“A STUDY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF DE-NOTIFIED AND NOMADIC TRIBES IN MARATHWADA REGION"

ABSTRACT
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1.1) Introduction:

Castes system is the institutional foundation of village livelihood according to which only the balutedar or local occupations bear special importance in day-to-day dealings at village level. However, the nomadic tribal communities, considered as alutedar whose presence or absence relatively doesn’t affect agricultural activities in villages. This accounts to the social, economic, educational and political seclusion of De-notified and Nomadic tribes. In addition, as the De-notified and Nomadic tribes follow the discriminative belief system of upper-lower castes, owing to which till date they haven’t been able to form into a univocal organization; invariably it has worsened the nature of their problems posing threat to survival.1

India got freedom but the troubles and tribulations confronted by De-notified and Nomadic tribes are yet to be given due attention. In independent India the social system didn’t change altogether. Although, the laws recognizes status of equality for each individual but social disparity didn’t disappeared: as if leading to a partially successful social revolution. The reason behind adopting criminal activities among De-notified and Nomadic tribes lies in their identical treads in pre-independence period2. Stigmatized with the 1871 criminal Act affected their traditional occupations giving rise to life threatening conditions of hunger, starvation. Naturally some of them took to stealing, looting necessary things like grains, fruits, animals; owing to which they are permanently taken to be as criminal. Though, whole of the castes are considered as criminal, but it is not necessary that each individual member should be criminal. However, by default the social system allows to recognize each new born individual as born criminal, throwing them into eternal ditch of oppression, harassment and stern penury3. Thus, in order to explore the nature of human development among namely: Banjara, Pardhi, Rajput Bhamat, Ghsadi, Gondhali, Gopal, Kolhati, Vasudev, Dhangar and Vanjari tribal communities from De-notified and Nomadic tribes.
1.2) Definition of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

A) Definition of De-notified Tribes:
De-notified Tribes are the communities who were ‘notified’ as ‘born criminal’ by the British Government under a series of laws with Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. These notified tribes, after Independence were de-notified from list of criminal tribes by repealing the Act in 1952 and hence De-notified Tribes.

B) Definition of Nomadic Tribes:
Nomadic are the communities who do not have a fixed home; hence they keep on moving from one place to another a strange pattern of livelihood. The place where they lived before journeying eternally, but they do not have a place to return after travelling for their livelihood.

C) Definition of Semi-Nomadic Tribes:
The ‘partially nomads’ – they have fixed habitations to which they return once in a year, or when their seasonal or occupational activities are expected to case for a while.

1.3) What is Human Development?
United Nations Development Programmes has defined human development as the process of enlarging people choices. The most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, others granted human rights and various ingredients or self respect. These are among the essentional choices the absence of which can block many other opportunities. According to Muhbub-ul-Huq, the defining difference between the economic growth and the human development school is that the first focuses exclusively on the expansion of only one choice: income, while the second embraces the enlargement of all human choices whether economic, social, cultural or political.

In Maharashtra out of 42 De-notified and Nomadic tribes, 28 are termed as Nomadic and 14 De-notified tribes which again include more than 200 sub-castes. All these tribes consider themselves independent and different from each other following identifiable livelihood patterns. In order to assess the numerical data about DNTs the Renke Commission sought data from all states. In reply only 15 states provided information about De-notified tribes and only 10 states gave data regarding Nomadic tribes which sums up to 801. But according to the Renke Commission the overall number of De-notified and Nomadic tribes residing in all states is around 829.

The De-notified and Nomadic Tribes are Social category in India which covers a population of approximately fifteen crores. Some of them are included in the list of Scheduled castes, some others in the Scheduled of Tribes, and quite a few of them in the category of Other Backward classes. But there are many of these tribes, which find place in none of
the above. What is common to all of the De-notified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) is the fate of being branded as “born criminals”. Some of the ex-criminal tribes even belonged to Hindu high castes.

In India, except in case of scheduled castes (SC) and Scheduled tribes (ST) there had never been any attempt of caste-wise census ever since 1931. Absence of exact details of communities, for example De-notified and Nomadic tribes gave rise to complex situation of allocation of benefits under reservations policy to be followed under social welfare schemes initiated by Government. In fact, the population of De-notified and Nomadic tribes in Indian sub-continent is reportedly much higher than what the Government agencies presumed till date. This not only deprived the De-notified and Nomadic tribes but also offered chance for the few culprits to grab the communal facilities and schemes bestowed to the De-notified and Nomadic tribe by procuring fake certificates and identities. Certainly, due to rampant corrupt practices in spite of substantial population everything is hanged about. Therefore, it’s a dire need to conduct a separate census of Nomadic people to reveal and justify their demographic position in society. Through this research an attempt has been made to figure out an estimated population of selected De-notified and Nomadic tribes in Chapter three.

