

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT AMONG TRIBALS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

One of the top priorities of the third world countries specially developing ones is to create sustainable livelihood on a large scale. Even in the poorest countries, the capacity of agriculture to absorb additional labor is rapidly diminishing, with the modernization, unplanned development, colonization and accelerated economic growth, which have adversely affected the natural resources and consequent by massive destruction in India. This loss of natural assets now acts as a major brake on the ability of economies to respond to the ever increasing needs of their population and its substance. The largest potential for livelihood creation for women and other disadvantaged people lies in the micro-enterprises. However, sustainable livelihoods by themselves are not sufficient to ensure sustainable development. Therefore, more environmentally sound and socially equitable production systems, consumption patterns and sustainable development of natural resources are essentially required. Forests offer vast potential for poverty reduction and rural economic growth in India. They also support in achieving critical national conservation goals. Forestry is the second largest land use in India after agriculture. Adding non-market benefits of environmental services. Subsistence fuel wood, fodder, and many other non-forest timber products, doubles the GDP contribution. However, forests are under intense pressure and the country faces significant timber and fuel wood deficit. An estimated 41 percent of India's forest covers have been degraded to some degree in the past several decades. Against this backdrop, present paper highlights the issues of tribal livelihood development in India.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years' economic development, globalization and information revolution have created several opportunities for those who are already well endowed with information, capital and the ability to capitalize upon them. This had led to the widening gap between the rich and poor while creating disparities in development (Saxena and Sen, 1999). Therefore, made by a few privileged has raised concerns about communities that are enhanced the vulnerability and marginalization of

the poor and has become a threats to lives and livelihoods of individuals in the communities. Thus, human security, that encompasses security and well being of an individual from critical and pervasive threats and situations, focuses on protection of people from serve wide spread threats and situations to their lives, livelihoods and the way of life (Singh,2005). The sustainable livelihoods approach is well recognized as an integrated mechanism for poverty reduction and natural resources management. A successful implementation of strategies to create sustainable

livelihoods for human security requires (Singh, 2005):

- A strong thrust on sustainable livelihoods in policies and programmers' for poverty reduction, social development, and community-based natural resources management;
- Increased collaboration between government agencies, non-government organization, the community and the private sector to identify the means to create sustainable livelihoods for local economic development, social equity, and cultural preservation;
- Change in local governance to include participatory planning and inclusion of the weakest groups;
- Empowerment of the weakest groups to enable them to express their needs, protect their rights, and demand accountability from the agencies providing services to them; and
- Greater access to information in the community with appropriate use of information and communication technologies and e-governance.

The environmental crisis is most serious problem in India. The biosphere, which provided conducive conditions for gradual development of human life on earth, started losing its rejuvenating potency on account of man's impudence acts of omission and commissions. The resultant impact bordering on a sort of crisis posed for middle challenge. The crux of this crisis has been exploitation of natural resources by the human being only to fulfill their needless needs. Importantly, forests play a vital role in the economy of the state. A large segment of India's population depends on forestry for energy, housing, fodder and small timber. The demand for forest products and services is increasing with the growth in population and economy where as the forest cover in the country is deteriorating (Singh, and Dixit, 1999).

In recent years, economic development, globalization and information revolution have created several opportunities for those who are already well endowed with information, capital and the ability to capitalize upon them (Singh, 2001). This has created gaps between rich and poor class. In this context, the sustainable livelihoods approach is well recognized as an integrated mechanism for poverty reduction and natural resources management that is crisis scrotal and one that encompasses all the assets of a community (Singh, 2005). Successful implementation of strategies to create sustainable livelihoods for human security requires:

- A strong thrust on sustainable livelihoods in policies and programmers' for poverty reduction, social development, and community based natural resources management;
- Increased collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the community, and private sector to identify the means to create sustainable livelihoods for local economic development, natural resources management, social equity, and cultural preservation;
- Change in local governance to include participatory planning and inclusion of weaker groups;
- Empowerment of weakest groups to enable them to express their needs, protect their rights, and demand accountability from the agencies providing them services;
- Greater access to information in the community with the use of information and communication technologies and e-government

Significant efforts and required for Greening India to addressed food security and environmental challenge. Deforestation has resulted in environment crisis, economic decline and unbalanced development of the country. The successful implementation of the programmes will

help the country achieving ecological security, environmental and economic balance, and hold the country in pride position amongst developed nations of the world. It development of these natural resources will bring about desirable peace, prosperity, happiness, livelihood security and sustainable development (Singh, et al. 2008).

