



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBALS IN JHARKHAND BY PROMOTING TOURISM EXPORT OF FOREST PRODUCE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT

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KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

Current theories focus on the tribal groups condition that are adversely affected due to current rapid urbanization in already developed and urbanized location with less focus on the locals. With the government initiatives being more focused on the uppermost groups of the tribal populated areas the remote one's are left deserted.

With the global market reaching every corner of the world yet somehow it manages to stay unreachable for the less fortunate. Despite of the fact that Jharkhand is rich in natural resources like Coal hence topping the charts for the largest Coal reserve in India. Same goes for Iron ore deposits, aluminium, bauxite, mica etc. still this state is felt less explored.

But what exactly is problem with tourism industry and Tribal development in Jharkhand ?

The whole story goes back to the time when Jharkhand was cut out from Bihar . The whole purpose in creation of Jharkhand was to boost the Tribal societies and to help secure the integrity of it's people and their tradition as well as culture. It been 20 years since Jharkhand came into existence on the grounds of rising above the rest, unheeded by the world looking forward to be worshipped as a full fledged financial promoter for the nation and a symbol of real traditional cultural heritage. But where's all the fancy ? Where are the tribal societies now? Are they matching up to the modern world ? In terms of technology, infrastructure, literacies, economy? Are they paralleled to their counterparts like the General population? There's no simple answer to this Jharkhand Dream imagined 20 years ago. There are a lot of aspects we need to look at, places where we could've excelled and places where we failed. Why aren't things the way they're supposed to be and dreams unfulfilled?

And also we will look at how bad things are and how much can we fix them with sheer will.

In this paper I'm going to give us a walkthrough the current scenario and things that are happening in context to the tribal societies.

THESIS

Jharkhand being one of the most resource rich state in India and perhaps the world strives to keep it's 8 million tribal population (i.e-40% of the total population of the state) above poverty line. A state not only rich in natural resources but also rich in diversity, culture and tradition lives an underrated life as compared to its neighboring states like Odisha and West Bengal. Of course the history of corrupt governance in the past and the insurgence raised by the Naxals had indeed tampered with the economy and the stability within the state but it goes without saying that this was all due to lac of will power to address these issues and also sheer negligence of the central governments in the current time and also the past one's.

Though today the Jharkhand we see is completely different from what it used to be 10 years before but compared to its neighboring states it should have been 30 years more ahead of what it's now. Jharkhand ranks 7th in the list of states with highest unemployment rate whereas when it comes to coal reserve it's the highest in all over the country with 26% share which amounts to 83 Billion tonnes. The funny thing here is that Jharkhand is the only state among top 5 coal producers which has made it to the top 10 rank of highest unemployment rate states. Which again brings us to to main concern for our tribal population which is, 'What is the government doing to help these groups to the margin where the could be considered as ABOVE POVERTY LINE. The tourism here is in ruins, the locals of Jharkhand hardly know about Jharkhand because of the black spots within the states. These black spots that I'm

referring to are the red belt areas that are dominated by the insurgents because they are densely packed with trees and surrounded by rivers. If we ask any local from Ranchi or maybe Bokaro about places like Latehar or Palamu or Netarhat , it will raise a red flag in their minds , the red flags are the major concern over safety. If the locals are asked about any famous product exclusively made in Jharkhand , it would be just a question unanswered. We hear a lot from governments about initiatives to highlight the business in the tribal areas or educating the tribals but they just make it to front page of the newspaper of the manifesto of the competing party during the elections.

What we are going to go through here is an important aspect of a MAJOR UNEXPLORED ECONOMIC SECTOR in our country, a place where many have been on the past but failed to connect with it's FUTURE. What we are looking at is an about to be a major player in global market which would be revolutionary for the times to come.

METHODOLOGY

For this part I have interviewed people of 3 different groups.

