public assets, different factor and product markets, availability of infrastructure, and susceptibility to a variety of exogenous shocks with diverse methods of coping can influence the occupational choice and rate of return to assets, in turn determining livelihood outcomes.

Services and Entitlements: About 56 percent of sampled households in treated area and 55 percent of sampled households in controlled area have ration cards and Scheduled Caste households show highest possession. But the fact is that still more than 40 percent of households in the study districts do not have any kind of ration cards. Similarly, the possession of AAY card is found to be the highest among Scheduled Caste (17.62%) and lowest among 'Others' (10.02%).

Almost half of the populace has Aadhar as well as Voter card, and the Schedule Caste population has the highest number of BPL card holders. 'Antyodaya Cards are highest in amongst Schedule Tribe category while highest percentage of Schedule Caste had access to avail the PDS system. More than 55 percent of sampled households in treated as well as in control areas had ration card.

Women Empowerment: Only 5.3 percent women of the sampled households, legally own some fixed assets or property which included both sole ownership by women and joint ownership with male family members. Other (7.6%) social category in treated area show highest asset ownership among women while Scheduled Caste (2.9%) show lowest asset possession in control area. Altogether, 40 percent of women reported to have Bank or Post Office deposits and the percentages are slightly higher in Treated area among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes compared to control area.

Women's participation in intra-household decision making is found to be quite high in the present study especially in case of Marriage, education and asset purchasing contradictory to the above mentioned study. About 78 percent of them participate in marriage related decision, about 75 percent in education related decision and about 72 percent in decisions related with purchase of assets. In relatively smaller percentage of households women members are consulted in migration, occupation and access to services related decisions. A social category wise analysis revealed that least participation in decision-making in almost all aspects is found among Scheduled Tribes, followed by Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Class groups. Quite a number of women are members of VHSNC, VFC, SMCs, VDC and have also casted their vote in last election. There is substantial participation of women in the MGNREGA work in the studied population.

The women of very few of the households, irrespective of their social categories, participate in Gram Sabha – in about 82 percent of the households women never participate in Gram Sabha. Those who participate do so very infrequently. Only about 1 percent participates in it between 9 and 12 times a year and a very insignificant number more than 12 times a year. Few women in both Treated (2.9%) and Control (2.9%) are elected members of Gram Panchayat as revealed in the present study. Social categories do not cause any significant difference in the participation of women in Gram Sabha or being a Panchayat member.

Impact of SHG membership in the households: It was found that 23.2 percent households of the total coverage area have SHG members in their respective families and ST families

projected a better position across the treated and control areas as compared to other social category.

The literacy rate in the BLS was found to be about 70 percent while among the families of SHG members it was about 71 percent. The SHG members were found to be quite enthusiastic in terms of their children's education and in the treated areas women from OBC and Other social category were sending their children to school indicating a positive result compared to the control areas. In the families of SHG members (of 6 years and above age group), a larger percentage is literate and a smaller percentage is dropouts than among the families of rest of the population.

The workforce participation rate, of the age group 15 to 75 years, of the family members of SHG members is less than that of the family members of household. While about 86 percent of the family members of this age group of BLS households are engaged in productive work, only about 79 percent of those of the families of SHG members do so. This may be because many of the members of BLS households join the workforce in distress at an early age and exit at a late age while those of the households SHG members, because of their general prosperity and also because a larger percentage of them participate in educational institutions, join the work force a little late and leave a little early.

About 61 percent of the households of SHG members have ration cards and about 50 percent of them have health insurance while about 56 percent of BLS households have ration cards and about 36 percent have health insurance. The SHG members are also found to be more aware of the government entitlements and the benefits availed are more in the SHG membership when compared to the BLS households.

About 30 percent of the households of SHG members have income above Rs.75,000 against 25 percent of those covered in BLS. But, this is mainly because of the income status of 'Others' social group - 42 percent of the households of SHG members of this social group have income above Rs.75,000 per annum against 31 percent of those covered in BLS. While there is not much difference in the income distribution between the households of SHG members and those covered in BLS of SC, ST, and OBC categories.

A total of 55 percent SHG members, irrespective of their social category, have comparatively more outstanding loans than of female population covered with 42 percent having one or more outstanding loan at present. This difference is mainly because of easy accessibility of loan among the SHG members than the rest. This difference, therefore, is evident in all the social categories, but is more pronounced among STs and SCs than the other two communities. Since loan from SHG is available to its members easily and at a cheaper rate than the market, only about 12 percent of the households of SHG members have outstanding advances from money lenders, while about 22 percent of those covered in the BLS have outstanding advances from money lenders.

About 67 percent of the SHG members have separate bank accounts in their name while in only about 41 percent of the households covered in BLS, women have separate accounts in their names.

The SHGs in overall have proven to be an important element in the improvement in all the aspects of livelihood of the populace. This shows an increased level of awareness as well as partly the reason they joined SHG and partly the result of their SHG related activities. The standards of living of the SHG members are better than the households covered under the BLS study. The women are also more empowered when they are members of the SHG's. Their decision making for various aspects is more for the SHG members and they enjoy a better position and say in the decisions the families take.

However, the SHG in itself is not sufficient for a major upliftment of the society and there need to be taken more measures to help empower the populace. The strengthening of micro enterprises etc. should also be taken into consideration with SHG's hand in hand for the better development prospects of the people.

Holistic development can only happen if both the genders progress at the same pace. As revealed in the report, several of the human development indicators (income, education and health) for women are extremely low, which is, due to discrimination and deprivation in occupation, education and lack of healthcare facilities and a general low level of awareness. These areas need special attention for the desired well-being of the entire population of the area focusing on appropriate livelihood intervention programme across the districts of the State covering the treated and control block areas.

CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

In order to assess the effectiveness of the programme and the impact of the efforts undertaken by it on the livelihoods of the rural poor, we have gone through some of the studies done by different actors to find out the ground situation with a gap of 2 to 2.5 years between any two stages, to find out the impact.

Objectives of the study

The basic objective of the Baseline study is to find out the livelihood situation of the people can be assessed in the subsequent rounds of survey/studies using double difference method. This study has been conducted with the following specific objectives:

To assess the livelihood condition of the people, like finding out, The wage and self-employment opportunities of the people, The size, composition and stability of household income, saving and consumption, The food security status of the people, Their level of education, health & nutrition status and their expenditure on health and education, Their

assets and liabilities, the sources of credit and the terms and conditions on which they get credit, The entitlements of the household and its members, The risks and the vulnerabilities experienced by the households. To explore the key features of SHGs and their federations such as their inclusiveness, their governance and accountability features and practices, their functional effectiveness, their credit/financial and non-financial intermediation facilitated, including the role played in promoting the livelihoods of the members; their financial and managerial self-reliance and sustainability, the relationship with federations and federating units, and their relationship with PRIs. To assess the level of awareness of the people about their socio-economic reality, poverty situation, rights and entitlements, their perception of their well-being and Mission's interventions for their empowerment and for improvement in their socioeconomic status. The study has also attempted to find out intra-household decision-making and control over the resources, participation in the social & political activities, in community organizations and in the Panchayati Raj Institutions. It has also tried to assess the level of solidarity among people and their commitment towards the vulnerable and marginalized. It also explores the potential areas of the livelihood interventions.

BACKDROP OF THE STUDY

The issues in rural India are multi-dimensional that hinder the rural population to utilize the available options to generate sustainable livelihoods for themselves. The problems of lack of opportunities of generating income and infrastructural facilities are being addressed by not only the government but not-for-profits as well. There are numerous schemes initiated by the Government of India that use skill development initiatives as an instrument to help create livelihood options for them. The Government has also encouraged voluntary action to mobilize rural economy. Intervention by non-government organizations through its livelihood programs in the last few decades has had a significant positive impact on the livelihood of the rural population. Focus on capacity building, fostering community links and promotion of small businesses are some few ways through which helped the rural population to build sustainable livelihood options for them. Inclusion of women in economic activities and encouraging women-owned entrepreneurial ventures in rural India has proved to be successful in eradicating livelihood issues for rural people.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study has collected information covering various issues such as:

- Household Income: size, composition and stability/volatility of household income;
- Household consumption and expenditure on food and non-food items including consumption expenditure on health and education, expenditure on consumer durables, equipment and on housing;
- Size and composition of household savings: access to institutional and other sources of credit and their terms and conditions;

- Wage and self-employment opportunities and patterns;
- Food security status;
- Health and nutrition status of household members;
- Access of household/members to entitlements;
- Household's assets and liabilities;
- Risks and vulnerabilities of households;
- Participation of households in PRIs;
- Key features of SHGs and their federations including their inclusiveness, governance and accountability features and practices, functional effectiveness, credit/financial and non-financial intermediation facilitated including role played in promoting the livelihoods of the members.

METHODOLOGY

The study uses qualitative and quantitative data from state specific livelihood reports, scholarly articles and research papers. Some international reports and national reports like that of Asian development bank and C. Rangarajan committee report has been referred to understand the sustainability of livelihood programs in India and in the four mentioned states- Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

LIVELIHOOD FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITY (SCs, STs, ADIVASIS, WOMEN AND DISABILITY)

- Implementation of Social security Schemes (Welfare schemes of State and Centre sponsored) to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including micro-finance.
- Extent of Implementation of SDG- 1&2 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- State wise target reflection of the most marginalised communities
- Jharkhand- Primitive tribes, tribes, transgender

The Livelihood of Tribal Community of Jharkhand

The livelihood of the people of this area depends primarily on land. It's not only the size of land but also the altitude (low, medium and high land) and the availability of irrigation matters in ensuring livelihood security.

Though, cultivation is the primary source of their livelihood, they are mainly dependent on traditional mode of cultivation where the productivity is very low.

This chapter narrates the asset base, housing condition & housing facilities and amenities of the sample households.

LIVELIHOOD ASSETS OF TRIBAL HOUSEHOLDS: Ownership of land Assets

Homestead/ Bari Land

People of this area have some piece of land around their house, often called bari, which is used for backyard gardening. They cultivate vegetables, maize etc. on this piece of land. This land is also used for rearing animals. Such land is used as a livelihood support by the people.

However, almost half of the households in the sample (49.50%) do not have this backyard/bari land and another one third have very small piece, up to 15 decimals only. Only around 11 percent of the households have more than 40 decimals of such land.

The thread highlights severe hunger and destitution in PVTG Sabars of Jamshedpur Lok Sabha constituency. This is not the first time, the issues of worrying levels of undernourishment, widespread denial of pensions and ration due to lack of Aadhaar in the PVTG communities have been raised by the media. The Sabars depend on



the forest and the odd manual labour jobs for their livelihood where a hard day's labour gets them Rs 100. NREGA is non-existent and they live a hand to mouth existence. Sleeping hungry is common and every day is a fight for survival. None of them has an Aadhar card, hence they get no ration card nor any PVTG pension.

The Right to Food Mission works for the issues related to Food security including Midday meal, Anganvadi, Pension, and Maternity nurturing entitlement by spreading awareness among the community and trying to establish a channel of conversation by communicating the needs of the PVTG communities to the government and policymakers.

