



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tribes of Uttar Pradesh, Brief Introduction

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Abstract

The Paper highlights Briefly socio - economic conditions with historical backgrounds of tribal communities inhabit in Uttar Pradesh. As regarded tribes are aborigines of country and are also inhabited in Uttar Pradesh for a long period. Every tribes in this state related with kingdoms in past, they are owner of cultural, social and religious heritage but now they are struggling for their cultural, political and social identity, they have lost their identity and also pride.Their cultural and social aspect are different but their economical status are same. They live in poverty, depend on forest produce,agriculture and non regular works.

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Introduction:-

Uttar Pradesh has an immemorial culture, historical background and centre of religious faith therefore, state sustained a different status in Country. Specially after independence Uttar Pradesh has been an axis of politics in Country. Various tribes inhabitant in Uttar Pradesh. As per 1871 census total population of Central India and Bundel Khand were 7699502, total population of North - West Provinces were 31688217, total population of Oudh Provinces was 11220232 and total population of Central provinces was 9251299 (Census 1871). Again 1891 census of India was conducted by the British government total population of tribes in North - Western Provinces and Oudh (Uttar Pradesh including Utrakhhand), was 205025 (census 1891), they were divided into many category based on mixture of caste and occupation wherewith many new caste were originate..As per census 1931 only nineteen tribes population was 4655062. (Variation of population of selected tribes table XVII 1931).

The total tribal population of Uttar Pradesh is, 1134273 constituting 0.6 percent of total population, out of which 0.7 percent live in rural areas and 0.2 percent live in urban areas. The decennial growth of tribal population has been 930.6 percent during 2001- 2011. The over all sex ratio of the tribal population is 944 females per 1000 males in Uttar Pradesh, which is higher than the state average 849 (Census 2011) .The overall literacy rate of the scheduled tribes has increased from 15.1 percent at 2001 census to 20.6 percent at 2011 census. Despite improvement the literacy rate of STs considerably lower than the state average of 67.7 percent aggregated for total STs literacy rates 55.7 percent.

In Uttar Pradesh, Gonds (including four sub caste-Dhuriya,Nayak, Ojaha,Patari and RajGond) is the most populous tribe, constitute 50.16 percent of total scheduled tribes population in Uttar Pradesh (Census 2011) Kharwar is the second major tribe, (14.16) of the state, followed by Tharu, Shariya, Baiga, Panika, Agaria, Bhuinya, Bhotia, Buksa, Chero, Jaunsari, Raji, Parhiya and Patari. Patari is little tribal Community in Uttar Pradesh

Tribes in Uttar Pradesh after Independence:-

After independence in whole country total 419 cast were included in scheduled caste but for the scheduled tribes constitution did not lay down any criteria for identification of scheduled tribes. The term “Scheduled Tribes” is defined in Article 366 (25) of the Constitution as “Such tribes or tribal communities or parts of, or groups within such tribes, or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be scheduled tribes for the purposes of this

constitution this provision (Article 342) puts the onus on the president, in consultation with the governor to identify tribes in that State for inclusion in scheduled category.

In 1950 it was assumed that any tribes did not exist in Uttar Pradesh while many of tribes inhabited in state for example Agaria, Gond, Kharwar, Majhwar, Baiga, Kol, Panika, Turaha, Mallah, Chero, Saharia etc. (Verma 2013) Their exclusion was not only theoretically wrong, but made them suffer, substantial deprivation. It had very conservative values that the most tribes lived in the forest and hilly area. If that were true how could 1134273 tribes in 2011 Census.

In June 1967, Five communities of the state were listed in scheduled tribes these are Tharu Buksa, Bhotia, Jaunsari and Raji as per census 2001 total population of these tribes were 107, 963, constituting a meager 0.1% of total population of the state. Again Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Act was notified on 08, 01, 2003 ten communities in Uttar Pradesh were transferred from SCs list to STs list. But these Communities recognised as scheduled tribes in specific districts of U.P. in 2002 – 03.