Today, one can observe only the members from said community begging food on streets, the reasons of their plight can be traced back to caste system. The social system itself has denied means of livelihood, abandoned them from religion, culture turning them into beggars in true sense. For instance, Gosavi, Ghondhali, Vasudev, Bharadi, chitrakathi and Bahurupis although, come in contact with city-life but their wandering lifestyle didn’t end: the nomads transferred from rural areas but are detached from the city premises.

Instable life of De-notified and Nomadic tribes has given way to many troublesome issues concerning their social, economic, educational, and political existence. In other words one can observe stagnated human development among the tribes: no enrolment for ration card, no citizenship of a village, no employment opportunity and no right to own natural resources that ultimately lead to starving conditions. Prevention of Beggary Act-1959, Wild Life Protection Act-1972, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act-1960, Environment Protection and biodiversity Act-1999, Development of Irrigation system and related Acts have given rise to many difficulties in the life of De-notified and Nomadic tribes. For the
vaidu- or one who has knowledge of herbal medicines used to borrow herbs from forests, similarly the Nandivale, Garudi, Kolhati tribes used to train animals and entertain public thereby thrived on the income earned out of such activities. But the above stated Act almost snatched the means of livelihood from De-notified and Nomadic tribes.\(^8\)

Constant wandering from place to place brought the De-notified and Nomadic tribes in contact with many villages. Here they had to adjust with the impurities related to air, water and tidy life style. It ultimately affected their health, falling prey to seasonal epidemics. If any individual from Ghisadi community is injured at work site, they doesn’t approach nearby health centre; instead prefer herbal treatment at home. The Dhangar, Gopal, Gavali tribal communities’ rear domestic animals but their constant wandering makes them vulnerable to many diseases\(^9\).

The Pardhi, Vadar, Banjara, and Berad tribes are engaged in extracting liquor business, and hence constantly monitored by police administration. Harassing treatment at police station some time destroyed complete family.

1.4) Objectives of the Research:

Following are the main objectives of the Research study

1. To study the economic and social condition of de-notified and nomadic tribes.
2. To study per capita income and poverty of de-notified and nomadic tribes.
3. To study the educational condition of de-notified and nomadic tribes.
4. To study the life expectancy of de-notified and nomadic tribes.
5. To study the woman’s share in income of de-notified and nomadic tribes.
6. To study income and expenditure patterns of de-notified and nomadic tribes.
7. To suggest conclusions and recommendations by studying the governmental policies for de-notified and nomadic tribes.
1.5) **Hypotheses of the Research:**

In course of research following hypotheses has been tested for its validity.

1. De-notified and Nomadic tribes had to survive in worse socio-economic conditions.
4. Improvement in status of women in De-notified and Nomadic tribes.

1.6) **Selection of Research Topic:**

Since 1931 in India, there is only census of SC and ST but not of any other castes or tribes; hence it is difficult to determine the exact number of tribal population. Central and state Government run various welfare schemes, five year plans and is led to the beginning of planned development. But the De-notified and Nomadic tribes are deprived and ignored. Ignorance of population causes to approximate fiscal provision by government. This fiscal provision is very low and could hardly progressive towards these tribes. Numbers of policies are designed by government but its advantage does not approach towards needy persons. The real problems are annual income, per capita income, land holding capacity, irrigation facility, migration, infant mortality, addiction, malnutrition, religious superstition, health and illiteracy etc. by unfolding above problems and with the help of field survey of human development issue and to study **“A study of human development of de-notified and Nomadic tribes in Marathwada region”**.

1.7) **Research Methodology:**

The present research is based on primary and secondary data.

**A) Primary Data:**

As the primary source of data, ten tribal communities from Marathwada region namely- Banjara, Pardhi, Rajput Bhamata, Ghisadi, Gondhali, Gopal, Kolhati, Vasudev, Dhangar and Vanjari are selected to study from the point of view of Human development. By providing a Direct observation, scheduled questionnaire to the selected families from
said communities in Marathwada region, an attempt has been made to collect facts that points at different aspect of human development. The questionnaire primarily tries to draw information about educational awareness, per capita income, educational standard, and annual income as well as land owning capacity, migration, child labour, malnutrition, drug or liquor addiction, life expectancy, religious festivity, customs, livelihood standard, share of women in family income and loan borrowing etc. Apart from this data regarding qualitative development has also been sought out from popular writers, thinkers, social activists, research scholars from the communities by interview technique.

