



EQUITY OF SEX RATIO AMONG INDIAN TRIBES

Dr. Vishnu M. Shinde

Associate Professor

Department of Studies in Education, Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University
Jnanshakti Campus, Vijayapura

Abstract

Generally ancient habitats of a country are called as **Adivasis** or tribal community. In India we cannot have a readymade definition with which one can go in to the field and locate a tribe, the greatest emphasis has to be placed on an historical perspective for long solution to the problem of definition of a tribe has been eluding the administration.

As compared to the Sex ratio for overall population (933 females per 1000 male) the sex ratio among scheduled tribes is more favourable, at 977 females Per thousand males (2001 census). In all states except Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal, the ST sex ratio as per 2001 census was more women favoured. The following common factors found among tribes which are contributed for maintained the Sex ratio.

1. They believe in mother gods. Killing girl child or infants is grate sin.
2. The majority of tribe have community panchayats and regulations. These regulations prevent them from killing of girls.
3. Most of tribes are not in touch with modernity. Because o that they are innocent.
4. Dowry system is not in practice in most of tribes of India. This may be not feeling them girls are burden to them.
5. Tribal religious taboos are so strong that they can break them and do something unnatural.

A tribal community are following certain human values like cooperation, unity, Gender equality, nature friendliness we also must fallow them in these practices. Tribal culture, education and economic progress is very important today. As we are living in globalisation we must preserve our culture and traditions. As recently National education policy 2020 advocated about localisation and local skill development tribes must be considered as master trainers for art and craft of India.

Keywords: Tribe, Sex Ratio, Janah, Adivasi, Globalisation, Primitive Tribes, Distinctive Culture, National Education Policy 2020

Introduction

In ancient Indian literature some mention has been made about the tribes. They were known by different terms, which mean 'Janah' denoting an agglomeration of individuals forming a large group of non-monarchical type with a definite territory, kinship, common ancestry and common culture pattern.

Generally ancient habitats of a country are called as **Adivasis** or tribal community.

Definition of Tribe: In India we cannot have a readymade definition with which one can go in to the field and locate a tribe, the greatest emphasis has to be placed on an historical perspective for long solution to the problem of definition of a tribe has been eluding the administration.

Anthropologist and sociologists have attempted different definitions.

According New **Encyclopedia Britannica**, a group of people speaking a common language observing uniform rules of social organization, and working together for common purposes, such as trade, agriculture or warfare, other typical characteristics include a common name, a contiguous territory, a relatively uniform of common descent.

Andre Betelle: has made a vigorous exercise to define tribe on a purely theoretical level. He defines that the tribal have some characteristics which make them a society. They have boundaries, tribes are self-contained unit. Above all the tribal society has a common culture.

Characteristics of Tribal community: Tribal community has unique characteristics such as (i) common locality (ii) common name, territory and language (iii) strong kinship with endogamy and distinct taboos, (iv) specific customs, moral codes (v) religious beliefs and rituals, (vi) uneducated and absence of schooling (vii) primitive traits (viii) a distinctive culture (ix) shyness of contact with the public at large. (x) Geographical isolation (xi) social, economical backwardness. (xii) unity of social organization (xiii) common ownership of the means of production (xiv) they are self-contained unit (xv) unique occupational pattern (xvi) unique oral folk forms and folk dance (xvii) Folk art and craft work (xviii) Herbals and self-medicines (xix) Low level of technological and scientific development.

The Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Areas in India

Scheduled Tribes: The constitution of India does not define scheduled Tribes as such. Article 366 (25) refers to scheduled Tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the constitution. This article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the president through an initial public notification will be considered as scheduled Tribes.



Any further amendment in the list is through an act of parliament. The list of scheduled tribes is state specific and community declared as Scheduled Tribe in a state need not be so in another state. The essential characteristics were first laid down by the Lokur committee. For a community to be identified as Scheduled Tribe the major five characteristics are

- i. Primitive traits
- ii. A distinctive culture
- iii. Shyness of contact with the public at large
- iv. Geographical isolation and
- v. Social and economic Backwardness

The inclusion of Scheduled Tribes is an ongoing process. The procedure for inclusion in the list of Scheduled tribes and for exclusion from the list of scheduled Tribes is also discussed with important variables of scheduled Tribes.

Distribution of Tribes: The tribal population of the country, as per the 2001 census, is 8.43 crores, constituting 8.2% of the total population. The population of tribes had grown at the growth rate of 24.45% during the period 1991-2001 more of the scheduled tribe population is concentrated in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Karnataka.

Tribes communities live in about 15% of the country's areas, in various ecological and geoclimatic conditions ranging from plains, Forests, hills and inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development while some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of live at one end of the spectrum. There are 75 primitive tribal groups (PTGs) at the other, who are characterized by

- (a) Pre-agriculture level of technology.
- (b) Stagnant or declining population
- (c) Extremely low literacy and
- (d) Subsistence level of economic stability.

