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## POVERTY AND LIVELIHOOD PROBLEMS AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES IN KASHMIR VALLEY- A STUDY



### ABSTRACT: -

**T**he term tribe refers to a cultural and historical concept. India is home to tribal population of about 85 million, with more than 700 groups each with their distinct cultures, social practices, religions, dialects and occupations and are scattered in all States and Union Territories 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. Poverty is a complex socio-economic state and is regarded both a condition of economic inefficiency and condition of social and political exclusion. It is a barrier between entitlement, access to income, employment and basic necessities of life. Besides, the poor and weaker sections of the society are vulnerable to exploitation of various kinds including social discrimination. It is, one of the serious problems of the present generations. Mere growth of economy cannot bring social justice and balanced development unless it is coupled with poverty alleviation and employment generating opportunities for deprived and marginalized sections of the society. In this paper an attempt was made to examine the poverty and livelihood problems among the scheduled tribes in Kashmir Valley. This paper is based on secondary sources i.e. population census of

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India 2001 and 2011, various Journals, Articles, Books and Reports etc.

**KEYWORDS:** Poverty, Livelihood, State, Illiteracy, Problems, Alleviation, Programmes.

### INTRODUCTION :

Tribe can be defined as a “collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is not usually endogamous though originally it might have been so”. India is a pluralist and multi-cultural country, with rich diversity, reflected in the multitude of culture, religions, languages and racial stocks. The population of the country comprises of different castes, communities, social and ethnic groups. India, a second most populous country in the world, has also the second largest concentration of tribal population, perhaps next only to Africa.

Jammu and Kashmir, a border state of India is inhabited by a number of tribal communities who have settled down in all parts of this Himalayan state. For many years, Jammu and Kashmir had no Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. It was only in 1989 that eight communities vide the Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989 and four communities, namely Gujjar, Bakkarwal, Gaddi and Sippi were notified as the Scheduled Tribes vide the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 1991. These twelve hill tribes of Jammu and Kashmir which were granted ST status are Balti, Beda,

Bot (Boto), Brokpa (Drokpa, Dard, Shin), Changpa, Garra, Mon, Purigpa, Gujjar, Bakkarwal, Gaddi and Sippis. All the twelve Scheduled Tribes (STs) were enumerated officially for the first time during the 2001 census recording a population of 1,105,979. The Scheduled Tribes account for 11.9 per cent of the total population of the State as per Census 2011. The Census 2011 shows the entire ST population of the state at 14, 93, 299 in comparison to 11,05,979 of Census 2001. Thus, there is an increase of 3,87,320 in schedule tribe population of the state.

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. Poor families are included in last layer of society and they are considered as end layer or marginal people.

There are various problems seen among S.T. People. Their main problems are relating to social, economic, political, cultural and health aspects. Problems like poverty, illiteracy, debt and exploitation make hindrance in giving them status like non-S.T. people and being well-knitted with national flow of life. Root of S.T. people is residing in their geographical apartness. The menace of backwardness, unemployment and poverty is interwoven and constitutes a vicious circle.

### POVERTY STATUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE

As per the survey results, the total BPL Estimated Population Ratio of J&K State has been arrived at 21.63 percent (24.21 lakhs persons) of which 26.14 percent (22.00 lakhs persons) are from Rural areas and 7.96 percent (2.21 lakhs persons) are living in Urban areas. This shows that about one fifth of the State's population falls below the poverty. Out of every five persons, one falls Below Poverty Line. The Relative Sampling Error of the estimates of the BPL Population has been estimated at 2.24 percent at State level.

### BPL BY SOCIAL GROUPS

The Social-group distribution of BPL Population indicates the dispersion of 42.05 percent in case of Scheduled Tribes, 38.07 percent in case of Other Backward Classes (including Paharis), 22.77 percent in case of Scheduled Caste while as others categories show only 16.85 percent of population under Below Poverty Line when compared with the respective population of a particular category. This shows that highest incidence of poverty is among Scheduled Tribe population followed by OBC Category inclusive of Pahari speaking population.