“There are eight PVTG communities in Jharkhand namely Asurs, Mal Saharia, Korwas, Birajias, Birhors, Parahiyas, Souriya Pahariyas, and Sabars. These are the tribes who primarily live [and sustain themselves through the resources available from] forests and the foothills of mountains. They live in remote regions and it is difficult to reach these places. And this is not just now, they have



been living in these regions since before the 1960s.”

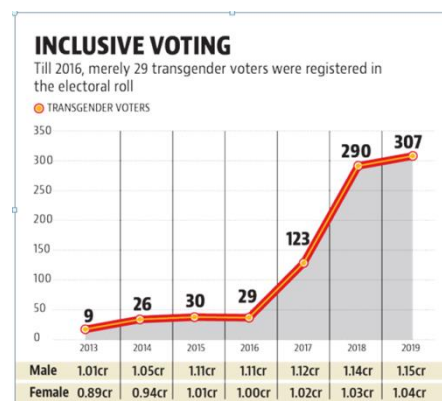
“There have been numerous government schemes that have been aimed at elevating the living conditions of the poor and destitute, but the effect of these schemes is not visible within these

communities. Either they have not reached to them or they are implemented only partially.” BMJ Global Health in 2016 stated, “Among the PVTG [in Jharkhand], 67% of pregnant women were left uncovered under the Janani Suraksha Yojna. In Jorsa, East Singhbhum district, pregnant women were totally unaware of the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna. When considering the child population, we saw that 50% of the 6 months – 3 years rarely, and 25% of the 3–6 years never visited the Anganwadi centres under the Integrated Child Development Scheme. Among children of school-going age (6–14 years), 62% received Midday Meal service, but 21% rarely visited and 17% never visited or had dropped out. When looking at household food security, we found that 9% of PVTG households don’t have a Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) ration card at all. Particularly new households, i.e. when sons get married, have difficulties in obtaining a TPDS ration card. Moreover, 50% of the potential beneficiaries do not have a job card under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA). Not receiving entitlements is a constant feature in all three pensions schemes: 53% under Old, 52% under Widow and 58% under Disabled respectively. A prime way to avail entitlements – viz. Maternity Benefits, wages under MGNREGA, and Nation Pension Benefits – is having a bank account, which is not the case for 50% of the PVTG.” The Dakiya Scheme of 2017, according to the Dakiya scheme, more than 70,000 PVTG families are entitled to get 35 Kg rice packets/month, delivered to their houses free of cost. The members only need to show either their Aadhar Cards or Ration Cards to avail the scheme.

The tribes need employment and food: “Anemia, malnutrition, and being underweight are the major problems that the women and children of these tribes face. Only sustainable access to work and food can solve these problems. Earlier they used to sustain themselves through resources available from the forests. Wickerwork and ropes were the main income sources for them. But widespread industrialisation and deforestation have taken that away from them. Since they are unskilled or untrained for any other jobs, they do not get employment when they need it.

The Sabar tribe and all other PVTG tribes of Jharkhand are struggling at multiple levels: deforestation and industrialisation have destroyed the small livelihood opportunities they had based on their ecology. Even farming is not an option since there is little rainfall because of the changing climate and there is only one season in which crops can grow, in the remaining three quarters of the year the people have to rely on the schemes but the digital processes of Aadhar and ration card keep them away from accessing the resources they are entitled through the Govt. schemes.” In November 2017, the Govt. circulated a notification which said that the people who do not have Aadhar, they can show an ID card, sign in an apvaad register and take the ration, but the dealers at the local level, do not execute this order.

Transgender Community of Jharkhand: in 2011, data of Transgender's were collected with details related to their employment, Literacy and Caste. In India, total population of transgender is around 4.88 Lakh as per 2011



census. Whereas Jharkhand has total 13,463 Trans*, Child (0-6): 1,593, SC: 1499, ST: 3735, Literacy: 47.58%

Ranchi: The population of third gender voters has increased by 34 times in Jharkhand since 2013. The number of total third gender voters in the state in 2013 was merely 9. Till 2016, merely 29 third gender voters were registered in the electoral roll, which went up to 123 in 2017 and 290 in 2018. The number rose to 307 in the last published electoral rolls on January 30 this year, officials said.

According to Bebo Kinnar, who lives in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, “The corona virus relief package included all, but not transgender community. Unless they get an equal status in the society, their problems will not end. Why are they not even considered by the government while forming policies?”

Amarjit Singh, secretary of Utthan, an institution working for transgender in Jharkhand, informed: “Transgender people living in rented accommodation have to shell out doubled rents because people are very reluctant to give them any accommodation. These people who have been expelled from their homes do not have any identity papers.”

He added: “When the government talks about giving us help, why does it not make any plan keeping our problems in mind? Now, Rs 1,500 would be given to only those who have Aadhar card and bank account while there is a huge population not having any of these documents, how would then it be helped?”. So far, only 4,000 people in the entire country have had this money in their account, which is negligible,

The countrywide lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus has had an adverse impact on the daily wage earners. Transgenders too sustain on daily wages. These communities, which are marginalized from the society, will not even be seen queuing up to eat anywhere because people keep staring at them.

“All our companions are imprisoned in their houses. Those who had a little bit of money have been helping each other so far, but now even they have emptied their pockets. We did not get government ration because we do not have ration cards,” said Frances Chundi, a transgender from the Western Singhbhum district in Jharkhand.

When asked why don't they eat at the community kitchens that are running on behalf of the government, Chundi said: “We can't leave our homes just like that. If we stand in a queue, people stare at us, which makes us uncomfortable. We can starve but not tolerate such humiliation.”