Table 1- Communities Recognised as Scheduled Tribes in specific District in 2002

Sl.No.	Caste/Sub - Castes	Specific districts
1.	Gond (Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Raj Gond)	Ballia, Ghazipur, Mau, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Basti, Azamgarh, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Maharjganj, Jaunpur
2.	Kharwar, Khairwar	Ballia, Deoria, Ghazipur, Varansi and Sonbhadra
3.	Saharya	Lallitpur
4.	Parhiya	Sonbhadra
5.	Panika, Pankha	Sonbhadra and Mirzapur
6.	Agaria	Sonbhadra
7.	Patari	Sonbhadra
8.	Chero	Sonbhadra and Varansi
9.	Bhuinya, Bhuiya	Sonbhadra
10.	Baiga	Sonbhadra

Source - SCs and STs Orders (Amendment) Act 2002

Tribes of Uttar Pradesh : Socio- Economic Conditions:-

Jaunsari- Jaunsarese are a Central Himalyan tribe. Jaunsarese claim themselves as the descendants of Pandav of Mahabharat. Jaunsarese represent the three main classes, the khasas as Rajput and Brahmins on the top, Rthe Luhar, Badai, Bajgi the artisan as the middle class and the Harijan, Dom, Koli, Kolta, Koi, Auj etc as the lowest class. Jaunsarese are Community known as the polyandrous people as they practice polyandry. Although now it is on decline as they have started practising polygamy also the dominant and leading role is played by the khasas in the social, economic and political areas (Naswa:2001).

Traditionally, due to abject poverty, arising from infertile and adverse climatic conditions in the region, bonded labour has been fact of life, but the situation improved after the implementation of the Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1976. To sustain their livelihood majority of these Jaunsarese have taken up the profession of labourers and also depend on agriculture and husbandry to eke out their living.

As per Census 2011 maximum population of Jaunsari in Uttar Pradesh live in Lallitpur district. According to census report 2011, the literacy rate of the Jaunsari tribe is total 50.6 percent. Among them men Literacy rate is 60.4 percent and female literacy rate is 39.8 percent which is poor than average state literacy rate 67.7 percent. Jaunsari community has total 2499 (61.17) people are non- workers, Only 1221 (37.82%) people are workers, in which total 745 (61.01%) people are main workers and maximum (252) people are working as agricultural labourers.

Tharu Tribe :- Tharu tribe is indigenous community, living in the terai plains on the border of Nepal and India. Tharu live in, mostly in Champaran district of Bihar and in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand, Lakhimpur kheeri, Pilibhit, Gonda, Balrampur, Gorakhpur, Baharaich, district of Uttar Pradesh (Sahani:2014)

About their origin Tharu people claim to be of Rajput and have migrated from the desert to Nepal's for western Terai region. Tharu tribe constitute about 9.2 percent of total tribal population of the state. As per census 2011, total literacy rate in Tharu tribe is 54.6 percent where male literacy rate is 66.3 percent and female literacy rate is 42.5. In Tharu community total workers are 38851 (36.80 %). Maximum Tharus are cultivators.

Buksa Tribe :- The Buksa mainly inhabit the tarai and Bhabar areas of the Uttaranchal state and Uttar Pradesh. Their place of maximum inhabitation include Bijnore and Lakhimpur Kheri in district of Uttar Pradesh. The Buksas have been living in the fertile tracts of tarai from the ancient past and claim a connection to the sons of ancestor Raja Jagatdeo of Rajasthan. Raja Jagatdeo and his followers migrated to Tarai to seek shelter from the Mughals after suffering a defeat by them (Amir:1971).

Buksa has been declared as primitive tribal group of the state in year 1981. Total literacy rate in Buksa tribe is 50.6 percent, in which male literacy rate is 60.9 and female literacy rate is 39.1 percent. Total 1767 (37.51%) people are workers in Buksa tribe. As per census 2011 Main workers are 876 (18.59%) in Buksas and total non workers are 2943 (62.48%).

Raji Tribe- The Raji, a nomadic community, anthropologically belonging to Tibeto Burman family. Raji is most backward, smallest tribe in Uttar Pradesh. They consider themselves as descendants of one of the princes of Kumaun. Raji are also believed to be the descendants of king Kirat who ruled over the region in prehistoric time. They divide themselves into a number of exogamous patrilineages like - pal, chand, Byom, Kunwar, etc.

The traditional economy of Raji was completely built around the forest and their mode of livelihood was based on collection of wild edible plants, roots, fruits, tubers, hunting and fishing supplemented by manufacturing of wooden vessels (Bisht:2006)

Raji has been declared as a primitive tribal group in the state in 1975. Total population of Raji in Uttar Pradesh is only 1295, as per census 2011. Total literacy rate in this community is 35.6 percent, where total male literacy rate is 42.1 and female literacy rate is 27.6 percent. In Raji community 324 (41.23%) people are main worker and left 761 (58.78%) are non-workers.