- Employee from the forest department of Jharkhand
- Businesses associate from the tribal areas.
- General population - I) Unemployed ST worker. II) A farmer III) A vegetable vendor etc

In all 14 people were interviewed for this method, 14 different people from different backgrounds.

These groups have been chosen in a way to understand the whole perspective of the market . Government database is to no avail as they are hardly updated . This method was most suitable as clear picture is transcribed by being at the centre.

The reason to choose group A was to understand what initiatives are being taken from the government. How are they implemented and whether there are any miscommunication. As I have more reasons to blame the government, perhaps I needed to hear their side first . The person I thought best fit was one of my close acquaintance who has been in the public office for a while serving the forest department of Jharkhand. He chose to stay anonymous and respecting his choice I'm writing down whatever best knowledge he could provide.

For choosing group B I had a clear motive. To achieve the insight into the market process. Obviously Ranchi couldn't have been an option as it's not the right place for this analysis. So I spoke to my few connections in Latehar, Chatra and Garwah. These three locations are highly active when it comes to Naxal movements and also having majority of the ST/SC population ,so data coming straight from these locations would be best justify my analysis.

And finally the group C , where people at random were chosen. Tribals residing in the city, tribals residing in outskirts of city and tribals in remote areas. From basic labours to farmers all were picked up from different locations. It was a difficult task to interview these many random locals as they are very shy, and most didn't understand. Making reports from ground are best as they show reality, distant from those spotlights, not influenced by anything but truth !.

FINDINGS

After interviewing group A , I got most obvious response regarding the job that the government is doing and planning to do but, what group A didn't hesitate to acknowledge was the fact that in terms of tourism infrastructure was major concern. Beta tiger reserve for instance, formed in the 1970's one of the earliest national park of India. According to the reports of the forest department there have been certain incidences where indirect traces of the Tigers and their cubs were found, according to the Principal chief conservator of forest

(PCCF) Sanjay Kumar , “This time, 85% estimation was based on camera trap. During the estimation period, no tiger was captured in camera. But, it doesn't mean that PTR is tigerless.” This statement coming directly from PCCF indicates the grey area where questions are being asked about the existence of Tigers in the BTR(Betla Tiger Reserve) .As subjected by my interviews from group A, it wasn't such a scenario as Tigers are still there, tourism is still active but upon interviewing group C it was clear that the benefit of doubt lies with the latter. As said by locals, the BTR is no more a hot spot for the tourists anymore, the development is in ruins, hardly any marketing done by the tourism industry of Jharkhand.

Another evidence is according to the 2006 census there were 10 tigers in Jharkhand in 2010, which came down to three in 2014 and the latest report brings the total number of the big cats to five. Same goes for Teliagarhi fort and Palamu Fort. None are in the state of preservation, not even looked by the ASI(Archeological Survey of India) . But as claimed by the locals, it used to be the headquarters for the Naxals in the area.

Another instance is of Lodh falls, the highest of Jharkhand, yet tourism is next to negligible. The road conditions, accommodation issues, safety parameters nothing. As claimed by one of the locals, there are no proper sign boards leading to those tourist attractions. One can get lost in such dense forest without proper signage, sometimes the network also fails people. Imagine getting stuck in the thick forest of Latehar with no signal in phone? These major issues concerns the tourism industry. Upon asking some random people from Ranchi about Lodh falls they know nothing, and when I tell them about where it' located all I see is raised eyebrows. The expression- Netarhat?! And why to blame them, it's the place that has got its reputation.

My findings on the export procedure of Forest produce was a bit more mixed up reaction. To understand the whole picture first we need to look the market from the perspective of a business owner operating from the tribal societies. Divy Sahu from Latehar who runs the farming business in town and also is involved in construction line as well. According to him the forest products from his farms are directly sold into the local or state market. He has never thought of exporting the produce. He did mention that Patanjali offered a business deal to him where his NTFP(Non Timber Forest Produce) and minor forest produce would be exported through them at a fixed rate. But what he did mention that for a lower class to export through company like patanjali the rate would not be feasible as the lower class have either less land or less workforce to produce in a large scale.