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

Natural resources which are vital for food, livelihood and environmental security are under intense pressure. The challenges of their conservation and sustainable use remain enormous. Circumstances warrant integration of environmental issues with strategies of poverty alleviation. It is now widely accepted that future of food, livelihood and environmental security depend upon the attention paid to the management of natural resources viz., land, water, forest and biodiversity. In this context, natural resources involve concurrent attention to conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. In fact, development activities must not be allowed to result in severe depletion of natural resources and degradation of environment. One of the top priorities of the third world countries especially developing ones is to create sustainable livelihoods on a large scale. Even in the poorest countries, the capacity of agriculture to absorb additional labor is rapidly diminishing, with the modernization, unplanned development, colonization and accelerated economic growth, which have adversely affected the natural resources and consequently massive destruction in India. This loss of natural assets now acts as a major brake on the ability of economies to respond to the ever increasing needs of their population and its sustenance. Sustainable livelihood approach is well-recognized as an integrated mechanism for poverty reduction and natural resource management. In this part of the dissertation, an attempt has been made to examine the status of livelihood Development of the dwellers living in and around a national park; participation of inhabitants in conservation and protection of natural resources particularly

conservation of tiger; prospective areas for livelihood development.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS

The Scheduled Tribes and notified in 30 States/Union Territories while the number of individual ethnic group, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705. The treble population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 core, constituting 8.6 percent of the total population. About 89.97 percent of them live in rural areas and 10.03 percent in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribal's from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66 percent against the 17.69 percent of the entire population. Broadly the Scheduled Tribes inhabit two distinct geographical areas-the Central India and the North-Eastern Area. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in Dental India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh (14.69percent), Chhattisgarh (7.5 percent), Jharkhand (8.29 percent), Andhra Pradesh (5.7 percent), Maharashtra (10.08 percent), Orissa (9.2 percent), Gujarat (8.55 percent), and Rajasthan (8.86 percent). The other distinct area is the North East (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh).Among states, Mizoram has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (94.43 percent) and Uttar Pradesh has the lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (0.57 percent) About 17 states and 2 Union Territories have higher percentage of Scheduled Tribes population than country's average of 8.6 percent .As per Census 2011, 49 districts in the country have more than 75 percent of Scheduled Tribes population. At the district level, 2011 Census reveals that there are 90 districts where Scheduled Tribes population is 50 percent or more. As per Census 2001, this number was 75 districts. Out of these 90 districts, 48 districts in 8 North Eastern States. All the districts in Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland have more than 60 percent of Scheduled Tribes population. Among States Mizoram (94.43 percent) has highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes and Uttar Pradesh the lowest (0.57 percent). Among Union

Territories, Lakshadweep with 94.8 percent of Scheduled Tribes population ranks first and Daman & Diu has the lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (6.32 percent). With respect to districts, Korong Kamet district of Arunachal Pradesh has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes (98.58 percent) and Kanauji in Uttar Pradesh has the lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes.

Tribal workers are mainly cultivators and labors. They are also engaged in domestic service. The proportion of tribal households engaged in cultivation was recorded high in North-Eastern region (15.59 percent). It was found more pronouncing in Mizoram (72.95 percent) followed by Nagaland (60.83 percent) and Arunachal Pradesh (56.42 percent). In the state of West Bengal, tribal households engaged in cultivation was reported 1016 percent while 5.17 percent tribal households were manual casual labours. The proportion of tribal households engaged in manual casual labor was recorded high in Meghalaya (36.39 percent) followed by Tripura (16.41 percent) and Mizoram (8.78 percent). Tribal employment in salaried jobs has been reported negligible (0.22 percent). About 0.48 percent tribal households were employed in salaried jobs in government sector in India. Concentration of tribal population was reported high in North-Eastern region (28.63 percent) followed by West region (16.58 percent) and Central region (10.97 percent). Proportion of tribal households was recorded significantly high in Mizoram followed by Nagaland and Meghalaya. Tribal employment in salaried job in government sector was recorded high in North-Eastern region (3.25 percent) and it was recorded more pronouncing in Nagaland (17.82 percent) followed by Arunachal Pradesh.

LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES:

The concept of livelihoods expands the research beyond production, employment, and income to include activities that increase food security, health, social networks, and savings. Rural living is emphasized socially, environmentally, and

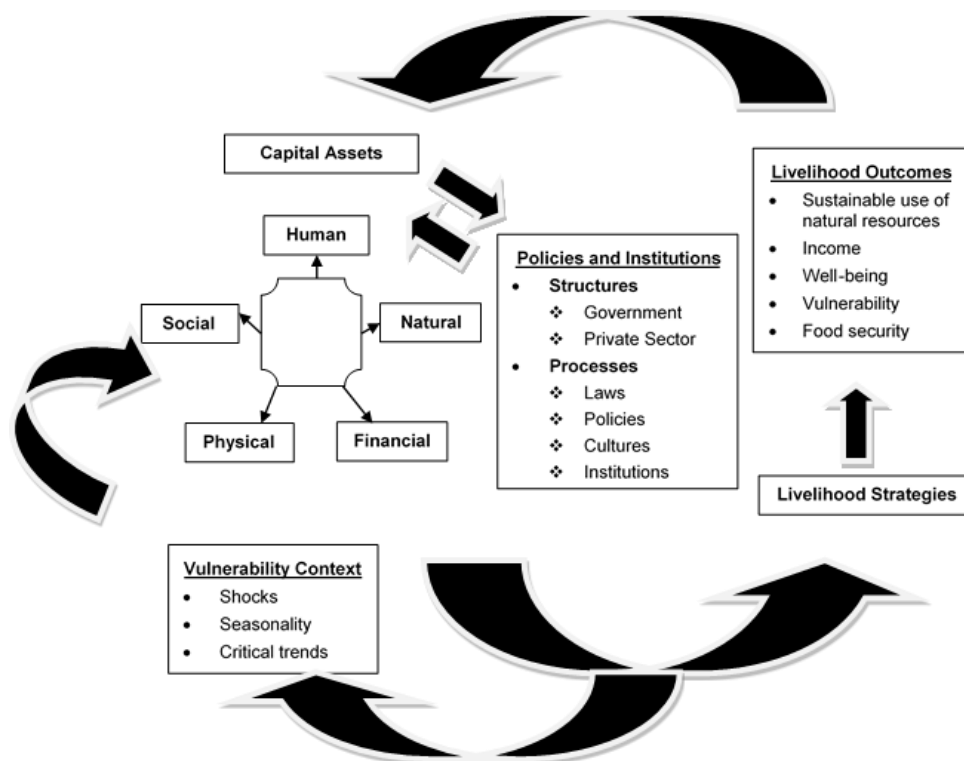
economically (Bryceson, 1999). The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach seeks to better comprehend the lives of the disadvantaged. It considers the major factors affecting the lives of the poor, as well as their usual connections. It can be used to plan new development efforts and evaluate existing ones. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach comprises two major components: (a) framework for understanding poverty and a plan for alleviating it. (b) a set of values for fighting poverty. There is no one Sustainable Livelihood approach, and adaptation is a movement hallmark. People, especially rural poor people, are at the center of a web of interconnected variables that affect how they and their families construct a sustainable existence. The resources and assets they have access to and use are closest to the structure's people. Other examples include their health, access to education and credit, and social support networks. Their vulnerability context, which includes trends, shocks, and seasonality, influences their access to these assets. The prevailing social, institutional, and political atmosphere influences how people unite and use their resources to attain their goals. These are their livelihoods (ADB, 2008). People, not wealth or governments, are the main concern. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach identifies the key constraints and opportunities faced by disadvantaged people. Based on these concepts, it helps disadvantaged people overcome hurdles or seizes opportunities. No model or universal solution can embrace all aspects of people's lives, but the framework tries. It is a tool for stimulating thought and analysis that must be adapted to the situation (Chart 1). A framework for thinking about impoverished people's livelihoods is intended to foster conversation and thought on the factors influencing livelihoods, their interactions, and relative relevance in a given setting. This could help find better ways to sustain livelihoods and reduce poverty (ADB, 2008). Most people agree that livelihoods and forests are independent policy areas, that insecurity of livelihoods constrains forest conservation, that forest conservation must not jeopardize livelihoods, and that improving livelihoods is contingent on forest conservation. Forest conservation and livelihood development are

vital. Policies and institutions that ignore the inextricable linkages between forests and livelihoods must be scrutinized and held socially accountable. Human, social, physical, financial, and natural capital all contribute to forest livelihoods. Developing and managing forest-based resources offers significant possibility for improving livelihoods, development and management of agro-forestry and social-

forestry; development and management of bio-fuel, bamboo resources; organic farming, horticultural crops, handicrafts; cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants; and so on. Even in the tourism sector, livelihoods can be developed because rural, cultural, and wildlife tourism have huge promise (World Bank, 2006).