B) Secondary Data:

All information required for the evaluation, analysis and elaboration of the research findings is developed on different sources concerning the research topic. For the purpose, almost all the commissions, committees and reports published by central and state government, Maharashtra Human Development Report, Economic Survey, UNDP Report etc. have been reviewed. Apart from this, book by many writers, published books, research papers and references, journals, news dailies and web portals etc. have been taken into consideration during the research process.

C) Sampling Technique:

Generally Samples are collected by using two methods probability sampling method and Non- probability sampling method. For the present research work Purposive Sampling Method is used under the Non-probability sampling method to selects samples. Accordingly out of total 42 DNT and NT communities ten (10) communities residing in Marathwada region have been selected for detail observation of human development among the communities. Further, the particular districts-such as Aurangabad, Jalana, Parbhani, Hingoli, Nanded and Beed districts are considered as sample areas wherein majority of the DNT and NT population resides. Out of these selected districts 40 families from each of the sample communities shall be interviewed. As such sum total of 400 families are selected as sampling for the present research work.

D) Limitations of the Present Research:

only six districts has been selected out of eight districts in Marathwada region and some population data is not available in 1921 caste wise census report.
1.8) Statistical Techniques:

In order to ascertain Human Development Index of De-notified and Nomadic tribes following statistical formula has been adopted. The Human Development Index is determined upon the important factors such as life expectancy, education and per capita income of the DNT and NT communities. In this process, at first each of the factors shall be evaluated separately and then an average of three factors shall be estimated by following bellow formula.\(^\text{10}\)

\[
\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{Actual Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}
\]

calculated and then collectively overall Human Development Index of De-notified and Nomadic tribes can be assessed as follows:

\[
\text{HDI (DNT’s)} = 3 \sqrt{\text{Life Expectancy} \times \text{Education} \times \text{Income}}
\]

1.9) Chapter Scheme:

The Present research is divided into five chapters.

**Chapter-1:**
**Introduction and Review of literature**

Chapter first divided into section-A and Section-B. In the section-A introductory part and section-B Review of literature has been given.

In the section-A includes introductory part, in which an attempt has been made to define the terms De-notified, Nomadic and semi-Nomadic tribes, their place in caste system, classification of sub-castes, origin of clan; meaning of Human Development, its necessity, method and conclusions; educational status of De-notified and Nomadic tribes, per capita income, life expectancy related issues have been discussed. Along with the background study of research, objectives of the research, hypothesis, research methodology, scope and limitations etc. are explained with necessary data and in the Section B covers the review of literature in the concerned area of study relevant from the point of view of present research topic.
Chapter-2
Educational Condition and Population of Selected De-notified and Nomadic tribes

The present chapter focuses on the educational condition of De-notified and Nomadic tribes from 1924 to till date. Data related to pre-colonial and post colonial period is discussed with respect to educational background of De-notified and Nomadic tribes. Apart from this the chapter also deals with various issues related to education and administration such as criminlayer certificate, reservation in promotion, judicial struggle, Nagraj issue, reservation conferred to De-notified and Nomadic tribes in different states, bogus caste certificates, ratio of enrolment in higher education, women reservation primary, secondary, higher-secondary college, university level and vocational education related problems, reservation policies of government of India, various commissions, committees, various plans and development programmes, schemes, financial assistance, benefits offered in different states etc. has been discussed in detail. At the same time, estimated population of De-notified and Nomadic tribes by the year 3001 in India has been deduced with the help of Projected population Technique.

Chapter-3
Economic and Social Condition of Selected De-notified and Nomadic Tribes

This chapter includes information related to social, economic, educational and political condition of De-notified and Nomadic tribes namely: Banjara, Pardhi, Rajput Bhamat, Ghisadi, Gondhali, Gopal, Kolhati, Vasudev, Dhangar and Vanjari communities. The social condition is identified by defining the caste, clan or gotra, marriage system, religious vows, deities, customs, superstition, dress code, family system, rituals, festivals and festivities, jat-panchayat etc. Economic conditions are studied by discussing the replacement of traditional occupations with modern occupations; role of women in financial decision in a family.

Chapter-4
Human Development of Selected De-Notified and Nomadic Tribes in Marathwada Region

This chapter gives graphical representation of all data, collected through field survey, concerning social, economic, educational, political,
health issues and cultural status of De-notified and Nomadic tribes. In other words the chapter attempts to assess the Human Development of De-notified and Nomadic tribes.

