CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

The term ‘Tribe’ originated around the time of Greek city-state and the early formation of the Roman Empire. The Latin term, “Tribus”, has since been transformed to mean, a group of persons forming a community and claiming decent from a common ancestor (Oxford English dictionary, IX, 1933, p. 339, as cited in Fried, 1975, p. 7)). It is also called as a social division of a people, defined in terms of common descent, territory, culture etc. According to Oxford Dictionary "A tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarious stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding them as having a common ancestor. In tribal societies the relations of proportion are homogeneous, whatever the mode of production followed, whether hunting, gathering or primitive agriculture, there is no conspicuous separation of social categories of on the basis of their differential position in the system of production; it means that tribal societies are not stratified. It is also important to mention that tribal economy is underdeveloped, where the specialization is generally absent except the division of labour on the basis of sex that is to some extent. Tribal economy is a non-monetized economy and barter system in some very remote areas still exists. It is mostly domestic economy where the producers are themselves are consumers. Therefore, exchange through money does not exist (Beteilly, 1977, p. 12)

The constitution of Indian union (Article, 366) has defined scheduled tribe as such tribes or tribal communities or part or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be scheduled tribes for the purpose of this constitution (Desai, A. R. 1977, p. 17-18)
Constitution order 1950 declared 212 tribes located in the then states as ‘scheduled tribes.’ It is pertinent to point out that no single criterion has been adopted to distinguish tribal from the non-tribal population. Ghurye in his work regarding the scheduled tribe pointed out that religion of occupation or racial features are not sufficient criteria to distinguish tribals from non-tribals. Following are some of the common features of tribal people, and these features hold true for those who have not so far been exposed to the main stream of culture.

1) Scheduled tribe live away form civilized world and most inaccessible parts of forests and hills having very under developed means of transportation routes 2) They belong either to one of the races stocks such as Negritos, Australoids or Mongoloids.3) They speak tribal dialect but in Maharashtra they speak Marathi language.4) They profess primitive religion known as animism in which the worship of ghosts and sprits is the most important elements. So they follow primitive occupation such as gleaning (use full remnants of crops after harvesting), hunting or gathering of forest produce.5) they are mostly carnivorous (flesh or meat eaters). They have nomadic habits and love drink and dance.

On the basis of above characteristics a tribal defined as a group of people who are the inhabitants of inaccessible forests in hilly and remote areas belong to the oldest racial groups speak a common dialect, profess a primitive religion, follow primitive occupation, having nomadic habits, love for drink and dance and are endogamous professional social organization different from the neighboring people. They are also called as Adivasi, ‘Adi’ means original and ‘vasi’ means inhabitant, that means original inhabitant. (Ramotra K. C. (2011), Unpublished UGC major research project, ‘Status of tribal well-being of North-Western part of Maharashtra: A Geographical Analysis’).
The Oxford dictionary defined the term ‘tribe’ as the racial groups especially united by language and costumes, living as a community under one or more chiefs.

The encyclopedia Britannica defined the ‘tribe’ that in ancient Greece and Rome, any of a group of political and demographic subdivisions of the population. In Greece the groups divided into tribes and were distinct by location, dialect and tradition and they included the Ionians, Duriants and Aetolians. In Africa, each tribe was named after a local, for example, the Demes developed out of tribal system. In Rome the tribes formed 3 (later 4 and still later 35) original divisions of Roman citizens these were the basic of military levels property tax, census taking and voting units in political assemblies (encyclopedia Britannica, 2005).

India has the largest tribal population in the world perhaps next to Africa. As per the 1991 census the scheduled tribe (5.7) population in India was 6.78 crores which constituted about 8.01 per cent of the total population. The largest concentration of scheduled tribe is in central India particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Zarkhand, Orissa, and Bihar. In Maharashtra the scheduled tribe population as per the 1991 census was 73.18 lakh, which constituted 9.27 per cent to the total population of the state. There population has increased to 85.77 lakh in 2001 and the proportion was 8.85 per cent. It is also noticed that the growth rates of the tribal population in 1981 and 1991 was 26.87 per cent which declined to 17.20 per cent between 1991 and 2001. In absolute terms, the tribal population has increased by 12.59 lakh between 1981 and 2001. Even in terms of absolute growth, it is found that the tribal population increased by 15.46 lakh between 1981 and 1991 but it has declined to 12.59 lakh in 1991-2001. It means the decline in tribal population was due to under enumeration and some other socio-cultural regions, because of wrong registration by the Census of India.
The checking of tribal and caste certificate, de-notification of some tribal communities, high mortality rate especially of tribal children in 0-6 age group, due to malnutrition, etc. are some of the main reasons for the slashing down of tribal proportion in the total population as well as their growth rate.