### DISTRICT WISE POVERTY OF SCHEDULE TRIBES IN KASHMIR

The table below presents district wise poverty rate of schedule tribes in Kashmir both for rural as well as urban areas, which shows that the total poverty of Schedule tribes of Kashmir division was 49.81 percent with the distribution of 49.89 percent in rural areas and 16.75 percent in urban areas. At the district level highest poverty among schedule tribes was found in district Badgam with 99.9 percent followed by Pulwama 80.69 percent, Barramulla 77.82 percent.

**Table 1.1: District wise Poverty of Schedule Tribes of Kashmir**

Sl.NO	District	Rural	Urban	Total
01.	Anantnag	44.86	0.00	44.86
02	Baramulla	80.09	15.00	77.82
03	Badgam	99.99	01.00	99.99
04	Bandipora	41.92	0.00	41.92
05	Ganderbal	53.37	0.00	53.47
06	Kulgam	58.47	0.00	58.47
07	Kupwara	36.24	0.00	36.24
08	Pulwama	80.69	0.00	80.69
09	Shopian	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Srinagar	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Kashmir</b>	<b>49.89</b>	<b>16.75</b>	<b>49.81</b>

Source: - BPL survey of Jammu and Kashmir 2011.

### HOUSING QUALITY OF SCHEDULE TRIBES IN KASHMIR

The table 1.2 shows the percentage of schedule tribe households with quality of house. In Kashmir 36.35 percent of households have Pucca houses and 63.65 percent of households with Khucha houses. In Budgam district 78.47 percent of households have Pucca houses followed by district Anantnag 44.58 percent, Kulgam 44.58 percent. In district Kupwara 89.62 percent of households have Khucha houses (made of mud, un-brunt bricks, grass thatch, Polythene etc.) followed by Baramulla 82.91 and Bandipora, 76.23 percent.

**Table 1.2: Percentage of Schedule Tribe Households with Quality of House**

Sl.No	District	Pucca	Khucha
01.	Anantnag	45.77	54.22
02	Baramulla	17.01	82.91
03	Badgam	78.47	21.32
04	Bandipora	23.76	76.23
05	Ganderbal	18.17	81.82
06	Kulgam	44.58	55.51
07	Kupwara	10.37	89.62
08	Pulwama	24.96	75.03
09	Shopian	32.21	65.78
10	Srinagar	70.00	29.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>Kashmir</b>	<b>36.35</b>	<b>63.65</b>

Source: - Census of India 2011

### QUALITY OF WATER

The below table (1.3) shows the percentage of households with quality of water, which depicts that on an average only 28.29 percent of households of have water facility from treated sources and 71.71 percent of households have water facility from untreated sources. Highest deprivation interms of treated water is in the district Bandipora with 94.85 percent followed by Pulwama with 87.80 percent, Kulgam with 83.48 percent, Anantnag 81.09 percent and 79.74 percent in Kupwara district.

**Table 1.3: Percentage of Schedule Tribe Households with Quality of Water**

SL.No	District	Treated Source	Untreated Source
01.	Anantnag	18.96	81.09
02	Baramulla	28.29	71.70
03	Badgam	29.87	70.12
04	Bandipora	5.10	94.85
05	Ganderbal	34.26	65.73
06	Kulgam	16.52	83.48
07	Kupwara	20.25	79.74
08	Pulwama	12.19	87.80
09	Shopian	21.78	78.21
10	Srinagar	87.92	12.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>Kashmir</b>	<b>28.29</b>	<b>71.71</b>

Source: - Census of India 2011

### ELECTRICITY AND BATHROOM FACILITY

The table below (1.4) reveals that 49.13 percent of schedule tribe households in Kashmir Valley have electricity as a main source of light with the distribution of 93.80 percent in district Srinagar, 69.99 percent in Ganderbal, 59.03 percent in Budgam. The lowest percentage of households with electricity has been in district Kulgam district (12.93 percent), Shopian (23.20 percent) and district Anantnag (25.6 percent). Table also depicts that 39.73 percent of schedule tribe households in Kashmir have bathroom facility with the distribution of 70.05 percent in Srinagar, 61.35 percent in Budgam and 54.1 percent in Bandipora. The lowest bathroom facility among

schedule tribe households of Kashmir Valley was found in district Kulgam with 13.04 percent followed by Pulwama 15.18 percent and 21.71 percent in Anantnag.

