



A Study of Tribal communities in the Murbad Taluka

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Abstract- India is country with rich social diversification. Society divided into thousands of caste, class and groups. Tribal Community's in India are very important. The aim of the study is to identify the tribal communities in Murbad taluka. Also study characteristics of different tribal communities in Murbad Taluka like, Thakar, Katkari, Mahadev Koli, Malhar Koli. Almost all of these tribal groups are depend on forest for their live hood. Their many beliefs are also from the nature. Hence we can say that forests forest is an inseparable part of the tribal life.

Key word- Tribal community, Thakar, Katkari, Mahadevkoli, Malhar koli

Introduction- the study of tribal communities has been important. Almost 10 percent of the population of Maharashtra state is tribal. These people are living in distinct remote areas and in jungles. It is been discovered that there is imbalance in social, economic, political, material, legal, administrative, cultural values, and economic resources. As a result, tribal people in Maharashtra, who are more commonly referred to as "Adivasi," have been living away from the mainstream population for a long time in the forests, valleys, and mountains. Present investigation is limited to the Murbad taluka of Thane district. The current study attempted to investigate the population, issues, and situation of tribal people. Different tribal communities' characteristics, such as Thakar, Mahadeo Koli, Malhar Koli, and Katkari,

Objective-

1. To study the present status of Tribal Community form Murbad Taluka.
2. To study the social condition of Tribal community from Murbad Taluka.
3. To study the economic Condition of Tribal community from Murbad Taluka.

Research Methodology: Primary and Secondary research was conducted to study the Tribal community from Murbad Taluka. Interview of some persons from the tribal community was conducted also the Data has been collected through secondary sources i.e. published articles, journals, newspapers, reports, books and websites.

Mahadeo Koli:- Mahadeo Koli tribal community leave in large number in the Thane district. Mahadeo Koli also Known as Dongarkoli is a sub-cast Koli. The Mahadeo koli is total different tribe comparing to costal Koli tribe.. Costal koli

community people are largely depend on the fishing or sea, while as Mahadeo koli are largely depend on forest for their live hood. The Mahadeo Koli tribe the predominant tribal group plays an important role in Maratha Empire. They are guardian of jungles and protect roads during the Maratha reign. These communities also have glorious history of revolt against the British empire. Presently this tribe in Murbad taluka are largely depend on forest, engage in agriculture and some are engaged in other occupations like agriculture labour, brick manufacturing labour, some are working in small manufacturing units in Murbad MIDC.

Malhar Koli :- The Malhar are a semi nomadic tribe. They are also found in Thane district where they enjoy S.T. status as Koli and Malhar. Comparing to the Mahdeo Koli Tribe, Malhar Koli are less in number And living in distinct part of Murbad Taluka. They are closely related with the nature. Their autonomous tribal religion based on 'animism' which is amalgamated with few elements of Hinduism.

Katkari :- Many of the tribes like the Katkaris do not even have their own village and they are settled in the finges of the villages other local names used are Kathkari or kathodi. The Katkari are one of only a few tribal groups that eat rodents. They believe that their strength and long life comes from eating the meat of rodents.

Thakar :- Thakar is tribe this tribe was originally living in hilly areas of Thane district and is now also found scattered all over Maharashtra they also called by names like Thakar, Thakur. Thakar community mostly leaving in Jungles. These people also known for their knowledge of Ayurvedic plants and their uses which found in distinct jungles.

Social Condition:

Tribal mostly prefer joint family system. Comparing with other communities women's from tribal communities enjoy equal status as men. Tribal women's are also working in agriculture, bricks manufacturing and collecting raw material from jungles. Mostly tribal prefer to live in close proximity with nature. Thakar community mostly live in jungles while Katkari prefer to live on hills nearby villages.

Every tribe has its own dialect of Marathi language. Their languages are unique in nature particularly thakar use Thakari or Katkari use Katkari language. These Tribal communities are largely connected to the nature. Mostly their religious beliefs are resembles to Hinduism. In fact they are recognized as Hindu Adivasi by local communities. They are nature worshipers. Along with these they are also worships Hindu deities.

Sources of live hood**1. Forest products-**

These communities are largely depend on forest for their live hood. Government has also recognize the rights of these tribal groups on Forest. Particularly women's from these tribal collect various forest product from the forest. Forest products like Leaves of neem, bilva patra, Ayurvedic medicines, Forest fruits like Jamun, Berries, Timber collect by them. Now a day many of these forest products have high demand in nearby cities. Many forest vegetables which grow particularly in rainy season have high demand in urban area due to their medical properties. It became good source of earning for these Tribal communities.