Chapter-5
Conclusions and Recommendations:

The present chapter includes conclusions drawn after studying the primary and secondary data related to De-notified and Nomadic tribes. Moreover, accordingly important recommendations are put forth. Some of the conclusions and recommendation are as follows:

1.10) Conclusions:
1) Even today, the illiteracy ratio remains highest among DNTs and NTs. Out of selected ten communities, the Pardhis occupy the highest ratio of 67.91% illiterate members. In all 37.06% DNT community members are far from education and 62.94% were found to be literate. Amongst around 71.87% men and 51.65 women are literate. It has been observed that some of the communities are reluctant about education for girl child, and hence they hesitate to send girls to schools.

2) The ratio of enrolment in higher education is extremely low among DNTs and NTs. 16.75% people completed primary schooling, 15.92% could complete secondary, 9.03% managed to go to higher secondary, 5.79% appeared for graduation and just 2.92% persons found to be educated up to post-graduation. Shockingly enough, out of ten communities, among the Pardhi, Ghisadi and Gopal communities none of the members have been able to enrol for post-graduation.

3) Horrible truth is that 63.35% families in DNTs and NTs survive Below the Poverty line. To the dismay of a sensitive person, 28.5% families are yet to receive Ration Card, 34.75% families complain about non-deliverance of the Ration Card in want of permanent rehabilitation. The reason behind is non-submission of required documents, such as proof of identity, which is again not issued by government agency. This all culminates into absolute deprivation of DNTS and NTs from all of the welfare schemes, for instance Public Distribution System.
4) In Marathwada region, 41.25% DNTs and NTs reside in detached, inaccessible and remote areas, wherein none of the basic medical finicality is provided. Their dwelling place has made it difficult to reach out necessary health care facilities. 44.25% families informed lack of clean drinking water resources that placed them into unhygienic, vulnerable, epidemic conditions. During the survey it has been found that 23% families had to lose their young ones at a tender age or infancy. The DNTs and NTs approached cities in search of employment had to dwell in temporary tents, slum areas where 60.75% persons are addicted to drinking, smoking etc. hazardous activities.

5) The Central government in its First to Fourth Five Year Plans had provisioned monitory benefits for DNTs and NTs. The 11th Five Year Plan recommended Rs. 20 crores on paper, but at ground level just Rs. 1 crore is allocated among 15 lac DNTs and NTs. In Successive 12th Five Year Plan reserved Rs. 32684 crores to be distributed among SCs, OBCs, DNTs and NTs, PWDs and other Vulnerable groups regulated through welfare schemes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. However, wide disparity can be observed in the allocation of funds for DNTs and NTs from central government without taking into consideration the actual increased population.

6) Lowest per capita income has been observed among De-notified and Nomadic tribes in Marathwada region. Except the Vanjari communities none of the DNTs and NTs has annual income above Rs. 17000. The Pardhi, Ghisadi, Gondhali and Vasudev earn Rs. 5118, 5867, 5566, and 6006 respectively. In all it was estimate that the DNT and NT members earn just around Rs. 14,362/- annually.

7) Majority of the DNT and NT communities even today follow superstitious practices and age old customs and rituals. According to the survey 51.5 % families offered religious vows. For the purpose they often borrow money beyond their capacity to pay back. It was found that 33.1% families had spent more than Rs. 10000 on fulfilling the vows.

8) DNTs and NTs have been conferred with different set of reservations across the country. Despite identified as one community but they enjoy
different constitutional reservations in each of the states and territories. In Maharashtra the DNTs and NTs have been provided with just 11% reservation which is incompatible with the exact population ratio of the communities.

9) Life expectancy among the DNTs and NTs was found comparatively normal. In some of the communities, who mostly are involved in hard physical labours, life expectancy is lower. In all the survey concluded 72.10% life expectancy among DNTs and NTs. 69.48% and 74.72% is the life expectancy of men and women in the said communities respectively.

10) In Marathwada region 54.5% of the DNTs and NTs did not poses any sort of land and those who own a little land had to carry on agricultural activity with the help of conventional tools and instruments. There are 21.43% families who own barren land; 54.40% of the families make use of their land for cultivating only seasonal crops; whereas only 24.18% families cultivate corps round the year. Very few families from Pardhi, Ghisadi, Kolhati and Vasudev communities own land but their land area is between 0-5 acers i. e. they are small farmers.