**Table 1.4: Percentage of Schedule Tribe Households in Kashmir with Electricity and Bathroom Facility**

Sl.No	District	Electricity	Bathroom Facility
01.	Anantnag	25.61	21.71
02	Baramulla	74.13	45.00
03	Badgam	59.03	61.35
04	Bandipora	42.07	54.01
05	Ganderbal	69.99	40.22
06	Kulgam	12.93	13.04
07	Kupwara	52.07	40.09
08	Pulwama	37.95	15.18
09	Shopian	23.20	35.79
10	Srinagar	93.80	70.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>Kashmir</b>	<b>49.13</b>	<b>39.73</b>

Source: - Census of India 2011

**BASIC HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES**

Since the focus of the study is to analysis the deprivation and access to special household assets like radio, television, car, motorbike, mobile phone, banking facility etc. There is a low probability of access of schedule tribe households to these assets. If any household has no access to these given assets he is considered multidimensional poor. The below table (1.5) reveals that out of four basic household amenities maximum schedule tribes of Kashmir valley have an access to radio with 52.62 percent followed by mobile phone and only 1.25 percent of households have access to car and motor bike. Only 30.84 percent of households have access to banking facility. At the district level only 15.89 percent of households have access to all these household amenities in district Kulgam followed by Kupwara district (19.55 percent) and Anantnag (19.66 percent). In district Srinagar highest percentage of households (48.45 percent) have access to these basic amenities like radio T.V, Car, Motor Bike followed by the Baramulla (30.15 percent) households. Among the given amenities lowest availability was found in vehicle and motor bike followed by T.V.

**Table 1.5: Percentage of Schedule Tribe Households of Kashmir with Basic Household Amenities.**

SI. No	District	Radio	T.V	Mobile	Car/Motor bike	Banking Facility	Mean
01.	Anantnag	53.85	3.2	22.27	0.21	28.79	21.66
02	Baramulla	54.10	13.39	33.23	1.14	50.72	30.15
03	Badgam	50.85	13.87	26.08	0.68	28.27	23.95
04	Bandipora	59.37	18.68	18.55	0.83	32.06	25.89
05	Ganderbal	62.19	10.32	25.42	0.67	38.80	27.48
06	Kulgam	47.86	2.03	21.68	0.15	7.76	15.89
07	Kupwara	45.49	6.30	21.01	0.21	24.77	19.55
08	Pulwama	46.89	04.94	27.69	0.36	36.04	23.18
09	Shopian	45.53	04.64	27.95	0.87	16.17	19.03
10	Srinagar	60.12	60.93	68.69	07.46	45.08	48.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>Kashmir</b>	<b>52.62</b>	<b>13.83</b>	<b>29.25</b>	<b>01.25</b>	<b>30.84</b>	<b>25.55</b>

Source: - Census of India 2011

**PROBLEMS FACED BY THE TRIBES**

**1. Poverty and Illiteracy**

Poverty and Ignorance continue to keep them poor and less dignified. Education can bring changes and development gradually for the next generation. There are primary schools in several tribal settlements, mostly

far away for most of the villages. Moreover, quality education which is available to the majority is not available to the poor tribal's. Tribal children can be encouraged to send to towns and cities for better education and higher studies. Distribution of old clothes and some ration is not the solution. Most of the tribal people live for a day and do not plan much for future. Education will bring in change in their world view and give them hopes for a better tomorrow. Assistance to education can change the plight of the poor young girls to find a living think about a family.