2. **Bricks worker**-large number of Katkari community from Murbad Taluka is engage as workers in local bricks manufacturing workshops. Also these people are work in bricks manufacturing sites in Kalyan and Parnave area. For that these people migrate temporarily to manufacturing sites with whole family. Built temporary small hut there which is been called as Pal in local language. They return their native place before rainy season.
3. **Agriculture worker**- these people largely work as agriculture labour in nearby villages. But these job opportunity is seasonal one. Jobs are available during only rainy season. Also daily wages rates are comparatively less than workers in other sector.
4. **Fishing and hunting**.- these people also engage in fishing in nearby rivers and lakes. Both men and women engage in catching fish, while as selling fish in nearby villages or at taluka place done by females of communities.
5. **Agriculture**- from last one or two decades tribal communities from Murbad taluka also started cultivating the field by their own. Now they started cultivate the land owned by them or

they cultivate land of the other people who are not cultivating their land due to jobs or other issues on agreement. But this is very less in number. And because of the financial restrictions they are unable to develop their agriculture.

Social and economic problems-

1. **Child marriage**- child marriage is still persisting in tribal communities. Though in modern world because of the educational other development Child marriage custom is almost abolish. Still it's found that some of the communities are still practicing this evil custom. In Murbad taluka, it's found that Child marriage custom is still practice by some of the Tribal communities.
2. **Education**- though literacy rate of Tribal communities is increased comparing to the previous period still it's very less comparing to the other communities. Government has made Primary education compulsory and free to everyone. Government provides enough facilities for secondary and higher education like free ships, scholarships, Mid-day Meal and other facilities to Tribal students. In Murbad taluka there are almost 8 boarding schools (Ashram Shala) For Tribal students in distinct part of Murbad taluka. Boarding Schools facilitated more than 5000 students from tribal community. Still Overall tribal communities in Murbad taluka have less literacy rate comparing with other communities.
3. **Addiction** (Consumption of liquor) - addiction of Alcohol is a biggest problem not only for Tribal communities but for whole society. In tribal males consumption of liquor is more common. Addiction of liquor just not raises the health issue but also triggers social and economical problems. Mostly liquor consume by the tribal people is locally made. This local made liquor is cheap, unhygienic, made with toxic material. Because of this particular addiction mortality rate is higher in tribal males. It also triggers the economic problem for families.
4. **Poverty**- The number of people below poverty level (BPL) is comparing high in Tribal communities in Murbad taluka. It's because of unemployment, use of undeveloped agriculture methods, Low salary rates, indebtness, illiteracy, addiction and other issues. Government has several schemes for Tribal people to uplift them from their present day condition and in some extent it's found that government gets some success. Schemes like Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana which helps to built houses, or MANREGA to provide employment to Rural and tribal people are successful to some extent. But still lot has to achieve in this field.

5. **Unemployment-** lack of education and skills force people to work in unorganized area like agriculture labor, bricks manufacturing. This field provides seasonal employment and not for whole year. Mostly agriculture labor job available during rainy and winter seasons while as bricks manufacturing relate jobs are available between November to April every year. As agriculture is not developed, it is unable to provide job to increasing population in taluka. As well as way the job opportunities available in MIDC or small manufacturing plant at Murbad city was mostly stole away by migrating people from other states. And most of the locals are deprive from these job opportunities available within the locality.
6. **Social issues-** Because of the illiteracy and unawareness about the law these people many times oppress by upper caste communities. Bonded labor is also been witness, as these tribal's are unaware about their rights and low enforcement. Also these communities still have high belief in magic and charms. As these Tribal people believe in superstitions like witchcraft they were often get cheated by impostors. At the same time, instead of admitting a sick person to a hospital, they treated him by an impostor. This increases the risk to the patient's life. Or even death on occasion. This superstition is a big serious problem of the tribal community.

Conclusion:- The study of tribal community has been very important regarding the overall development of country. Unless all sections of the society don't get the benefit of the economic development of nation, there will be develop more social imbalance, in human geography. Because tribal's of the state and Thane district on find that there is an imbalance in every condition. It will give rise to conflict.

They depend on forest. All the tribal's are leave in remote area. Mahadeo Koli, Malhar Koli, Katkari and Thakar these tribal has considerable population in the Murbad Taluka. There are several schemes are been started for the Tribal communities, by both state and central government. But tribal from Murbad community are not succeeded to gain benefit of such schemes due to the proper knowledge and most importantly the illiteracy. Also the number of NGO's operating in taluka is very less compering to the other region of district. It is been required that government, Society has to work together to uplift this people from their present state.

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