Bhotia Tribe- The Bhotia tribe is, a Mongoloid ethnic community. The ancestors of the Bhotia migrated from Tibet to North Eastern Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and other parts of Nepal, India, Bhutan. The entire community consists of two main social class i.e Rajputs (Upper caste) and the Dumras (Harijan or service class). However they have a number of social groups which can be identified through their dwelling. On the basis of their traditional occupations and modes of livelihood, the entire tribes can be classified under three categories viz. traders cum pastoral, agriculturist cum pastorals and agriculturists (Sahani:2014).

Total population of Bhotia community, as per census 2011 is only 5196 in Uttar Pradesh. Total literacy rate in Bhotia Community is 58.6 percent, where male literacy rate 66.8 percent and female literacy rate 49.4 percent. Total 1616 (81.77%) workers are in this community out of which main workers are 1068 (20.55%) in Bhotia community. Maximum Bhotias are engaged in other works.

Saharia Tribe - The word Saharia appears to have been derived from the Persian word 'Seh' meaning Jungle. The Muslim rulers reckoned Saharia as inhabitants of forest. This clearly shows that Saharia has always been a forest dweller living in the midst of Jungles and because of his age - old dependence on forest he is so bold and never afraid of moving in the Jungle even dark night. Saharia claim themselves as the descendants of Sabri from Ramayan and some are assumed they originate from Bramha.(Chaudhari and Choudhari:2005)

Saharia tribe inhabit, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and mainly Madhya Pradesh state. In Uttar Pradesh Saharia is recognised as scheduled tribe in Lallitpur district in 2002. Saharia constitute 6.22 percent of total Scheduled tribe population of the state. Saharia have very low literacy rate, 30.4 percent as per 2011 census, the female rate being 21.7 and of the males 38.6 percent. Total 63696 (44.87%) workers are in this community. Most of them are agricultural labourers.

Baiga Tribe -A primitive Dravidian tribe whose home in north-east has shifted from Bihar to another parts of country. The term "Bhumaior" Lord of the soil is used sometimes as a synonym for Baiga in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. They are also known for their magic and Drugs. Baiga also found in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand states.

Baiga Community has been declared as tribe in Sonbhadra district, State of Uttar Pradesh in 2002. Baiga tribe constitute only 2.6 percent of total STs population of state as per 2011 census. The literacy level is very low due to poverty this is evident from the 2011 census where the level of literacy among them is just 28.5 percent, female literacy is meger 21.7 percent while male literacy rate is 37.4 percent as per census 2011, that out of their total population 13537(45.11%) are workers, of which 6494 (47.97%) are main workers. The Baiga tribes practice shifting cultivation in forest areas. They also sell fire wood, collect lac and other forest produce.(Hansda :2010)

Table-2 Employment Status of All ST (total, male,female) in Uttar Pradesh

SL.NO	ALL TRIBES	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL WORKER	MAIN WORKER	MARGINAL WORKER	NON WORKER
1-	ALL TRIBES	1134273	419652	212477	207175	714621
2-	BHOTIA	5196	1616	1068	547	3581
3-	BUKSA	4710	1767	876	891	2943
4-	JAUNSARI	3720	1221	745	476	2499
5-	RAJI	1295	534	324	210	761
6-	THARU	105291	38851	25335	13516	66440
7-	GOND	569035	195299	93193	102106	373736
8-	KHARWAR	160676	60164	20876	30288	100512
9-	SHARIA	70634	63696	20234	11462	38938
10-	PARHIYA	901	395	213	182	506
11-	BAIGA	30006	13537	6494	7043	16469
12-	PANIKA	24862	10084	4650	5434	14778
13-	AGARIA	17376	8035	3217	4818	9341
14-	PATARI	132	72	12	60	60
15-	CHERO	4227	18475	6605	11870	23752
16-	BHUYA	15599	6619	2201	4418	8980

Source–A Computed,A-11 STATE Primary Census Abstractfor Individual Scheduled Tribes

Kharwar Tribe :- Kharwar, Kherwar a Dravidian cultivating and landholding tribe of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orrisa, Gujarat, Rajsthan, Maharastra, Chhattisgarh. Some kharwars declare their original seat to have been the fort of Rohtas, so called as having been the chosen abode of Rohitaswa, son of Harischandra of the family of the Sun. From this ancient house they also claim descent, call themselves Surjabansis and wear the Janeo or caste thread distiguishing the Rajputs. The kharwar have six endogamous groups which are Surajbansi, Daulat bandi Paraband, Kharia, Bhogti and Maujihia. (Hansda:2010).

