

Social Organisation of Tribe

- Mostly homogeneous society
- Stratification is seen in the form of age, traditional occupation (priest or chief) and clan
- Belief in supernatural and magic
- Mostly nuclear families living in small villages in remote areas – forests, small hamlets
- Apart from language, dressing style (clothes and jewellery), some customs, and huts are also part of tribal identity

Tribal dormitories

- In many tribal communities this system exists – separate for young boys and girls
- Purpose is to initiate them to community life, cooperative endeavour, sexual union

e.g **Ghotuls in MP – Muria Gond Tribe**

- Common for both boys and girls

Young unmarried youth gather together in the evenings for dance, entertainment, and to sleep

Dormitory cont'd

- Two types of Ghotul – 'Jodidar' for permanent pairs and 'Mundi Balanda' – for those who change partners after specific periods
- **Rang Bang** – among the Bhotias of Himalayan villages where girls entertain boys with drinks
- **Morung** – Naga dorm only for boys
- **Ikhnichì and Iloichi** – Memis of NE India separate for boys and girls
- **Dhumkuria** (Oraons)
- **Gitiora** (Munda and Ho)

Family Structure

- Both patriarchal and matriarchal
- ***Matriarchal Family – through the female line***
 - Khasi and Garo (NE), Kadar, Irula and Palayan (South)
 - Daughters run the family
 - Husbands are producers of children
 - No right over wife's property
 - Husband may be just visiting or sometimes allowed to live with the wives' families
 - The brother of the wife has more power than the husband

Classification of Tribes based on Contact

- **Two main categories**

- those living in their original habitat
- those not living in their original habitat

- **Those living in their original habitat -**

- a) Relatively Isolated – very little outside contact and most socio-cultural features are intact (e.g Kadars in South India)
- b) Two or more Tribal groups living in the same area – maintain mutual contacts, but isolated from other non-tribal groups (e.g Todas, Kotas and Badagas)

Those in their Original Habitat – cont'd)

- c) Living with other tribal/religious groups in the same community – the ***sub-types*** are:
- Following their own religion – retain most social and cultural features
 - Accepting leadership and dominance of other groups but remaining separate from other religious groups
 - Those moving towards ***hinduisation*** or getting ***sanskritised*** – accepting a lower status - untouchables
 - Those getting ***baptised*** – christianity and

Those living away from their habitats

- Settled in neighbouring villages (maybe classified into 5 above groups)
- Living in separate villages in other areas
- Settled in industrial centres, tea plantations and other areas where there is possibility of unskilled/semi-skilled employment

Tribal Laws in India

- Scheduled V of the constitution
- PESA (Panchayat Extension in Scheduled Areas) - 1996
- Tribal land alienation Act
- Forest Bill (new) dwelling tribals – distribution of lands to forest dwelling tribes Forest Rights Act (FRA 2006)
- Special development programmes for tribals, for primitive tribes – poverty alleviation
- Reservation in educational institutions and government jobs – premier services as well
- Special provision in sports and culture
- There is a hierarchy of policies – tribal vs industrial/market oriented

Social Exclusion In spite of Inclusion Policies

- Social Exclusion is a process in which one section of society looks down upon the other, and alienates and excludes the latter from all opportunities of development on an arbitrary basis. The dominant section uses not only religion, tradition and culture but also political and bureaucratic powers and if nothing works also indulges in violence to perpetuate its dominant position.
- The condition of tribals (indigenous communities) in India who constitute over 9 percent of India's population is a classic case.

Neo-liberal Globalisation

- One major policy has affected the tribals – industrialisation for economic growth based on extraction of minerals and natural resources
- Displacement, migration and forced migration
- Minerals found in those regions where tribals are concentrated – e.g Orissa, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand where large scale mining activities have eroded the livelihood basis of tribals

Social Exclusion Issues

- Tribals living in margins have been further marginalised and socially excluded in their new habitats – with displacement/forced migration
 - Loss of identity
 - Constitutional rights eroded – disentitlement
 - Women are adversely affected – increase in trafficking and violence against women
 - Increasing conflicts with other groups e.g based on religion
 - Taken to arms – Naxalism and Maoist groups
- Continue to be looked down upon by the mainstream society

Social Exclusion of Tribes