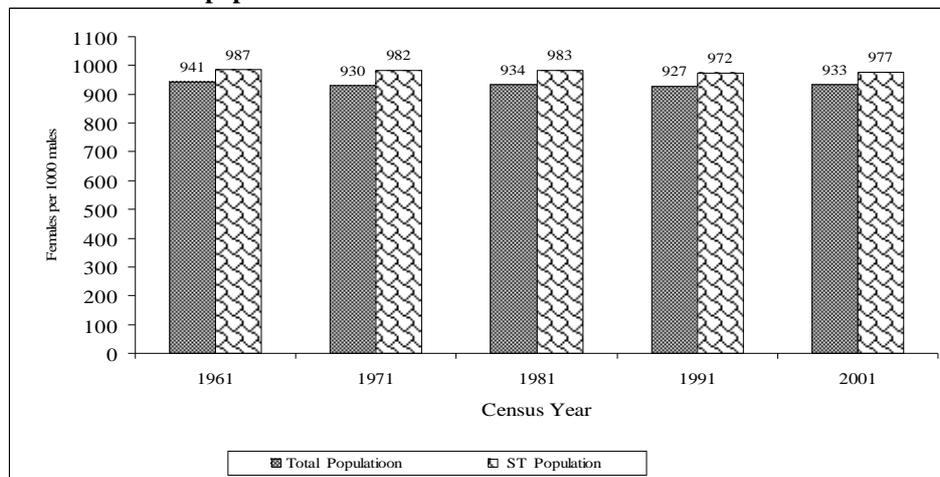
The Major Tribes: There are over 500 tribes as notified under Article 342 of the country, the largest number being in the constitution of India, spread over different states and union territories of the state of Orissa that is 62. The main concentration of tribal population is in central India and in the North- Eastern states. However, they have their presence in all states and union territories except Harayana, Panjab, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh.

The predominant tribal populated states of the country (Tribal population more than 50% of the total population) are: Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland, Union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

Growth: The decadal population growth between the census year 1981 to 1991 in respect of the tribal population has been higher (31.64%) than that for the entire population (23.51%) However during census year 1991 to 2001 it has been 24.45% for the entire population. The ST population in the state of Karnataka has witnessed highest growth rate of 80.82 followed by Nagaland (67.23%). The lowest growth rate in respect of ST population as per the 2001 census was recorded in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (10.08%) followed by Himachal Pradesh (12.02%).

Sex Ratio: As compared to the Sex ratio for overall population (933 females per 1000 male) the sex ratio among scheduled tribes is more favourable, at 977 females Per thousand males (2001 census). In all states except Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal, the ST sex ratio as per 2001 census was more women favoured.

Comparative Sex Ratio of ST and total population





Discussion: The above bar graph clearly shows that from last sixty years in India tribal communities have better sex ratio when compared to general population. Sex Ratio of ST and total population as per 2011 census is 990 women per 1000 male. It is seen from majority tribes of India that they never discriminate women and Girl child. The following common factors found among tribes which are contributed for maintained the Sex ratio.

1. They believe in mother gods. Killing girl child or infants is grate sin.
2. The majority of tribe have community panchayats and regulations. These regulations prevent them from killing of girls.
3. Most of tribes are not in touch with modernity. Because o that they are innocent.
4. Dowry system is not in practice in most of tribes of India. This may be not feeling them girls are burden to them.
5. Tribal religious taboos are so strong that they can break them and do something unnatural.
6. Medical advancements like scanning and finding the sex of baby is not yet reached to them.
7. The sex ratio of tribes in India is more favourable because since time immemorial, tribals have never discriminated between boy and Girl. They have Matriarchal society.
8. Tribal's never go for sex determination and female foeticide whereas schedule caste the discriminate is present.

Reasons for sex equity among tribes of India

1. In the absence of any inference, there is always an excess of male mortality during the infancy since the female fetes and the female infant is biologically stronger compared to her male.
2. Most of tribes are hilly and forest habitats. They are not affected by modern economic impacts. They believe in humanity.
3. Modern property aspects male dominance and dowry system is not exists in tribes.
4. The marriage is in siblings not allows them to go for infanticides.
5. Tribe panchayats not allows them for sex discrimination.

Lesson from tribes to modern world: Modern societies so called improved societies must learn lesson from tribes about gender equality. Specially educated, rich people must know how rural and tribal people respect girl child. Our education and social institutions including media must work hard to convey this message to community. By this we can maintain sex equality.

Conclusion: A tribal community are following certain human values like cooperation, unity, Gender equality, nature friendliness we also must fallow them in these practices. Tribal culture, education and economic progress is very important today. As we are living in globalisation we must preserve our culture and traditions. As recently National education policy 2020 advocated about localisation and local skill development tribes must be considered as master trainers for art and craft of India.

References

- B.N.Singh and Manas Chatterjee (2005) Tribes in India, pub, R.B.S.A. Jaipur.
- Census of India (1991), Primary census Abstract, published by Directorate of Census, Kannada.
- Chandra.V. (1968) Handbook on Scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes, Pub, office of the commissioner for SC and ST, New Delhi.
- Government of India (1978) "Report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.
- Government of India (1984): "Selected Educational Statistics for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" Ministry of Education, New Delhi.
- Government of India (1986): "National Policy on Education" Ministry of Human Resource Development New Delhi.
- Karnataka State Gazetteer, (1988) Mysore District, Government of Karnataka.
- Parvathamma.C.(1984): Scheduled Castes and Tribes: A Socio- Economic Survey, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Patel Tara. (1984): Development of Education among Tribal women, Mittal publishing, New Delhi.
- Patil.S.(1991) Tribal Education in India: A case study of Orissa, NCERT, New Delhi.
- Sujatha.K.(1987): Education of the forgotten children of the forests: A case study of Yannadi Tribes, Konark Publishers, New Delhi.
- Vishnu shinde (2013): Scheduled tribes and Education, Published by Prasaranga, Karnataka Stae women university Bijapur