Undertaking advocacy efforts to galvanise support for LGBT+ persons: Utthan in Jharkhand, Centre for Law and Policy Research in Telangana, Ondede in Karnataka and Human Rights Law Network in Bihar filed petitions in the high courts of the respective states bringing the attention of the judiciary to the effects of the nationwide lockdown and covid-19 crisis on trans* and queer communities. These petitions propelled the courts to take cognisance of the lived realities of trans* and queer communities, leading to directions issued by the courts to the state governments to ensure trans* and queer persons' unfettered access to food, ration, medicines and other resources through the period of the lockdown. The petitions also resulted in the Telangana and Patna courts recognising that many trans* and queer persons do not have

social security documents, thereby resulting in the courts' dismissal of the need for trans* and queer persons to produce ration cards in order to access social welfare benefits.

Bihar- Transgender, Pasi and Mushar (Dalit)

Transgender Community: As per 2011 census, Bihar has total 40827 Trans*, Child (0-6): 5971, SC: 6295, ST: 506, Literacy: 44.35%

The lockdown has created a livelihood crisis for the transgender community who are already neglected by their families and society. Most of them do not even have their own homes. Living in rented homes is equally taxing. They are not getting the benefit of the government schemes because they do not have the necessary papers.



Reshma Prasad from Bihar, who fights for the rights of the transgender community, said: "Transgender used to earn daily by singing and dancing. Now, they are not able to step out because of the lockdown. It has become difficult for them to even feed themselves. They are unable to get the help of Bihar government because most of them have don't have ration cards, Aadhaar or bank accounts.

She added: "We have conveyed this to the government, but they don't respond. The bigger problem for the authorities at the moment is corona and not starvation.

As per the 2011 census, there are about 49 lakh transgenders in the country. However, the number of transgenders registered in the government documents is close to five lakh "Some voluntary institutions are helping us, but that is not enough. The government says that Rs 100 crore have been commissioned for those who are homeless, but we are not getting any benefits. I have approached 13 district magistrates of Bihar for help but there was no cooperation from anyone," said Reshma.

Reshma is the secretary of the institution named 'Dostanasafar' that works for the transgenders in Bihar. Out of the 40,000 transgenders in Bihar, 1,500 are associated with this institution.

These transgenders also face difficulties in finding rented houses. Many of these people are HIV infected, which adds to their woes. The community alleges that the government has completely sidelined it, no steps were taken towards addressing their problems.

"I shared the problems of my community in a video posted on March 26, after which the government, on March 27, announced it would be depositing Rs 1,500 in accounts of transgenders. So far, only 4,000 people in the entire country have had this money in their account, which is negligible," Reshma said, adding: "The benefit of this scheme will not be available to most people because they not have bank accounts or Aadhaar cards."

Transgenders are often neglected by their families and the society so they usually beg perform during celebrations.

Pasi community: Dalits constitute nearly 15 percent of Bihar's population of 83 million. The poorest Dalits were declared Maha Dalits in Bihar. A government commission has identified 18 of the 22 Dalit sub castes, including Musahar, Bhuiyan, Dom, and Nat as Maha Dalits. They constitute 31 percent of the Dalit population in the state.

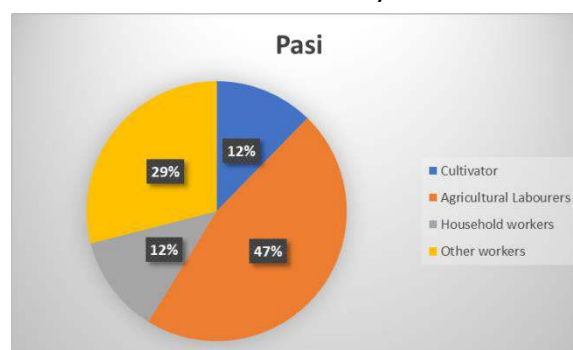
The commission has not included four Dalit castes - Paswan, Pasi, Dhobi and Chamar - in the Maha Dalit category. These four constitute 69 percent of the Dalit population in the state.

A few months ago Nitish Kumar announced a special package of Rs.3 billion (\$76 million) for the socio-economic development of the poorest among Dalits. He set up a commission in August last year for the welfare of certain Dalit castes that are socially and educationally more backward than others. Bihar is the first state to constitute a commission to study the status of the neglected sub-castes among Dalits and suggest ways to uplift them. The commission in its first interim report to the government a few months ago painted a bleak picture of the Dalit sub-castes. The report said there were no high school teachers or senior officials from these castes in the state despite reservations in government jobs for them. *18 Mahadalits -Bantar, Bauri, Bhogta, Bhuiyan, Chaupal, Dabgar, Dom, Ghasi, Halalkhor, Hadi, Kanjar, Kuraria, Lalbegi, Mushar, Nat, Pan, Rajwar and Turi. 4 Dalit castes - Paswan, Pasi, Dhobi and Chamar*

The Pasi (also spelled Passi) is a Dalit (untouchable) community of India. Pasi refers to tapping toddy, a traditional occupation of the Pasi community. The Pasi are divided into Gujjar, Kaithwas, and Boria. They are classified as an Other Backward Class in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. They live in the northern Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Population: The Pasi live mainly in the northern Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where their traditional occupation was that of rearing pigs. The Pasis of most of the north Indian states have been classified as Scheduled Castes by the Government of India. In the 2001 Indian census, the Pasi were recorded as being second-largest Dalit group in Uttar Pradesh. At the time, they constituted 16 per cent of the Dalit population of the state and mostly inhabited the Awadh region. The 2011 Census of India for the state recorded their population as 6,522,166. This figure includes the Tarmali.