1. Below are the tribal dominated areas with the NTFP'S AND COLLECTION CENTER

| Name of Market | Name of Block | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | Angara | Mandar | Nagri | Namkum |
| | a) Gondlipokhar b) Getalsud | a) Mandar b) Kanjari | a) Nagri b) Naro | a) Shalimar b) Satranji |
| Preferred Business NTFPs | Mahua flower, Mahua seed, Sal leaf, Dona, Kusum seed, Lac seed, Piar, Karil, Basket, Soop, Rugra, Aonla, Imli, Kendu fruits, fuelwood | Mahua flower and seed, Sal leaf, Dona, Kusum seed, Lac seed, Soop, Rugra, Aonla, Imli, Kendu fruits, fuelwood | Mahua flower and seed, Sal leaf, Dona, Kusum seed, Lac seed, Basket, Soop, Rugra, Aonla, Imli, Kendu fruits, fuelwood | Mahua flower and seed, Sal leaf, Dona, Kusum seed, Lac seed, Piar, Karil, Basket, Soop, Rugra, Aonla, Imli, Kendu fruits |
| Participated Villages | Soso, Getalsud, Turup, Paika | Naro, Hesal, Haril Hatma, Kanjari and Mahujari | Nagri, naro, balalong and Barsa | Tunju, Lalkhatanga, Raysa, Hahar |
| Source Collection (forest) | Chamghati, Jharga | Chamba, Kharali, Kotari | Piska, Khuta, Baridih | Rajaulatu, Sharwal, Byangadiah |

| SI No | Scientific Name | Common Name | Plant part used | Uses |
|-------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | <i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> | Kendu leaves | Leaves | Making of bidi |
| 2 | <i>Shorea robusta</i> | Sal leaf | Leaves | Making of leaf plates |
| 3 | <i>Shorea robusta</i> | Sal dammar | Resin | Used as astringent in ayurvedic medicines. |
| 4 | <i>Mulberry longifolia</i> | Mahua | Flower | Used to produce alcoholic drink |
| 5 | <i>Bambuseae</i> | Bamboo | Shoots and twigs | Used in construction, decorations, cooking, weapon |
| 6 | <i>Sterculia urens</i> | Gendali | Gums and resins | Used for medicinal purpose |
| 7 | <i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> | Dhataki | Flower | Used for medicinal purpose |
| 8 | <i>Physalis embolica</i> | Ambla | Fruit | Used for medicinal purpose |
| 9 | <i>Salvia hitpanica</i> | Chia seeds | Seeds | Used as food |
| 10 | <i>Thyanoaenua maxima</i> | Broom grass | Leaves, Roots, stem. | Used to feed livestock, soil conservation, staking in vegetable growing fields. |
| 11 | <i>Albizia procera</i> | Siris | Whole plant | Used as wood |
| 12 | <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> | Bahada | Fruits | Used as food and medicine for stomach problem |
| 13 | <i>Terminalia chebula</i> | Harida | Fruits | Used as food and medicine |
| 14 | <i>Cinnamomum tamala</i> | Tigpatra | Leaves | Used as spices |
| 15 | <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> | Karaj | Fruit | Used as herbal medicines |
| 16 | <i>Scheuchzeria olerosa</i> | Kusum | Seeds | Used as Oil seed and medicines |
| 17 | <i>Bowditchia serrata</i> | Siali | Fruits | Used as medicines |

Twigs and Branches: Sal twig commonly known as "dantakathi" is the most collected NTFP. In some rural areas it is preferred instead of toothbrush. The tribes near forests collect it regularly and sell in the daily markets.

Leaves: Kendu leaves are mostly used for rolling bidi and as serving plates in the poor families. It is a slow growing plant and for ease of collection, the plants are repeatedly pruned to retain in the bush stage. Khajur leaves are used for roofing

and also as sleeping mats in districts like Angul, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur.