Kharwar community recognised as tribe in the district of Ballia, Deoria, Ghazipur, Varansi and Sonbhadra state of Uttar Pradesh. Kharwar is second populous tribe, constitute 14.16 percent of total STs population of state This community have total 58.5 percent literacy rate out of which 70.3 are men and 46.0 percent are women.Total 37.44 percent workers in this community where 12.99 are main workers,majority of population are agricultural labourers

Parhaiya Tribe- Parhaiya people live in the state of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and are also known as Baiga.According to forbes (1879) they are oldest residents of palamau, Jharkhand Prsad (1988) states that the Parhaiya are descendants of the great Hindu epic, Mahabharat so they are known as Pandawabansi.The Parhaiya is said to mean in the Gondi language the burners of the forest, on account of the fact that they practice slash and burn agriculture.

Parhaiya tribes population in the Uttar Pradesh is only 901 according to census 2011, This community recognised as sehcheduled tribe in district Sonbhadra in 2002.Parhaiya have total 42.7 where male literacy rate is 61.9 and female literacy rate is 12.31 percent.

Chero Tribe- Term Chero is probably derived from chera, a snake They trace their origine Saga Chyvan while the other mentioning the opinion that the Cheros are a branch of the Bhars or connected with the Kols, they appear himself to have considered them to be the aboriginal inhabitants of the provinces on the skirts of which they are now found, driven from their proper seats by Rajput races. The Chero are divided into two sub caste, Bara hazar and Tera

hazar or Birbandhi (Minz:2010). Chero community listed as tribe in two districts Sonbhadra and Varansi, state of Uttar Pradesh in 2002. According to 2011 census figure, they numbered 42227 with 3.7 percent, total ST population of state. In this community literacy percentage is 40.9 percent out of which 51.7 are men and 42.9 are women. As per census 2011, the part of their total population, workers constitute 18475 (43.75%) of which 6605 (35.75%) are main workers, out of which 3854 (20.86%) are agricultural labourers.

Table-3 Tribes wise List With Details in Terms of Different Works in Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No	All Tribe	Total Population	Total Cultivators	Agriculture Labourers	Household Industry	Others Works
1-	ALL TRIBES	113423	57036	84760	7415	63266
2-	BHOTIA	5196	91	121	40	816
3-	BUKSA	4710	101	421	19	270
4-	JAUNSARI	3720	209	252	26	258
5-	RAJI	1295	4	62	17	241
6-	THARU	105291	12039	7567	770	4959
7-	GOND	569035	23244	35279	3621	31049
8-	KHARWAR	160676	7348	13352	977	8199
9-	SHARIA	70634	7061	10276	106	2791
10-	PARHIYA	901	55	154	0	4
11-	BAIGA	30006	1278	4081	72	1063
12-	PANIKA	24862	1099	2261	63	1227
13-	AGARIA	17376	531	2092	64	530
14-	PATARI	132	1	9	0	2
15-	CHERO	4227	963	3854	171	1179
16-	BHIUYA	15599	293	1399	22	401

Source–A Computed, A-11 STATE Primary Census Abstract for Individual Scheduled Tribes

Panika Tribe- Very little is known about the origin of the Panika. Although some sources say that the Panika are of Dravidian origins, other simply refer to them as unclassified. These communities live among the historic Gond people. The Panika tribe is divided into two broad groups the Kabirpanthi (the largest group) and the Sakta The kabirpanthi follow the teachings of Sant kabir. They avoid liquor, meat and other unclean practices. The Panika were once known among the tribes for their honesty (Kapoor:2005) Panika tribe constitutes 2.19 percent of the total tribal population of the state. Panika is recognised as tribe in the district Sonbhadra and Mirzapur of the state. In this community literacy percentage is 55.8 percent out of which 67.8 percent are men and 42.7 percent women as per census 2011.10084 (40.55%) people in this community are workers, out of which 1227(19.36%) are engaged in others works.