The pie chart depicts the livelihood activities of the Pasi community.



Notable People of Pasi Community:

- **Geeta Pasi**, an American diplomat
- **Maharaha Bijli Pasi**, a king from the Pasi community
- **Subhash Pasi**, member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh
- **Suresh Pasi**, Indian Politician and a member of 17th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh of India
- **Madar Pasi**, was a leader of the militant peasant movement “**Eka Movement**”
- **Uda Devi**, claimed to have been a fighter at “**Sikandar Bagh**” in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Odisha- Primitive Tribal groups, Transgender

Tribal of Orissa are known as Adivasi, Vanabasi, and Girijana. They are described as aboriginals of Orissa in anthropological literature. The Adivasi (aborigine), Vanabasi (forest dweller) and Girijana (mountain dweller) constitute 22.13% population of Orissa. These tribes mainly inhabit the Eastern Ghats hill range in the state running in the north-south direction. More than half of their population is concentrated in three districts of Koraput (undivided), Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj.

Though out of 62 notified Scheduled Tribes, there are 13 Primitive Tribal Groups namely (1) The Birhor, (2) The BondoPoraja, (3) The Didayi, (4) The DongriaKhond, (5) The Juang, (6) The Kharia, (7) The KutiaKhond, (8) The LanjiaSoura, (9) The Lodha, (10) The Mankidia, (11) The PaudiBhuyan, (12) The Soura and (13) The ChuktiaBhunja (Hasnain, 1992; Verma, 2002) in the state of Odisha, only 8 Scheduled Tribes are declared as Primitive Tribal Groups by the Government of India. Those tribes are Juang, BondoPoraja, Lodha, Didayi, Mankidia, Birhor, Kharia and Soura.

Though the tribes of Odisha belong to three linguistic divisions, yet they have lots of socio-cultural similarities between them. These commonalities signify homogeneity of their cultures and together they characterize the notion or concept of tribalism.

The economic life of the Primitive Tribal Groups revolve round the forest and the PTGs of Odisha are not out of it. Forest nurtures their life and the biotic and abiotic components of forest ecology fulfil their socio-economic, bio-social, religio-cultural and psycho-social needs. They collect their basic amenities from the forest and their economic life is interwoven with the forest eco-system. Tribal economy in Odisha is subsistence oriented. It is based on mainly food gathering by way of hunting and fishing. Thus their lives mostly depend on the forests. Even the large tribes like the Santal, Munda, Oram and Gond, who are settled agriculturists, often supplement their economy with hunting and gathering. Many tribes such as the Juanga, Bhuiyan, Saora, Dharua and Bonda practice a system of cultivation what is called shifting cultivation or PoduChasa which is also known as slash and burn. They select a plot of land and generally on a mountain slope, slash down all the trees and bushes and burn them to ashes. Spreading the ashes evenly over the land, they wait for the rains before planting their crops. After having cultivation for two or three seasons on one plot of land since the fertility of the soil gets depleted the tribal move on. It is a way of their life.¹

Tribal economy is driven essentially by activities around the jungle. Most communities were hunter-gatherers, who also did some fishing as a source of livelihood. Agriculture and farming are also practiced with the slash and burn technique or shifting cultivation. However, larger tribes have adopted newer agricultural practices and cattle breeding. Some local tribes sustain themselves with crafts and artisan skills such as textile and basket-weaving, tool-making and

¹<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-tribes-of-odisha/>

metal craft. The local *haat* (market) is the best time to see various tribes together. *Haats* are held on specific days at specific venues and offer tribals a platform to buy provisions or livestock or sell their wares. Despite poverty and a struggle for survival, they still retain their heritage and love for music, dance and revelry.

Initiative by the government

The livelihood of rural “Scheduled Tribe” (ST) community is mostly dependent on forest, agriculture and animal husbandry. Over the years developmental works in Tribal Sub-Plan area of the state were primarily undertaken through the ‘Integrated Tribal Development Agencies’ (ITDA), under the administrative control of ST & SC Development Department. It was seen that, largely traditional implementation strategies, absence of sustainable local institutions, infrastructure linkages and end-to-end solution in the value chain were the eventual roadblocks making livelihoods of tribal people vulnerable to various unforeseen risks.

Visualizing that a focussed approach towards livelihoods suitable to local conditions and capacities of tribal communities as also creation of scalable and replicable livelihood models is the need of the hour, a new approach taking a holistic view of the livelihood ecosystem was launched named as Focused Area Development Programme (FADP) with the following broad objectives:²

- Ensuring sustainable livelihoods of ST families through land and non-land based livelihood activities;
- Developing suitable infrastructure so as to improve the standard of living and facilitating incremental results in their livelihoods;
- Developing backward & forward linkages and strengthening local institutions; &
- Improving the governance system in the tribal villages by strengthening the Community Institutions.

The decadal Perspective Plan for FADP aims to cover about 5.12 lakh tribal families with tentative budget of Rs.1569.70 crores. Convergence of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and Article–275(1) funds with national/state flagship schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), *RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY)*, *BijuKrushakVikasYojana (BKVY)* etc. has been proposed in this Plan

Transgender in Odisha

²<http://www.stscodisha.gov.in/Livelihood.asp?GL=livelihood>

As per 2011 census, Odisha has total 20332 Trans*, Child (0-6): 2125, SC: 3236, ST: 4553, Literacy: 54.35%. Odisha is considered as one of the states with a higher transgender population. 5.75 per cent of the transgender households of rural India are in Odisha and 1.5 per cent of the urban transgender population in the country is in Odisha. Their distribution in the districts of Odisha is depicted graphically below. Their low educational status and economic impoverishment coupled with gender discrimination is an impediment to social mobility and livelihood opportunities in urban locations.