## 2. Ownership of land and Occupation

Most of the tribes were originally food gatherers and all of them made a living from the forest. Tribals are placed in colonies where they are forced to live. Tribals normally do not destroy forest or its resources. Cutting a tree trunk for building a hut has become an offence. Tribals should be protected with the right to labour and resources of the forest. Assistance should be given to develop better infrastructure in their settlements. Harassments from government servants especially of the forest department need to be solved state wide. Tribals should have complete ownership of a piece of land they stay.

## 3. Health and Hygiene

Many tribal people die of malnutrition, ignorance and superstitious beliefs. Accessibility to proper health facilities is very rare. Though there are primary health centers, its services are very limited and not easily reachable. Advanced checkups and treatments are not available and affordable to the majority of the tribal people. Health education and proper sanitary amenities are far from them. Regular medical clinics or camps, special assistance to diagnose and advance treatments in cities can make their life better.

### Main Reasons of Poverty among Scheduled Tribes 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

S.T. people 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 cannot 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 scheduled tribe's 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) Attitude of Fatalism

Attitude of fatalism is seen in scheduled tribe people, which keeps them poor. They do not believe in try.

#### (5) High Birth rate

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

### POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

In Jammu and Kashmir around 73% population lives in rural areas and the State has initiated a number of Poverty Alleviation Schemes to mitigate rural as well as urban poverty, which are being implemented in the State with full financial and technical support of the Centre Government. These Schemes serve the dual purpose of

Poverty Alleviation as well as employment generation. The following schemes are under implementation to give dent to rural poverty.

### **SWARAN JAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA (SGSY)**

SGSY is one of the Centrally Sponsored Programme aimed at to bring the poor families above poverty line in three years by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. During 2011-12, financial outlay under SGSY was ` 20.56 crore, out of which ` 13.27 crore (65%) has been spent by providing employment to 14,309 persons. While in 2012-13 (ending November 2012), an amount of `5.34 crores (46%) has been spent, out of ` 11.77 crores available with the Department by providing employment to 5607 persons. 6974 Self Help Groups have been assisted during the year 2011-12 and 2334 in the current financial year (2012-13 ending November).

### **NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NRLM)**

To address poverty more forcefully and overcome the limitation of SGSY, the NRLM has been designated. The water infrastructure and Agrarian stability provided by MGNREGA will be harnessed to generate sustainable livelihoods for the poor through NRLM, which will work on five critical dimensions of rural livelihoods and human development. The Government of India has floated National Rural Livelihood Mission which shall replace the present scheme of SGY. The new scheme has been rolled out in the State recently after approval of the Sate Cabinet. The State Mission has been constituted. Four Blocks namely Basohli, Chenani, Khanshab and Wagoora have been selected in the State (two each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions) for piloting the scheme. The aim is to create Self Help Groups and federate them into large Federations which will have their own capacity of creating capital and providing loans to the needy within the community.

### **NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (NREGS)**

This flagship scheme has been launched in J&K from February, 2006 initially in three districts namely Doda, Poonch and Kupwara. The scheme has been subsequently extended to two more districts viz Jammu and Anantnag from April, 2007. At present, this scheme is under implementation in all the districts of the State. The main objective of this scheme is to provide 100 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment to each rural household opting for it. During 2011-12 an outlay of ` 904.38 crore under the MGNREGS was allocated, out of which 776.72 crore (86%) had been utilised/spent. 1008034 numbers of household were issued job cards thereby generating 384.48 lakh person/days employment. During 2012-13 an amount of ` 613.17 crore is available under MGNREGS, out of which ` 354.70 crore (56%) has been utilised/spent by the end of November 2012. 10.51.620 number of households were issued job cards and 171.50 lakh person/days employment generated. The scheme has now taken well in the state and creating visible impact, resulting transformation of rural economy of the state. More sensitization among stakeholders are being created to ensure more effective implementation of the scheme.