Bhuiya Tribe :- Bhuiya tribe is widely in many parts of Chattisgarh, Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. Bhuiya is derived from a Sanskrit word Bhumi meaning land or earth. This tribe is variously found mentioned as Bhuiyan, Bhuiya and Bhuiya. The tribe is belong to Munda group of tribes. (Mohanty:2010) Bhuiya community listed as tribe in district of Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh (Act 2002). Bhuiya tribe constitute only 1.37 percent of total ST population of state as per 2011 census. This community have total 38.7 percent literacy rate out of which 50.2 are men and are 26.7 women. Total 6619 (42.43%) people are workers in this community where 2201 (14.10%) are main workers, maximum are Agricultural labourers, to sustain their livelihood majority of them are depend on hunting, husbandry, fishries and forest produce

Agaria Tribe :- Agaria tribe were considered as one of the most significant iron -smelting tribes in India a people absorbed in their craft and their material, they seem to have little life apart from the roar of bellows and the dang of hammer upon iron. The Agaria are divided into a number of clan. The clans are exogamous group which are generally totemistic, named after plants, animals, birds etc. (Mehta (ed): 2004).It is assumed that Agaria is sub caste of Gond.

The Agaria are small ethnic group of Uttar Pradesh ,with a population of 17376 in 2011. Agaria are recognised as tribe in the Sonbhadra district, state of Uttar Pradesh (Act 2002). Agaria constitute 1.53 percent of total population

of total ST's of state. Agaria have very low literacy rate 24.6 out of which men are 33.4 percent and women are 15.1 percent, most of women are illiterate in this community. Agaria have only 3217(18.51%) people are main workers in which maximum are agricultural labourer.

Table- 4 Literacy Rate Among Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No	All Tribes	TOTAL Population	Total Literacy	Literacy Male	Literacy Female
1-	ALL TRIBES	1134273	55.7	67.1	43.7
2-	BHOTIA	5196	58.6	66.8	49.4
3-	BUKSA	4710	50.6	60.4	39.1
4-	JAUNSARI	3720	50.6	60.4	39.8
5-	RAJI	1295	35.6	42.1	27.6
6-	THARU	105291	54.6	66.3	42.5
7-	GOND	569035	61.2	73.5	48.4
8-	KHARWAR	160676	58.4	70.3	46.19
9-	SHARIA	70634	30.4	38.6	21.7
10-	PARHIYA	901	47.2	61.9	32.5
11-	BAIGA	30006	28.5	37.4	18.9
12-	PANIKA	24862	55.8	67.8	47.7
13-	AGARIA	17376	24.6	33.4	15.14
14-	PATARI	132	56.5	71.2	42.9
15-	CHERO	4227	40.9	51.7	29.3
16-	BHiUYA	15599	38.7	50.2	26.7

Source –A Computed,A-11 STATE Primary Census Abstract for Individual Scheduled Tribes

Patari Tribe - Patari tribe is sub caste of Gond tribe. They are ritual specialists and advisers in the Gond kingdom. William Crook claim that the patari are actually of Majhwar Origin. Patari are found in the Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh and the adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh. They are tribal priest. (Chib:1977) 132 person are indentified as tribe in this state as per census 2011. Total 61 male-female are literate out of which 87 male and 24 female are litirate.

Gond Tribe-The Gonds are aborigines of Central India.The Gond tribes have Inhabited a vast region in Central India, during the many centuries of their history they had occupied several areas which became their tribal habitat. The area politically known as Gondwana (Mehta:1984) Gonds kingdoms were strongest political power since 17th to mid 19th century. Gonds are recognised as one of the oldest tribe of world and their habitat in india before Aryan invasion. Gonds claim themselves as descendent of Rawan. Gonds are seceond largest tribes in country and have largest tribal population in Uttar Pradesh (Census 2011). Gonds and their four subcaste-Dhuria,Nayak,Ojha,Patari and RajGond are recognised as tribes in thirteen district of eastern Uttar Pradesh known as Purvanchal, Gonds constitute 50.16 percent of total scheduled tribe population of Uttar Pradesh as per 2011 census. In Gond Community literacy percentage is 61.2 percent out of which 73.5 are men and 48.4 are women Gond community have total 195299 (84.32%) people are workers and 93193 (16.37%) are main workers,most of them are engaged in other work.

Conclusion:-

Tribes of Uttar Pradesh are living in conditions of deprivation. Their econmic conditions and their standard of living are very low .they have no lands,no education and aseets, these are main difficulties which hunt them.They are known as backward by society and by authority.They are having dual status in the state, of because, Act 2002 has raise many problems which tribes are facing, some tribes are notified as scheduled caste in some of the districts and scheduled tribes in some other and to that extent the same community are having dual status in Uttar Pradesh.It is found that tribes communities are also being denied the benefits of reservation in service of the State.

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