11) Dhangar, Gopal and Banjara communities are engaged in rearing live stock. Being mostly ignored communities their livestock is always vulnerable to natural calamities without any type of vaccination. Moreover, due to lack of any pasture land the problem of availability of enough fodder had been the constant issue in front of the families.

12) Most of the DNTs and NTs haven’t been able to settle down permanently. At present near about 46.75% DNT and NT families had to migrate in search of employment, labour. Therefore, they posses none of the permanently earning sources.

13) In Marathwada region 32.75% families from DNTs and NTs borrow money and 67.75% have never tried to draw loan. To draw loan from bank one needs advance money; but in absence of permanent source of livelihood how one can demand for loan. However, if any one of them tries for the loan facility, it is hardly utilized for productive affairs such as
business, or agriculture. Conversely, the money is spent on unproductive things like marriage, festivities, and religious vows.

14) Women in DNT and NT communities share an important contribution towards family income. Vanjari, Vasudev, Gopal, Gondhali, Rajput Bhamata community women are engaged in agricultural or household work. However, the Banjara, Pardhi, Ghisadi, Kolhati and Dhangar women contribute in physical labour supporting the family in earnings. Paradoxically, even in current liberal situations women are not included in financial decision making of the family.

1.11) Recommendations:

1) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and State and central Governments are responsible for implementing various schemes for the development of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. These schemes, inter alia, relate to grant of various kinds of coaching centres, education loans, studies in foreign universities, training for various technical jobs like pilots etc. It is suggested that the Ministry may earmark appropriate outlays for such schemes for DNTs in the same ratio as is being presently done for SCs & STs through a dedicated delivery system. Similarly, the Ministry of Rural Development may earmark separate funds for old age pension to DNTs.

2) De-notified Tribes, particularly Nomadic Tribes form largely BPL population. It is, therefore, necessary that the States/UTs undertake the exercise of issuing Ration Cards to DNT families by organizing a special campaign both for urban and rural areas.

3) The Union and the State Governments may launch a scheme to develop Special Socio-Economic Settlement Zones (SSESZ) for Nomadic Tribes at suitable locations on. The lines of the Special Economic Zones for industrial units. Locations of such SSESZ can be in the neighbourhood of either SEZs of the other industrial areas or trade or business centres to enable the residents to get an opportunity for employment. Such SSESZs can be developed for at least 100 families at one place with minimum infrastructure, like electricity, drinking water and schools, etc.

4) The women belonging to DNTs are particularly prone to harassment not only by police but also by antisocial elements. To save
DNT women from such harassment and enquiry and to create a feeling of goodwill in society, it is desirable that a Member of the National Human Right Commission at the National level for Women and of the State Human Right Commission at state level should be appointed from the DNTs.

5) Since education is the cornerstone for the upliftment of DNTs, the Ministry Of HRD may earmark separate outlay for the DNTs for XII Five-year Plan and monitor its utilization accordingly. This will ensure focussed attention of the Government on the education of DNTs and the required flow of funds there for.

6) SCs, STs and OBCs are enjoying the benefit of reservation in Government jobs presently. In order to enable the Scheduled Tribes (De-notified and Nomadic Tribes) to enjoy the benefit of reservation, a separate percentage of reservation in Government jobs needs to be given to them on the same lines and on the same principle as is being given to SCs and STs. It is estimated that their population is more than ten crores. In view of this, it is suggested that the Scheduled Tribes be given 10% reservation in Government jobs even if the total reservation exceeds 50% as an integral part of the Affirmative action programme for the socio-economic upliftment of the tribes.

7) It has been observed that there are unused Government lands along the banks of rivers, ponds, dams etc. Similarly lands along the highways are lying idle. It is suggested that such lands may be allotted to DNTs on lease basis to enable them to grow crops, vegetables, plants and flowers etc.

8) If the resources still fall short of the requirement to fund the welfare schemes and programmes for the DNT's, the Union and the State Governments may impose a suitable cess like the education cess for generating additional resources.

9) It is also suggested that Mobile Dispensaries for veterinary care be provided on the migratory routes of the Pastoral Tribes for their cattle as also for their families. Arrangements should also be made to deliver technical guidance on continuous basis to the pastoralist to upgrade the quality of their livestock and Government compensate these tribes for the adverse effect of such calamities.
Considering the population of De-notified and Nomadic Tribes in the country and their non-participation in the democratic process, it is suggested that seats in every Gram Panchayat, Block/Taluka Panchayats and Zila Parishads may be reserved for Scheduled communities (De-notified and Nomadic Tribes) including women on the same lines and on the same principle as is being done for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

1.12) References:

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