Majority of transgender persons in Odisha are not ready to be identified as transgender and get officially registered due to social stigma. The total population of transgender in Odisha is around 70,000 of whom only 2000 agreed to be identified as transgender. Bhubaneswar to conduct the study. More than 90% of transgender persons reported that most of most of them were able to earn on an average Rs. 15,000.00 – 20,000 per month. However, the leaders of the transgender group, however, had considerably higher income, even if they didn't work, the study said. Around 75% of the transgender had to abandon their education before they completed their standard 10. Around 20 % among them completed class XII and out of those a very few went for graduation and higher studies.³

Around 14.5 per cent of the respondents in the statewide online Transgender Survey conducted by the Department of SSEPD in 2017 reported that they have no income and were living in poverty. A major contributor to the high rate of poverty is unemployment. Majority of 69 per cent said that their income was less than Rs. 5000 per month and 16 per cent are found to have a slightly higher income between Rs. 5,000 and 10, 000. This income is not assured and is mostly from begging and sex work. Less than 1 percent of the Transgender population has income more than 20,000 per month.

The transgender have restricted access to education. While thirty per cent of them are illiterate forty-four per cent drops out of schools before completing their secondary education. This data coincides with the age at which they are evicted from their families. Only sixteen per cent manage to complete their secondary education and seven percent complete higher-secondary education

Majority of the transgender are unemployed. Lack of educational qualifications is one of the major factors in their un-employability. They report high rates of engagement in 0.00% 5.00% 10.00% 15.00% 20.00% 25.00% 30.00% 35.00% 40.00% 45.00% 50.00% Illiterate Below Class 10 Secondary Education Higher Secondary Education Graduate Post Graduate illegal activities such as begging and sex work and most report having come in contact with the police and been mistreated in some way or the other. Some transgender who are from the hijra community enjoy ritual status and receive alms in return for their customary services. Most of the transgender who apply for jobs or are in some employment invariably face verbal harassment and at times even physical assault because of their gender identity expression. Some hide and delay their gender transition or quit the job.

³<https://www.journalcra.com/sites/default/files/issue-pdf/31151.pdf>

Transgender people experience high levels of mistreatment and harassment by police. This includes being verbally harassed, repeatedly being referred to as the wrong gender, being physically or sexually assaulted.

For the social inclusion, empowerment and increased participation of the transgender community in public life the State and Central Government have taken several initiatives and are in the process of introducing several new schemes which have been outlined below.⁴

- i) Basic Civic Amenities from Municipal Corporations: All the Municipal Corporations of the State are to provide basic civic amenities such as sanitation, community toilet, drinking water, electricity etc. in the transgender residential colonies under their jurisdiction.
- ii) Food Security of Transgender Persons: Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department has notified for auto inclusion of the transgender persons under National Food Security Act as beneficiaries in their individual capacity, vide Notification No. 19969 dated 28.09.2015.
- iii) Recruitment commissions have been advised by the General Administration Department to include Transgender (TG) as a category of gender in the application forms meant for different requirements.
- iv) A survey on —The Status of Transgender in Odisha commissioned to the Xavier Institute of Management has been completed.
- v) All Departments vide UOI No. 311 dated 08.09.2016; RDCs and Collectors vide Letter No. 6509 dated 09.09.2016 and Letter No. 3094 dated 05.05.2016 have been requested to extend the benefits of existing Government schemes to the Transgender persons.
- vi) The Housing and Urban Development Department has been requested to provide livelihood support to all transgender persons in different local bodies under the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) vide Letter No. 9369 dated 19.12.2016.
- vii) All the Municipality Corporations have been requested to provide Aadhaar Card to Transgender persons.
- viii) A procedure has been outlined by the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for transgender persons to change their name and gender if they so desire.

The Odisha State Policy for Transgender Persons 2017 recognizes that the transgender people face undeniable hardships and barriers in their everyday life and have to navigate multiple problems in order to survive and thrive. This policy therefore aims to ensure that transgender persons are able to live fulfilling lives complete with dignity and rights in an inclusive society.

⁴<https://translaw.clpr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Odisha-TG-Policy-Draft.pdf>

Chhattishgarh- Primitive Tribes, Tribal, Transgender

Primitive Tribes of Chhattisgarh:

Distribution of primitive tribes in Chhattisgarh		
Name of Primitive Tribes	Population	Residing Districts
Abujhmaria	19,401	Baster, Kanker & Dantewara
Baiga	67,241	Bilaspur, Kawardha, Korba & Durg
Birhor	2,626	Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja & Durg
Pahari Korwa	34,122	Jashpur, Sarguja & Korba
Kamar	23,033	Raipur, Dhamtari & Mahasamund

Source: The Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh, The Institute of Tribal Research and Training Center, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur 2008

According to the National Family Health Survey, 70 per cent of the children born in primitive families are underweight, while the national average is 46 per cent. Infant mortality rate among them is also high. "Thus their population either remains stagnant or it increases slightly,"

The indigenous primitive tribal groups in Chhattisgarh, vulnerable to impact of climate change and exploitation, are endeavouring to make the world a little better.

