

A Brief History of Tribal Revolts in British India and Reconstruction of their lives after Independence

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The establishment of British power in India was started the difficulties among the tribals and process of consolidation on the colonization of the economy and society. This process produced discontent, resentment and resistance at every stage.

The tribal people were mostly depended upon the forest resources. In fact there is a closer and intimate contact between the tribals and the forest. Forests were their living place and an important source of livelihood. The forest economy is the tribal economy and vice versa. Forest was also influence their religious beliefs. They worshipped the trees , animals and nature as part of nature worship. Many of the tribal movements were agrarian under forest based and against the zamindars, money lenders and government officials. When they failed to repay their debts, their lands were confiscated by the money lenders and the landlords.

Thus the tribals were forced to work as tenants in their own land. Some of them were reduced to the position of bonded labourers. some of the tribals were employed by the police and the revenue personal to do their personal and official work without any remuneration. The tribals properties were also occupied by the forest contractors and their agents. Tribals led a miserable life.

Aims and objectives: It was after revolts there was a tremendous progress in the lives of the tribals economically , socially, and political in the all walks of their life.

Tribal societies all over India developing more rapidly after independence. The constitution makers are taken more care. They adopted integrated approach tribal development in which the tribals while preserving their own identity will be able to reap the benefits of development.

Methodology : My own observations with living with tribal area people, literary evidence ,journals government development schemes.

THE CAUSES OF TRIBAL REVOLTS

A. The colonial administration and their relative isolation and got them fully within the ambit of colonisation.

B. the British land settlements in India had eroded the tribal traditions of joint ownership and sharpened tensions within the tribal society.

C. It introduces a large number of money lenders ,traders under revenue farmers does middleman among the tribals. This middleman were the chief instruments for bringing the tribal people within the the vertex of the colonial economy and exploitation. The middleman outsiders who increasingly took possession of tribal lands and ensnared the tribals in a web of debt. In time, the tribal people increasingly lost their lands and were reduced to the position of agricultural labourers sharecroppers and rack rented tenants on the land they had area brought under cultivation.

MAJOR TRIBAL REVOLTS IN INDIA

1. Chuar tribal movement was held in 1766 to 1772 . It was held under the leadership of Raja Jagannath. Main cause was excess revenue demand and Bengal famine.
2. Bhills tribal movement was held in 1817, under the leadership of sevaram. The main cause was agrarian hardships.
3. Hos tribal movement was held in 1820 for the main cause was British occupation of singhbum.
4. Ramosi tribal movement was held in 1822 to under the leadership of chittoor Singh, Pratap Singh, Dattatreya Patkar. The main cause for the tribal movement was British administration. 5. Kolis tribal movement was held in 1824 the main cause was dismantle of forests.

6. Ahom tribal movement was held in 1828 to 1833, their leader was Gomadhar Kunwar. The main cause was British occupation.
7. Khasi movement was held in 1829 to 1832, their leader was Tiruth Singh. The main cause was British occupation.
8. Kol movement was held in 1831 to 1832, their leader was Buddha bhagat. The main cause is land transfer to outsiders.
9. Santhals movement was held 1855 to 1856, their leaders are Sidhu and Kanhu; the main cause was British rule.
10. Naikda movement was held in 1858 under Rup Singh.
11. Bhuyan and Juang movement was in 1867 to 1868 and 1891; their leaders are Ratna Naik and Dharni Nayak. The main cause was British rule.
12. Kacha Nagas movement was held in 1882 under Shambhudan. The main cause is British intervention of their life.
13. Munda movement was held in 1899 under Birsa Munda. The main cause was land system of Britishers, and missionary activity and forced labour.
14. Bills movement was held in 1913 under Govind guru. The main cause was temperance and purification movement.
15. Chenchus movement was held in 1922 to 1924 against the British rule.
16. Koyas/Rampas movement was held in 1922 to 1924 under Alluri Sitaramaraju. The main cause was British administration.
17. Naga movement was held in 1932, under Jadunang and Rani Gaidinlu. The main cause was reformist movement later directed against excess of British rule.

TRIBAL REVOLTS IN TELANGANA

Most of the tribal revolts were agricultural in nature. Some of the tribals were also due to the forest laws. The tribals were subject to a lot of oppression and humiliation inflicted by the non-locals, lower level government officers, local jameendars and the money lenders. When they failed to repay their debts, their lands were confiscated. These tribals were used by the officials for the private and public works without any remuneration whatsoever.

THE REVOLT OF RAMJI GOND

In 1853 and 1860 CE the tribal people called the gonds on the Muslims called the rohillas revolted against the British government. They revolted under the leadership of Ramji Gond and Rohilla in Nirmal and its adjacent areas in the Adilabad district.

THE REVOLT OF KUMARAMBHEEM 1938 TO 1940

Tribals were threatened by the non-locals like the Marathas, Muslims and Telugu people. They even occupied the lands of gonds and Kolams. It was under these circumstances that the young Komaram Bheem had decided to fight against the Nizam's government and also against the exploitation of the non-locals. Komaram Bheem adopted the gorilla method of fighting. They fought against the courts and laws and also the general authority of the Nizam.

The slogan of Komaram Bheem was 'Jal, Jungle, Jameen'. He wanted the tribals to enjoy the rights over all the resources of the forest.

Tribals faced a lot of exploitation in British India. After independence various provisions were made keeping in view the possible challenges the tribal societies will face in the context of integration and development process. Laws are made by Parliament and state legislatures for the tribal development.

Some of the important provisions of the constitution of India related to scheduled tribes are; The first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, followed the policy of integration rather than the assimilation of the

tribes with the rest of the nation. It was also known as 'Tribal panchasheel, where focus was on the the autonomy, capacity building ,respect for tribal culture under list administration.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Article 244 along with fifth schedule provides for the administration of of scheduled and tribal areas in the states other than Assam, meghalaya ,tripura and mizoram.
2. The provisions of the sixth schedule CEL apply to the administration of the tribal areas in the states of Assam, meghalaya, tripura ,and mizoram.
3. Article 339 deals with the control of the union over the administration of scheduled areas and the welfare of scheduled tribes.
4. article 46 provides an obligation on the state to promote educational and economic interests of SC and ST and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
5. Article 338 (A) provides for the national commission for scheduled tribes for the welfare of STs in the state.

INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

National commission for schedule tribes; It was established by amending article 338 and inserting a new article 338(A) in the constitution through 89th constitutional amendment Act,2003. The major functions of the commission are;1. to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled tribes under the constitution.2.to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled tribes.3. to advise on the planning process of socio economic development of the scheduled tribes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF STS

THE PANCHAYAT EXTENSION TO THE SCHEDULED AREAS ACT (PESA)1996

It was enacted in 1996 to empower scheduled areas to democratic decentralization. Gram Sabha shall approve the plans programs and projects for social and economic development before their implementation. It would be responsible for the identification for selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programs. Recommendations of the Grama sabha for the panchayats will be mandatory for granting licences for mining minerals and concessions for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction in the scheduled areas. The power to control local plans and resources for such plants including tribal sub plans.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006

This act seeks to recognise rights and occupation in the forest land.Forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations are protected by this act.It recognises and securities committee rights are rights over common property resources of the communities in addition to their individual rights. It grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities.

Such type of steps are taken by the government to development of the scheduled tribes. Still there is poverty, illiteracy ,unemployment and backwardness prevailing among the scheduled tribes. There is a crying need to take so many development activities are needed to tribal people.

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