Chart: 1

The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



Source: DFID, 2008

Management and expansion of NTFPs resources are vital for many reasons. Local NTFP processing can also help rural off-farm employment. Small-scale forest-based enterprises, many of which are based on NTFPs, provide up to 50% of revenue for 20-30 percent of rural workers in India (Campbell, 1994). Forests contribute significantly to the GDP. A large rural population relies on forest resources to develop their living. Non-timber forest products can reduce poverty, provide sustainable livelihoods, and protect forests (Singh, 2014). In India, 275 million

rural poor people, or 27 percent of the total population, rely on NTFPs for subsistence and cash income (Malhotra & Bhattacharya, 2010; Bhattacharya & Hayat, 2009). This dependence is particularly significant among India's 89 million tribal people, the lowest portion of the population. The NTFPs business alone can produce around 10 million workdays each year. NTFPs and related products account for 68 percent of total forestry exports. NTFPs can help local collectors start micro-small and medium businesses by providing specified tenured

rights, better collecting methods, financial support, capacity development, infrastructure, and institutional support. Sustainable NTFPs mining, processing, and sale can provide significant revenue. NTFPs often provide a better return on investment in terms of employment and revenue than commercial agriculture (Planning Commission, 2011).

FOREST RESOURCES AND TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS

The perception of tribal communities' livelihoods in India is a complex, dynamic, and multidimensional phenomenon that varies with geographic location, community type, age, gender, education, resource, service, and infrastructure fluctuations, and social, economic, cultural, ecological, and political determinants (Kumar et al., 2009). Agriculture is the primary source of income for Indian tribes, and it is important for national economic development, rural development, employment and occupation, agro-industries, food and nutrition security, growth and survival, social, economic, and cultural circumstances, and poverty alleviation (Surayya et al., 2008). Around 70 percent of the population relies on rain-fed agriculture, which is characterized by low production, unpredictable weather and natural disasters, degraded soil with low fertility, unproductive irrigation, and depleted natural resources (Chakraborty et al., 2009). For millions of tribal people in India, these causes exacerbated poverty, migration, unemployment, underemployment, food insecurity, and malnutrition (Mourlin, 2007). Because present general endowments of production, distribution of productive assets, and productive talents are out of harmony with what is needed, the ability of agriculture and animal production to build sustainable livelihoods for the people is in constant decline (Maske et al., 2011). Through the sale of fuel wood and fodder, grazing, lopping and grass cutting, forest based handicrafts and cottage industries, sericulture, lac cultivation, beekeeping, charcoal burning, leaf plate making, liquor making, rope making and basketry, medicines, collection,

processing, and marketing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), cultivation of agricultural crops under agri-silvicultural practices, live stock, and medicines, local people's livelihoods are created through self-employment Saw milling, rayon, pulp and paper, ply wood and panel products, wood seasoning and preservation, tanning, sports goods, match splints, veneers, wooden boxes, bamboo and cane products, agricultural implements, furniture, structural wooden items, musical instruments, and other wood-based and small-scale forest-based enterprises provide secondary employment and livelihood opportunities for tribal people (Pant, 1984; Gera, 2002).

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Karnataka, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, and Telengana are the top 10 states in terms of bamboo bearing area (%) according to the India State of Forest Report, 2019. The scattered bamboo bearing area accounted for a large portion of the total bamboo bearing area. Although there has been a large rise in bamboo bearing, the dense bamboo bearing area has shrunk from 2001 to 2019. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Assam account for high dependence on forests for bamboo. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are large ten states in terms of dependence on forests for small timber. Nagaland had the highest per capita reliance on forests for fuel wood, followed by Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Kerala. Mizoram, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Telengana, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Madhya Pradesh were among the top 10 states in terms of per capita reliance on forests for fodder. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Jharkhand, and Odisha all have a significant per capita reliance on bamboo forests. Dadara Haveli, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Andaman and

Nicobar Islands, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Maharashtra were among the top 10 states in terms of per capita reliance on forests for small timber.