Transgender in Chhattisgarh

As per 2011 census, the total population of Transgender in Chhattisgarh is 6591, whereas Child (0-6) age group is 706, SC: 742, ST: 1963, Literacy: 51.35%. Traditionally the community is residing in some not so good areas of the cities in a very secretive manner. The mainstream visibility is generally limited to only at weddings, child birth or in the trains and traffic signals. Their ethnicity is mixed just as the state itself is now a unique amalgamation of natives and migrants from all parts of India. But mostly the third gender community in the state is found at Durg, Raipur, Bilhail, Bilaspur and Raigarh regions. Till recently most of the community members followed a very strict guru chela tradition and lived accordingly to which Chhattisgarh was not an exception either.

But recently over past 5 years a new trend of change started getting visible. It was initiated by those trans gender people who attempted to break the silence and made vital efforts to join the main stream society . This was the lot who refused to accept the patronage from dera

gurus. This new generation transgenders wanted to explore main stream presence however this trend was invariably discouraged by the senior community leaders. There are very strict social punishments for breaking any rule or orders set by the seniors in the traditional system.

Living Parameters of Transgender in Chhattisgarh in recent times

Financial Status: The community members living in deras individually do not have sound financial back up to support even basic life systems. However it is seen that the gurus or the established dera leaders have good property. Those living alone or beyond the traditional system vary in financial status depending upon the livelihood options opted by them. But it can largely be concluded that the community lives in lower economic strata of the state. Till recently, 3 years before, most of the members were not exposed to banking services as well. But slowly few initiatives were taken up to link them with banking services which resulted in a positive trend for having savings account. The worse part of the issue is that in spite of being actually poor most of the community members have not been registered as BPL (people living below poverty line) in the state.

Nutrition: It has been observed that around 78% members were malnourished and the body weight ratio was also skewed to negative. It must also be noted that the community members largely did not have information and awareness about the food and nutrition. The usual food they consume includes both vegetarian and non vegetarian articles.

Livelihood: It is true that more than 93% of the third gender population in the state earns their living through either of these sources – begging, dancing in weddings, commercial sex work. Begging in trains is not seen with dignity and sex work not only brings in conflict with police but also puts them through high risk of HIV infection. But recently a new trend has also been in vogue and that cannot be overlooked. With dilution in traditional dera system many of them are doing different types of work to earn a better living. They are employed in catering services, event companies and many are self employed through seasonal selling businesses. Those who are a little well off and are a bit educated do not come open with their gender. Another upcoming professional interest area registered through a survey taken up by the Third Gender Forum after the project was dancing professional and working in beauty parlours. With all so positive coming inclinations the sad fact remains there that a majority is still lives with less dignified and highly vulnerable livelihood options that provide neither respect nor financial security.

Social Inclusion: Usually a transgender person is not assumed to be a part of the main stream society however they have been few exceptional cases who on the count of their will and strong efforts made a place for themselves in the society but that is really exceptional. In the state of Chhattisgarh in year 2010 the voter ID registration department duly offered the gender option of “other” which was first step for identification and recognition to the gender and that paved way for other inclusive means. Community faces problems in finding a decent

accommodation for them and the matter turns worse in places of employment. A good number of community members are working as unorganized labourers where they are highly exploited financially and sexually as well. In some areas of north Chhattisgarh it was observed that the third gender people are employed as domestic help but it was further noted that such an employment had an implied and compulsive job of sex work for the patrons.

Issues identified

1. **Name Changing:** Usually the TGs who enter the cult prefer a new identity that matches with their new life find the legal process difficult to change their names. While many TGs who prefer to be like women want themselves to be recognized and treated as women also want feminine names to their identity which too is not so straight and easy in legal process.

2. **Ancestral Benefits/ Property Rights:** Many times, families and siblings deny the property rights to their eunuch member on account of un defined sex in terms of legal processes. Similarly, in nomination forms of Insurance Policy it is difficult to claim the benefit if the nominee belongs to neither sex as reported by many participants from the community.

3. **Inclusion in MNREGA and other schemes such as PDS, RSBY etc.:** We know that 95% of TGs and eunuchs are barely literate and extremely poor, their economic empowerment will automatically boost their legal and social empowerment. Due opportunities must be secured for the members from these communities in schemes like MNREGA etc. In Chhattisgarh the community had also demanded subsidized PDS on economic grounds and issue of BPL cards to these people as well. Health issues widely caused concern among the community as this was also placed under the High Risk Group for HIV and STDs yet the RSBY SMART Card facility paid no extra effort in including this segment of the society.

4. **Sexual Rights and Stigma Other than eunuchs and TGs, MSMs are also found in the state.** TGs may or may not have a distinct sexual preference, but they also want to spend life with some partner. We all know that sex is not mere biological aspect of human life. It is associated with major aspects of behaviour, attitude and personality. A sizable number of TGs are also engaged in sex trade, which is a cause of concern. The question remains wide and open – Whether the TGs are entitled to any sexual rights, and to protect themselves against forced sex? Coerced sex? How they can face and fight stigma that spreads all over from family to place of employment?

Recommendations

There are few activities that can be undertaken at states, districts as well as at Blocks level.

1. **Common Property Resource Management:** There are lots of common properties in the form of ponds, land, forest, hills, etc in the states. Plans can be made for common property resource management team and engage community in its preservation,

promotion and marketing, and make sure to engage people at a larger basis and support their livelihood initiatives.