Vegetables and Flowers: The rural households get their food supplements from the nearby forests by collecting vegetables and flowers like- pitalu, mahua leaves. Mahua flowers are eaten as fried, powdered and as cake and also used as fodder. They are usually stored after proper drying and consumed in the time of distress. Now a days the villagers prefer to sell the

According to the interviewer from group A, the forest department is actually buying the NTFP'S and minor forest produce from the locals at a good rate, but there's no data available for that. When the locals from group C were asked about their business in Sla leaf and how much profit they make by selling leaf plate, they said it was nothing. The rates offered in the market for those sal leaves were around 50-60 Rs per bundle within the city and in the remote areas it marginalized to 20 . The leaf plates sold in the market are priced around 100 for a bundle whereas they were bought from the village areas at 50. That's the half price of what they are being bought at. They were just farmers who want to earn and eat that's it. They don't want to get in the entire fuss over the marketing strategy.

Our last issue on which I'm delivering my findings are the entrepreneurial skill development, ease of doing business and funding from the various government agencies.

This was the most shocking part of my research as when it comes to entrepreneurial skill development in Jharkhand there are zero drives being taken as of now. Especially in the backwards areas of Latehar, Garwah and Chatra. One of my key interviewers from group C narrated this event based on his experience. This person from Garwah wanted to start a dairy business in his village. To do so he was supposed to go through some training, get all the necessary land documents ready and also provide a full proof blueprint as to how he's planning to run his business in 5 years. Upon fill everything requirement and matching every criteria when he approached the bank, all he got was a DUE DATE ! Till today the bank is not delivering to its promise and instead he's being advised by the same bank to start something else. When the person from group B was asked about this, he exclaimed that this is how things are, whatever the government is promising on the news and posters, the ground reality is that to get funding for your startup you need to have contacts at the upper level and also you need to be having a proper bachelor's degree. So if a person belonging to the lower community with no educational background as such, having a good idea about a start up wants to do something about it, the banks will stop him .

Whereas the subsidy is concerned, people have little or no knowledge about it. The basic training and education is lacking in this area. And we need to accept the fact that MOMENTUM JHARKHAND was a flop show, millions of dollars spent on nothing.

CONCLUSION

There cannot be a single conclusion or answer to these issues. There are measures and there are gaps in those measures. And to fill those gaps one needs to add more measures, and keeps on adding to the never ending list. So I'll start by highlighting the key issues and my suggestion for overcoming those various drawbacks.

I'll begin with **TOURISM SECTOR** first.

**1) Tourism –
A) Marketing and advertising-**

In this case the state government can put on more and more funds into the tourism industry of Jharkhand. Start with creating an independent committee for this purpose or hire a private organization. Many would argue that there are committees responsible for tourism but as per the data the committee was formed in 2016 and yet no major decisions has been taken by that committee.

The committee should be responsible for delivering to their promises in a fixed duration. If they don't deliver, change the committee and also blacklist the previous one's.

Mukhyamantri Udyami Yojana was one of the lip service initiatives taken by the Raghugar Government in 2018 to boost the export in the forest productivity are by directly buying the NTFP and minor forest produce from the tribals. But till today there has been no update.

B) Infrastructure Development

This is again the work of the government, giving out tenders, hiring private contractors. Identify which of the tourist attractions is in dire need of development, address to those first and then go on renovation for every year. While hiring the contractor the government has to sign a bond of 5 year where the contractor will repair and renovate the developed site free of cost. In that way the site will be on check. Installing petrol pump station in every 10 kms , hospital or dispensary in every 10 kms. Police checkpoint in every 10 kms again.

C) Ease of doing business near tourist attractions.

This one is linked to infrastructure development, by building stores and renting it out to the locals at 0 zero cost would indeed infuse into employment. A lot of tourist destinations in Jharkhand hardly have a shop that provides a water bottle. Tourists have to carry their own junk which they eventually dump into the site.