Tribal populations in India, particularly those living in the Vth and VIth Scheduled Areas, rely heavily on forest resources for subsistence and revenue. This is because they don't have many options; they also don't have effective sources of income due to a lack of excellent education and skills. As a result, having safe access to woods is critical to their food and livelihood security. In terms of legal protection of people's livelihoods and participatory forest conservation and management, there has been a significant development in policy with the 1988 Forest Policy, PESA, 1996, and FRA, 2006. However, tribals and other forest-dwelling populations continue to be concerned about their forest resource rights, owing to the forest bureaucracy's antagonistic, albeit colonial attitude, as well as lengthy litigations against tribal forest rights in numerous high courts and the Supreme Court. The rules and recommendations for implementing FRA were not released until 2008, with amended guidelines being released in 2012. Only over 4.2 million claims, consisting of 4.09 million individual and 0.15 million community claims, were received up to March 31, 2019, according to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, of which 1.75 million, or roughly 41 percent, were rejected. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal had a high percentage of claims rejected. Only roughly 1.9 million individual titles and 76 thousand communal titles, totaling about 5.24 million hectares, were distributed (Government of India, TRIFED, 2019). It is anticipated that 35- 40 million hectares of India's forest land should be designated as CFR (Community Forest Resource), benefiting around 150 million people, including over 100 million tribals, in 1.7 lakh villages (Vasundhara, 2015). After more than a decade of FRA implementation, the overall forest area over which CFR rights have been recognized is 3.56 million hectares, or around 8.9% of the entire forest area. In many regions, the tribals' settled territory is substantially less than their occupation

(Saxena, 2015). Furthermore, the diversion of small amounts of forest property for community facilities, which requires a distinct procedure, has been reported as recognition of community forest rights, giving the erroneous impression that such rights exist (Saxena, 2015; Madhu Sarin, 2014). The states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha accounted for 83.5 percent of all community titles distributed and 73.5 percent of all community forest land distributed. With the immense economic, social, and ecological benefits of individual and community forest management in mind, the Centre, in collaboration with State governments, should fully implement the Forest Rights Act, 2006. It has the ability to open up a plethora of development prospects in tribal communities on a win-win basis for all parties involved. These possibilities must not be missed, and all concerned people and governments should make every effort to ensure that essential elements of the FRA/CFR are not compromised in any way (Haque, 2020).

CONCLUSION

Livelihood security and sustainable development are the major development agenda in the policy and planning of forestry sector development. It has been well realized that agriculture sector cannot absorb the increasing work force for livelihood generation while industry sector has already shrunk over the period. Thus, the non-farm sector has enormous potential for the employment generation. Forest dependent people may have a crucial role in the conservation and development of the forestry resources as well as conservation and protection of wild animals such as tigers; however, the livelihood security is imperative. Significantly, the biotic pressure and stress on part of the forest dependent people has to be reduced through providing opportunities for livelihood development as well as incorporating economic activities which promote livelihood development for the forest dwellers and farmers nearby the forest areas. In order to take advantage of bamboo resource generation, national agriculture policy should encompass and stress on efficient use of resources and conservation of soil

and water and promotion of bamboo based agro-forestry be ensured and adopted at the state level. It is necessary to development bamboo-based agro-forestry system based on species suitable available in particular area. Intensive training is also required in order ensuring wider industrial application of bamboo products and promoting bamboo-based handicrafts. An integrated, multi-pronged and multi strategy is required to promote atrophy plantation program me in the degraded and waste land for employment generation, poverty alleviation, income generation and social empowerment of the poor farming community. Agro-forestry and social-forestry are prime requisites for maintain of ecological balance and augmentation of biomass production in the agriculture system. Today, forestry has a wide spectrum of interfaces and multi-dimensional array of impacts. The situation calls for new and in-depth knowledge about forest resources, their use, their management and conservation, etc. Forest resources and forestlands should be sustained ably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological cultural and spiritual human needs have presented and future generations. The farmers should be encouraged by government and research institutions to take up form/agro-forestry for higher income generation through evolving technology, extension and credit support packages. Most Indian tribal groups, especially those residing inside Scheduled Areas V and VI, rely on forest resources for food and income. They lack options and effective income sources due to a lack of superior education and abilities. Hence, securing access to forests is vital for their food and livelihood.

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