



Problem of Poverty Among Schedule Tribes

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KEYWORDS

Introduction :

Schedule tribe people live in various geographical areas of India like South India, North India, East India and Western India. They differ in language, cultural status, way of living from other people. Some schedule tribes live far away from cultural society, some in mountainous regions and some live in plain regions. Some schedule tribes live in organized village groups. While some S.T. people live in contact with cultural society. Some S.T. are seen joined with cultural society. Due to these differences form of their problem is different and rather complex.

There are various problems seen among India S.T. People. Their main problems are relating to social, economic, political, cultural and health aspects. These problems are such that they affect undesirably on significant number of S.C. people and something should be done to remove these situation and they can be removed by taking some collective steps. Problems like poverty, illiteracy, debt and exploitation make hindrance in giving them status like non-S.T. people and being well-knit with national flow of life. Root of S.T. people is residing in their geographical apartness. Before discussing poverty of S.T. people we shall see what is poverty.

Meaning of Poverty :

The synonymous word for poverty is moneylessness. As a result their livelihood is not possible.

Poverty indicates want or deficiency or scarcity of means of livelihood. Condition of insufficient means of livelihood is called poverty and family living in this condition is called "poor family". In this way, poverty is a problem of acute economic disparity but, really it is a social cultural problem because in India. Poverty relates with unequal distribution of economic means of livelihood, caste system and culture. Basic reasons of poverty reside in social, economic, cultural layer of society. Hence poverty is a structural problem. Poor families are included in last layer of society and they are considered as end layer or marginal people.

The measurement of poverty is called poverty line" people living below poverty line are considered poor.

Planning commission of India has considered a person poor who can not expense amount less amount than the minimum amount. The minimum amount for rural area is Rs. 28 p.m. and for urban area that amount is Rs. 32 person who can expense less than this amount is called poor.

According to Prof. Rohit Shukla, is situation arising out from un-sufficient nutrition or want of essential things sustainable for life if line indicating the amount for living, residing and maintaining his efficiency by which one can purchase food to which can give the needed calorie is called "Poverty line" and a person who expenses less amount is called poor.

In India measurement to draw a poverty line which indicates minimum expense for his basic needs, in which essential cal-

orie is considered into account. In this way, concept of poverty is connected with complement of minimum needs. That means disability to essential expense and fund for unavoidable food, nutrition and protection to sustain him active and exist is called "poverty".

Problem of Poverty among S.T. People :

According to Elvin committee of 1960 the main problem of S.T. is poverty. During 1973-74, 55% of India's population were poor. While during 1977-78, 72% people among S.T. were poor. During 1987-88, 40% people of its population were poor. According to 2001-02 survey, more than 26% people are poor. This statistical data shows that, rate of poor people in S.T. is more than total poor persons in India. Studies show that proportion of S.T. is people living below poverty line among S.T. is more than that of S.C. people. According to a report of rural development commissioner, during 1991-92, there were 26,18,940 families who lived below poverty line in which 37.31% were Baxipucnh, 10.61% & S.C., 25.78% were normative tribes and 26.30% were S.T. families.

According to socio-economic review of government of Gujarat 26.77 lac families were included under people living below poverty line in civil supply department during 2007-08. 23,29,37 families (40.39%) families were registered below poverty line as on 1-4-2000 in a book "S.C. : Tradition and change" written by Dr. Chandrakant Upadhytaya, in which 8,64,103 (37.09%) families of S.T.families percentage of only S.T.families living below poverty line were 31.2% (rural) and 35.47% urban during 1993-94 while that figure during 2004-05 were 34.7% (rural) and 21.4% (urban) respectively.

There is a problem of poverty among S.T.people in India but proportion of poverty among them is decreasing after independence due to S.T. development schemes.

Poverty lies among S.T. people and they are deprived of rights of freedom, equality, justice and chance for education etc due to malnutrition, clothes and insufficient provision for shelter which is a result of poverty.

In present paper, discussion of Bhil S.T. people of two backward villages namely Vaghvadla and Dahela of Santrampur taluka of Gujarat is done. Vaghvadla is 25 k.m. away from Santrampur while Dedhela is 30 k.m. away from Santrampur. Bhil S.T. people are living here in scattered dwelling building raw houses in farms. Their dwellings are made up of Bambar and clay. Their main economic activity is farming and to collect forest production. They use less of mechanical instrument and technology in farming wells are constructed under Jivandhara Scheme for irrigation but benefit is taken by government officials. They experience uncertainty and insecurity in the material of livelihood. They harvest only one crop and that also depends upon rain, hence they have to face problem of livelihood during some problem of livelihood during some period of year. They engage in paddy and ground nut work in other districts where there is no rain. Farmers exploit them by not giving full rate of salary conjure to their work. E.g. actu-

al and for farming is 1.5, Vigha but they are informed that it is only 1 Vigha and pay them accordingly. S.T. people do not get employment during the whole year and they have to take amount on high interest for social dealings like birth, death, marriage ect. In this way, they ensnare in debt of private moneylenders. In this way many S.T. people are under department by generation to generation. Some times they have to lose their land also.

Main Reasons of Poverty Among S.T.People :

(1) Illiteracy :

In S.T. people formal education given in school-colleges is considered useless, vain and time wasting. So, illiteracy sustains in them. S.T. people do not accept need of latest education, having in traditional and backward condition. Hence they remain unknown from rights and chances.

(2) Partnership of Children in Professional Activities :

Bhil S.T. people of Vaghvadla and Dadhela village of santrapur taluka join their children in economic activities – labour, farming with them from their childhood. So these children do not go to school for education and work with their parents their attitude is to use their children in economic activities of family instead of sending them to school even though primary education is free. Moreover responsibility of little problems and sisters is also on their shoulders, so they can not get education and want of education they can do service/business. As a result, they have to face less income and poverty.

(3) Backwardness in Farming :

Farming of ST. people is backward. Facility of irrigation is not sufficient land is not so fertile, use of technology is less, so have to work hard, and reward is less.

(4) Alcoholism :

Alcoholism is a part of S.T.culture and it is one of the reasons and result of poverty. Bhil people use alcoholic widely. They take alcohol at social and religious events. They take alcohol made from Mahuda and Tadi.

(5) Attitude of Fatalism :

Attitude of fatalism is seen in S.T.people which keeps them poor. They do not believe in try.

(6) High Birth rate :

Due to high birth rate, under the pressure of increase of population, problem of poverty is seen.

Removal of Poverty :

- (1) Priority be given to S.T. development scheme.
- (2) Try be done to remove illiteracy among S.T. people. Awareness by bought so that they may accept need of latest education.
- (3) Economic aid be given so that facility of irrigation, chemical fertilizers and technology in farming may increase.
- (4) Alcoholism be removed for that inspiration be given to their Bhagat, Baddva or Shaman.

In short, their life may change if their circumstances arise out of condition for poverty change. If circumstance producing poverty is removed and new circumstances like employment which can give constant and sufficient income, increase in chances, training, skills, education, professional education, nutritional food, facilitated dwelling, technology etc should be developed so that their poverty may be removed.

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