The present study intends to assess the overall Socio-economic status of tribal population in the state. Since, the problem of the tribal health and their living conditions as reported by various local and national papers and magazines is in very pathetic and very crucial conditions as they have been suffering from malnutrition problem. Due to this malnutrition and under nutrition the tribal child health is in danger, between April and August near about 3231 children have died that occurred in the 15 tribal districts in the state of Maharashtra in 2004. In Nandurbar the number of tribal children death was as high as 875 and closely followed by the Thane 754, Nashik 588 in the northeast part of Maharashtra. Nandurbar district ranks first in terms of tribal children’s death such a serious condition have drawn our attention to study the tribal health and their living conditions. Maharashtra is one of the developed states in terms of industrialization and per capita income. Despite its development tribals are dying of hunger due to malnutrition and under nutrition.

The level of the state of the human being at any point in time depends on the flow of goods. The level of development or a status of living condition is related to the product of income therefore; at any time of the status is the result of the past flows of goods and services consumed by the population in the satisfaction of their needs. Increase in human well being results from the level of flows during the time period in question. The production of goods and services is thus viewed as the generation of inputs into the needs of satisfaction, “The status of socio-economic development is the output.” It can be measured by considering the indicators like nutrition, shelter (type of house),
health, education, Body Mass Index, per capita, income, disparity index of literacy, social and physical environment, literacy, housing condition, supply of drinking water, household assets and household amenities all these indicators are considered to measure the tribal health. The level of living depends upon the consumption, flow of goods and satisfaction. Consumption leads to the state of wellbeing. This has a feed back loop to labour in the form of productivity effect. A better educated and healthier work force may produce more goods and services or enjoy more leisure at same level of output then one that is ignorant is and unhealthy (smith – 1997).

STUDY AREA:

The entire state of Maharashtra is focused to study of tribal status and their development. From the location point of view, the state of Maharashtra is located in the center of the country, lies between 72°36’E to 80°54’E longitude and 15°45’ N to 22°6’ N latitude. (Dikshit, 1986) The state is expanded from west to east in conical shape with extending and increasing height from sea level. The state has an area of 307713.00 sq. km, with the total population of 96752247 according to 2001 census. The density of population in state was 315 persons/sq.km), with 35 districts, 353 Tahsil and 378 towns, and 43722 villages (2001. Maharashtra is the third largest state in the country both in area and population. The state is bounded by the Arabian Sea in the West, The State of Gujarat in the North-West, The state Madhya Pradesh in the North and to the East, Andhra Pradesh in South-East, the Karnataka in the South, and the State of Goa in South-West.

There were six administrative divisions in the state. Therefore, the study intends that the tribals are almost founds in geographically backward parts of the state for instance in the north-western part and north-eastern parts of the state are comparatively less developed,
where on an average 25 per cent tribal population to the total population of the state is concentrated.

**TABLE 1.1**

SURVEYED TRIBAL POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLDS TO TOTAL IN SAMPLE VILLAGES, 2006-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name of Village</th>
<th>Name of Tahsil</th>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>Surveyed Households</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Surveyed Population</th>
<th>% of Surveyed Households to Total Households</th>
<th>% of Surveyed Population to Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chandikapur</td>
<td>Dindori</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>15.27</td>
<td>13.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhanwad</td>
<td>Dindori</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>21.75</td>
<td>23.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bhatode</td>
<td>Dindori</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1546</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>30.33</td>
<td>8.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Borvan</td>
<td>Dindori</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>30.33</td>
<td>26.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Phopsi</td>
<td>Dindori</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>57.57</td>
<td>59.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Koch</td>
<td>Mokhada</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>13.02</td>
<td>12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ghatkarpada</td>
<td>Mokhada</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>56.25</td>
<td>49.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nyahale</td>
<td>Jawhar</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1582</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>17.42</td>
<td>15.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Karamba</td>
<td>Jawhar</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>51.06</td>
<td>47.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sulyachpada</td>
<td>Jawhar</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>40.29</td>
<td>39.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kankala</td>
<td>Akkalkuwa</td>
<td>Nandurbar</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>21.35</td>
<td>22.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Itwai</td>
<td>Akkalkuwa</td>
<td>Nandurbar</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>37.50</td>
<td>34.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pohara</td>
<td>Akkalkuwa</td>
<td>Nandurbar</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>33.87</td>
<td>33.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kakarpada</td>
<td>Akkalkuwa</td>
<td>Nandurbar</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>27.45</td>
<td>29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2073</strong></td>
<td><strong>498</strong></td>
<td><strong>11712</strong></td>
<td><strong>2656</strong></td>
<td><strong>32.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>29.76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fieldwork, 2006-10