2. **Convergence of Department:** There is a need of smooth convergence of department to deliver services at the community level. Duplication is rampant in schemes like pond excavation, irrigation wells, MGNREGA activities, etc. If convergence is done properly, then state resources can be spent in a planned way and collectively the needs of the people can be responded.
3. **Enhance farm and non-farm livelihoods:** The States should focus on both farm and non-farm livelihoods, targeting to increase the earnings of rural households by at least 60 percent by 2030. Though the increase in rural income by strengthening of farm activities shall be pivotal, one of the key strategies would be to supplement the income of the rural households with non-farm-based livelihoods like horticulture, animal husbandry, poultry and fishery, forestry, handicrafts and rural tourism to enhance non-farm livelihoods.\
4. **Plantation through MGNREGA** is one of the most successful programs and it has created more confidence of people in the Government. By and large people of requested to have such programme for the farmers having upland and of no use. This will directly and indirectly decrease the burden on forest and create sustained source of livelihood.
5. **Delayed payment** is still an issue in Jharkhand and also in other states. The States should further smoothen out the labour payment within 15 days of work. People lose the interest in MGNREGA because of delayed payment.
6. **Social protection schemes:** All vulnerable people must be covered under social protection schemes like better implementation of National Food Security Act and Enhanced PDS system, 100 days compulsory employment to eligible and interested laborers, Smooth implementation of targeted public distribution system, 100% pension to all eligible beneficiary etc.
7. **Provision for Panchayat Secretariat** needs to be increased. Better Panchayat Secretariat will help the States to get the community more close to the Government, and have a sustained connectivity. Planning and budgeting need to be ensured at the Panchayat level and monitoring of implementation through Gram Sabha and Panchayat should ensure more transparent intervention of the State. Panchayat Secretariat needs to be equipped with adequate newer IT technology to make each Panchayat digital, and profits of IT must be used by villagers. Only the construction of building shall not serve the purpose. **More financial power to the Panchayat** and expenditure related freedom to spend as per the local needs. Untied fund helps to respond to people's needs at the local level. **Direct Allotment of funds to PRI's** with proper technical handholding support. Maintenance of budgetary manual and financial discipline will help PRIs

members to work as per the schedule. Major part of Uses of 14th Finance Commission Fund should be left to the PRIs members and some part of it may be tied as per the State priority.

8. **Doubling Farmers' Income:** *This is a very important and appreciating steps of Government.* More than 60% of population is dependent on agriculture. To safeguard agriculture a hike the income of farmers to the extent of double of present income. To double the income of farmers of Jharkhand we need to focus on increasing ***net irrigated area, increasing agricultural productivity, promoting organic farming for sustainable agriculture, large scale marketing of organic produces in nearby cities to bring its benefits to farmers, large scale marketing provisions and support to farmers in marketing mainly its vegetable produces*** which is popular in eastern India. Shifting to sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening agricultural extension and improving the implementation of risk management measures will be substantial help to farmers in the hike of their income.
9. **Crop insurance:** To mitigate the risk of abiotic stresses like drought and flood, the States will ensure 100% coverage of farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by 2030. This is widely appreciated steps of Govt but claim settlement should be smooth.
10. **Fisheries:** This is one of the most effective income generating activity which has been promoted by government. Over the last 5 years (2011-12 to 2015-16), the States' fish production has increased from 71.8 thousand MT to 116 thousand MT at a CAGR of 10%. The States are promoting fish farming through improved practices like rejuvenation of inland water bodies to enhance fish production, intensive and semi-intensive pisciculture in reservoirs using cage and pens system.
11. **Support to off-farm /Non timber Forest Produces promotion:** All four states have ample scope for promotion of Lacs, Tamarind, Sericulture, handicraft and commercial agro enterprises such as mushroom cultivation, nursery and promotion, processing and marketing of various other NTFP etc. can help reducing burden on agriculture.
12. **Strengthening Local Resources and Own Resources of Community:** Agriculture, Minor Forest Produces, Animal Husbandry are the three major source of livelihood in the states like Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh for more than 50% of rural population. Small land holding based agricultural practices, dry land farming, irrigation support to farmers, promoting, processing and marketing of NTFP and locally produced agricultural promotion may contribute largely in addressing the need of the vulnerable society manly few tribal and Dalit community and PVTGs.
13. **Storage Network Promotion for Food grains:** There is a claim by the government to provide food security to 67% of the total population through the food security act 2013. There is a demand that unless we construct an adequate number of godowns, it's impossible to provide food grains to 67% of the population. So, there is a need to

prepare the storage facilities of food grains. Budget should focus on making farmer-centered economy which will also contribute in the GDP.

14. **Indigenous Seeds and Organic Farming Promotion:** There is a need of adequate allocation and utilization for farmers in terms of making available quality indigenous seeds, organic manures, organic pesticides, technology based farming arrangement to increase the food grains to meet the requirement of increasing demand of food grains in the States. There is a need to respond to the requirement of Farmers. We lack the irrigation facilities across the States. There is a need of large scale micro watershed promotion in campaign mode in these four states to fulfill the requirement of irrigation.
15. **Jal Jungle and Jamin:** There is a need of redefining the common property rights related to land, water and forest (Jal, Jungle and Zamin) and making budgetary allocations to enrich the process of common property rights. This will help the community specific ownership of these natural resources. Value addition to local produces should also be of high priority. Water resources promotion inside the forest will also help in regeneration of forests and ultimately livelihood support to people.
16. **Priority based allocation and quality utilisation** – Proper identification of beneficiaries and emphasis on backward areas and time bound sustained support for Agriculture, irrigation, income generating assets, self employment etc. We have programmes at present but facilitating it till end is the issue. We have initiated many projects but not completed and hence people are not getting benefits out of it.
17. There is large scope for **dry land farming**. A concrete focus may help us in more employment in rain fed areas.
18. **Need to develop the food processing** units for preserving the seasonal fruits/vegetables/ and other food items at district and block headquarters.

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