D) Road connectivity

A lot of tourists complain about this, being a major player in tourism development. The flow of tourists totally depends on the road conditions and assistance on the road. Installing emergency facilities like S.O.S booth in every 1 km or 5 km. Signage in every corner. Street lights. Service stations.

E) Safety and security

Patrolling of the CRPF OR CISF in the red belt tourist attractions. Fear of Naxals always lingers in the tourists mind.

F) Hospitality

Setting up of hotels and guest house near the attractions are must. Offer subsidy for private organization or businesses to set up a hotel with basic amenities.

G) Preservation of Flora and Fauna

This goes without saying. Whatever species are remaining in Jharkhand, we need to pay our best attention and service.

H) Preservation of ancient structures

The ASI needs to be notified about the situation of our forts and ancient ruins. More ancient structures need to be identified. No one would want to explore centuries old pillars and doors not knowing if they'd collapse or something.

2) Export of Forest Produce Into National And International Markets**A) Transportation**

The route from Jharkhand to multiple states are a good, yet when we go into extreme red belt zones they show their worst kinds. With thugs and snatchers roaming in the highways at night, it's difficult for the truck drivers to navigate. Plus the transportation costs are very high, things like- Road tax, toll tax, challan , export duties, extra money for the police (the corrupt one's are one of the thugs).

B) Ease of doing business

Here we are looking at Geographical factors and as well as support from the government. The CNT factor is the biggest obstacle for the tribals as they can't sell their land and get money for that. CNT was meant for the tribals but it's now harming them itself. Now let's take another scenario, a businessman from Maharashtra wants to set up his Mahua Amla and palas processing plant at Netarhat, will it be easy to do that? Straight away NO!

i) Subsidy

What the government should do is to relax the parameters on which they scale their applicants. Not all the great minds have great educational background or financial one. If we are experimenting with Vocal for Local then we need to know what exactly are locals. We need to expect less if we are to make things the way we want.

ii) Government policies

Another important factor in ease of doing business part, if the government is going to have flexible and smart policies that would motivate other people to start a business then we are looking at a global market here. Few policies I'm suggesting here are-

a) If setting up an industry or plant in Jharkhand, the basic category of land won't be a problem. – Meaning if you're setting up a plant on a CNT land, you will be having ownership of the land as long as that factory or plant is providing employment and development of the locals.

b) Giving security to banks when providing entrepreneur with a loan. (Regardless of their educational background) with a benefit for both parties. NO CHECK POLICY

Under the NO CHECK POLICY The banks should not see the educational background of a person aspiring to start a business here, if the idea is good and feasible. Plus if the banks give loans to the young entrepreneur with a NO CHECK POLICY and if they repay the loans on time, an additional interest waiver would be credited to the beneficiary and also the banks would get extra benefits from the government if they give away loans under NO CHECK POLICY .

iii) Bank policies**3) Entrepreneurial Skill Development-****A) Basic training-**

When it comes to the ground level of entrepreneurial management, especially on a state like Jharkhand it's still quite an alien term. Young students who don't know meaning of entrepreneur. The government has to take certain measures to implement EDC (Entrepreneurship Development Cell) in all Govt. And private colleges as well as all levels of functioning government bodies like gram Panchayat, tehsil, district etc. They need to be told about it's pros and cons. This will indeed boost the curiosity of the youngsters in our state.

B) Education management

Another aspect of entrepreneurship development is basic education, not limited to schooling in an old school way but also educating the youths and the mid aged people about the various government policies and agencies that are providing loan and subsidy on that loan. What are the procedures, how to apply, eligibility etc. For this the banks should be also made equally responsible for implementing this structure. Banks have good workforce and manpower that cab be set up to this cause.

Finally, the community, if we want our society to emerge and blossom then we need to water the grounds. Sitting on a dry land won't be getting us anywhere.