For the sake justification of the study, the case study villages are selected from the tribal pockets where maximum tribals are resided. Therefore, the field survey was conducted in fourteen tribal villages viz; Chandikapur, Bhanwad, Bhatode, Borvan, Phopsi, Koch, Ghatkarpada, Nyahale, Karamba, Sulyachpada, Kankala, Itwai, Pohara, and Kakarpada from 2006 to 2010. In this survey we surveyed 498 households, which constituted about 32 per cent of the total households in these villages and tribal population surveyed constituted about 30 per cent that could bring out the ground reality of tribal state of living.
MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. To look into their spatial distribution pattern and growth of tribal population in the state of Maharashtra.
2. To look into the tribal literacy and educational attainment, dropout rates in association with their economic status.
3. To examine the tribal occupational structure in relation to their economy.
4. To evaluate the tribal housing condition in tribal area and household assets.
5. To assess the pattern of the tribal land holdings and land ownership.
6. To assess the consumption pattern, calorie intake and overall health status of tribals in the state.
7. To assess the per capita income and tribal Poverty.
8. To identify the tribal backwardness by computing various socio-economic indices into composite index so that an appropriate planning can be proposed to raise their overall social and economic status.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. How far the tribal literacy and educational acquisition have charged over time in relation to government policy and programmes of development.
2. Is it that a land holding is enough to meet the basic needs and how far the non-tribals have alienated the land of the tribals?
3. During the last few years the tribal death rate particularly of children has increased. How far their death rate has been reduced by making the most affected areas?
4. Are the tribal backward areas given attention and specific plan made to improve their local/regional economy?
Whether their socio-economic status has improved or not during the last one decade 1991-2011?

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

In order to meet these objectives the study is mainly based on primary data, which have been collected by conducting by the intensive fieldwork in the selected 14 tribal villages viz., Chandikapur, Bhanwad, Bhatode, Borvan, Phopsi, Koch, Ghatkarpada, Nyahale, Karamba, Sulyachapada, Kankala, Itwai, Pohara, and Kakarpada from 2006 to 2010. In this survey surveyed 498 households, which constituted about 32 per cent of the total households. It has helped us to understand the level of living and their health problems in these villages. However, secondary data has also been used for looking into their distribution pattern and literacy status at Taluka level, mainly collected from census of India 1991 and 2001.

Systematic sampling technique was applied for the collection of primary data, every third or fourth house was considered in each Village the villages selected for this purposes were tribal villages with the homogenous groups. Therefore, the stratified sampling technique was not preferred. The economic condition was also more or less the same.

In order to measure and present spatial distribution of tribal population in Maharashtra simple percentage methods have been calculated at district level and state level. To know the absolute concentration of tribal population as percentage of total tribal population is also computed by using location quotient method by Aslam Mahmood (Statistical Methods in Geographical Studies, 1997, p 106) as given below:

\[
LQ = \frac{\% \text{ of tribal population to total population in a district}}{\% \text{ of tribal population to total population in State}}
\]
For the decadal growth rate at district level the simple growth rate formula has been employed as follows:

\[
GR = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{P_2} \times 100
\]

Literacy is calculated as follows:

\[
\text{Literacy Rate} = \frac{\text{Literate Population}}{\text{Total Population above 6}} \times 100
\]

In the present study the method of disparity Index of literacy of David Sopher's, modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) is employed to calculate the disparity index in literacy among tribals and non-tribal population in the state as bellow:

\[
D_s = \log \left( \frac{X_2}{X_1} \right) + \log \left( \frac{200 - X_1}{200 - X_2} \right) \ldots \ldots (II)
\]

Where, Intends the X2 is considered for male and non tribal, and X1 for female and tribal literacy rates.