### **INDIRA AWAS YOJANA (IAY)**

IAY is a centrally Sponsored Scheme where-under funds in the ratio of 75:25 are being allocated by the Centre and State Govt. respectively. The target groups for housing under IAY are households below poverty line living in rural areas, particularly those belonging to SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers. The shelter less family are provided assistance under IAY/Rural Housing Scheme (RHS) for construction of affordable houses with basic amenities. The new package with effect from 2009-10 comprises of; 1) Construction of new houses @ ` 45000/- per unit in plain areas and 48500/- per unit in hilly and difficult areas. 2) Conversion of unserviceable Kucha houses to semi-pucca houses @ ` 15000/- per unit. During 2011-12, 22856 houses were constructed with the financial expenditure of ` 82.40 crore while as during 2012-13 (ending November), 10031 houses were constructed with the expenditure of ` 45.95 crore.

**SCHEME WITH BANK ASSISTANCE (BANK TIEUP SCHEME):**

The Scheduled Tribes Category persons who are permanent resident of J&K State, living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) and are not defaulters of any financial institution can avail this scheme to establish the income generating unit costing upto Rs.1.00 Lac. The corporation sponsors loan proposals of eligible persons to various banks in accordance with the "SERVICE AREA APPROACH" for financing. The corporation provides subsidy upto 50% of the project cost subject to maximum Rs.10000/per beneficiary under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan ( TSP) and rest of the amount of unit cost is the Bank Loan.

**TRIBAL SUB PLAN (TSP)**

The TSP as a strategy for tribal development was evolved in the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) on the recommendation of an expert committee headed by Prof. S.C. Dube. The committee was constituted by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare in 1972. The TSP covers all scheduled areas and Teshils/Block, with more than 60 per cent tribal population is living. The two main objectives of the TSP are: socio-economic development of STs and protection of tribes against exploitation.

**STRATEGY FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> FIVE YEAR PLAN (2012-17)**

During 12th Five Year Plan many initiatives are being taken to ensure inclusive growth. Rural Development Programme cover employment through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Housing via The Indira Awaas Yojana, Sanitation through the Total sanitation campaign, provision of drinking water via National Rural Drinking Water Programme, watershed development via the integrated watershed Management Programmes, Bank support and other states sponsored schemes. By implementation of aforementioned programmes besides arresting stress migration and providing job opportunities at the doorstep of people, visible improvement have been observed in their life. There is no denying the fact that true potential of MGNREGA as an instrument of rural transformation is yet to be fully realised in the State. There are many speed breaker in infusing the system with the new culture of demand driven, rights based, decentralised decision-making. The MGNREGA provide historic opportunities for strengthening our newly established PRI, in the state. But our experience in the start alertness that is much need to be done in this direction.

**CONCLUSION**

It is well understood that the poverty faced by the tribal communities is very high. They are deprived from the all sects of development, lack of education, stagnation in all aspects of their growth, malnutrition and other related problems. Present trends demonstrate that the traditional livestock-based livelihood strategies alone will not be able to provide sufficient means of survival for such poor nomadic population. It is thus evident that non-livestock based strategies will have to supplement, and in some cases substitute, previously central nomadic livelihood strategies. In short, their life may change if their circumstances raised 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.

**SUGGESTIONS**

- + There is a need to formulate special poverty eradication programme for migratory tribes by the government.
- + Economic aid is to be given so that facility of irrigation, chemical fertilizers and technology in farming may increase.
- + For the sake of economic upliftment, the prices for animal's products should be raised according to the increase in the prices of other commodities.
- + Community-run mobile vans can help improve the availability of fresh dairy products.
- + The government must organize tours to these remote areas and interactive workshops for them.

- ✦ Efforts should be taken to remove illiteracy among S.T. people.
- ✦ Better breeds of livestock should be introduced in order to achieve higher rate of productivity, because livestock is the main source of their livelihoods.

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