Percentage of tribal population to the total population in the Taluka or village is computed. Levels of educational attainments of primary (4th standard), lower secondary (7th standard) S.S.C. and higher secondary out of total population above 6 have been calculated.

Occupational structure is measured in terms of proportion of workers in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors to the total main workers for 1991 for which data were available. For 2001, data for all sectors were not available; therefore, the proportion of workers in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of economy has been computed.

At village level the occupational structure is divided into workers as cultivators, agricultural labourers, forest labourers, teachers, peons,
clerks, etc. and their proportion are calculated to the total workers as per our survey calculated in Jan 2008.

Workers in Primary Sector = \( \frac{\text{Total Workers in Primary Sector}}{\text{Total Main Workers}} \times 100 \)

Workers in Secondary Sector = \( \frac{\text{Total Workers in Secondary Sector}}{\text{Total Main Workers}} \times 100 \)

Workers in Tertiary Sector = \( \frac{\text{Total Workers in Tertiary Sector}}{\text{Total Main Workers}} \times 100 \)

Poverty index is measured on the basis of per capita income. In our case the poverty has been defined as the family members of the household whose per capita income if it is 5000 or below 5000 is considered below poverty line, and whose income is above 5000 per annum is considered above poverty line for computation purposes. The government considers a family of 4 persons. The standard income is of Rs above 20,000 for such a family of 4 persons. The family is considered above poverty line when the income is above 20,000 per annum and if it is below 20,000 then the household is below poverty line. In order to avoid the confusion and to bring clarity and perfectness in measurement of poverty, it is better to consider the per capita income that is below 5000 and above 5000 for below poverty and above poverty line. This is what we have adopted the method in measuring the present poverty line.

Proportion of households having bathroom, latrine, electricity, etc. of total households is calculated. Percentage of zopari, kucha, semipucca and Pucca houses have also calculated in each village. Calorie intakes for tribal population and for children have also been found out.
Body Mass Index (BMI) has also been measured using the following formula:

\[
\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{Body Weight in Kg}}{\text{Height in m}^2}
\]

The magnitude of development is measured by considering 6 indicators such as tribal literacy rate, female literacy rate, and percentage of tribal urban population, percentage of their workers in non-agricultural sectors, tribal work participation rate, and sex ratio. For computing the composite index, the method of normalization has been employed as suggested by Kundu (1980). For constructing the composite index at district level, the values of different indicators if added directly may affect the overall development index, therefore, before aggregating such values the biasness or scale affect has been removed by applying the above said method of normalization. In this case the observations for each indicator have been divided by their corresponding mean values without affecting their relative position of the district. This transformation does not disturb the dispersion of the variable since the coefficient of variation (CV) of the original series is retained as the standard deviation or the CV of the transformed series. Thereafter the obtained normalized values of indicators have been added together to give rise to component scores of development for each district. The composite index values of all the districts of the state then arranged in ascending or descending order so that the regions of different levels of development can easily be made and so it is done accordingly.

From the geographical point of view, development means a new spatial relationship among the members of scheduled tribe community and between them and their environment. The development of such a community takes place through the transformation of the economic and socio spatial structure of their production activities. The term
‘development’ signifies very clearly the state of particular societies or communities and the process of change experienced by them (Ramotra, 2008).

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Social Status:**

For understanding any aspect very explicitly and to know the gaps left out in the studies conducted in the past, it is very essential to have a brief review of the earlier studies in that specific area. Most of the studies undertaken so far are with respect to the distribution of tribal population. In this regard, Rao (1955) examined tribal studies in India, Bose (1971) conducted study on 'Tribal Life in India, Banerjee (1976) described the concentration of tribal population in Sibghum district of Bihar. Sinha and Misra (1976) examined the distribution of tribal population at district and taluka levels. Raza, Ahmad, Jain, and Kanta (1977) focused on 'Tribal Population of India - Spatial Patterns of Clustering and Concentration. Bipal (1977) explained the spatial distribution of tribal population in the plains of Assam. The study revealed heavy concentration of tribal population on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River. Azad (1977) examined the distribution and growth of tribal population of Bihar since 1941 with special reference to the Sandals, Oraons, Mundas Hos, Bhumij Malpaharies, Cheros and Birhors. Prasad (1977) observed the spatial patterns in the growth of the rural component of tribal population of Ranchi district of Bihar and explored the causes of their slow growth. Vidyarthi and Rai, (1977) Discussed in the book of ‘The tribal Culture of India’ that, the history and socio-economic status of Indian tribals. Das (1979) studied demographic aspects of the Gonds. Sanyal (1980) conducted study on the scheduled tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Chib (1981) described the spatial patterns of tribal demography selecting a number of variables such as sex ratio, literacy and occupational structure.
Singh, (ed.), (1982), Studies the Tribal Movement in India very categorically through many article authored by different theme. Beteille (1986) studied the concept of tribe with special reference to India. Raza and Ahmad (1990) discussed varies issues in 'An Atlas of Tribal India' mainly based on 1961 and 1971 data. It has focused on the spatial distribution of tribes, their ecological setting, rural-urban composition, sex ratio, literacy, etc. Joshi (edt), (1998), discussed through other co-authors the Tribal Situation In India, their different related issues and development in India. Sharma (1998) studied ‘Castes and Tribes in India’. Ahamd (2001) in his book ‘Social Geography’ analyzed the growth and distribution of tribal population at state and district levels in India. Bisht (2001), he studies the ethnography of Tribe is the first study of Anwals of Uttarakhand Himalaya. Sah and Sisodia (2004), Studied Tribal livelihood, Land alienation, Empowerment, Education and Heath, in edited book ‘Tribal Issues in India’


EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Ahmad (1982) examined the inter district inequalities in the literacy of tribal population of Bihar. Kundu and Rao (1983) made a comparative study of the nature and pattern of inequality in literacy among different segments of population at state level. Ahmad and Nuna (1986) studied inter-regional disparity in literacy (1971) in
Maharashtra. According to them, the inequitable development of literacy among the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and non-scheduled tribes/castes populations on the one hand and among the male-female and rural-urban components of these populations on the other and raised a number of issues. Aggarwal and Murlidhar (1986) studied disparity in literacy between scheduled caste and non-scheduled caste populations in Maharashtra and concluded disparities become more and sharper as one moved from the urban to rural areas; within the rural areas, to rural female and within the rural female to rural scheduled caste females. Ramotra (1990) has studied some aspects of tribal literacy in Maharashtra- with geographical perspective. Devi (1996) studied district wise disparity in literacy of Orissa at three points of time, (i.e. 1971, 1981 and 1991). Studies the disparity in education that exited within districts, Mohapatra and Bighnaraj (2004) made an analysis of the disparity in literacy, its various ramifications as concerned with the gender divide and the tribal/non-tribal aspects of the educational status of people, reflected in their productivity and earning potential as well as the levels of welfare and socio-economic status achieved on the basis of educational attainment. They examined the literacy situation in the state focusing on the structural and spatial disparities in literacy in the north-eastern state of Meghalaya adopting development blocks as the unit of study. Rao and Rambabu (2004) have analyzed the primary data on inter-tribe variation in literacy levels in Srikakulam district. Murthy and Rao (2004) also have analyzed primary data on dropout in primary education among tribals in Vizianagaram district. Barthwal and Tripti (2006) have studied the relationship between adult literacy and human development.
ECONOMIC STATUS

Ekta (1976) attempted a study of the occupational structure and the levels of economic diversification in the tribal villages of Chotanagapur. Hassan (1978) evaluated the nature of the agricultural economy of the Santals of Bihar who were having problems of primitive agricultural techniques. Patel (1982) listed the agro-economic problems faced by the Indian tribes in the wake of diffusion of new agricultural technology and the transformation of their traditional agrarian relations. Samanta (1982) noticed that a considerable number of “Jhum” farmers have switched over to modern settled cultivation, particularly in Tripura. Srivastava (1977) discussed the regional variations in the types of shifting cultivation as practiced by the tribes in different parts of India. Mitra (1978) discussed the general problems of the tribal groups of West Bengal. Rao (1981) explored the nature of the processes of ecological adaptation among the jalaris of coastal Andhra Pradesh, whose economy is crucially dependent on fishing. Bose (1977) analyzed the problems of the tribes of eastern India. The study makes a particular reference to the economic mode of life of these tribes and its variety found in the region. Gosal (1960) has studies the occupational structure of India’s rural population with regional perspective and Kohli & Kothari (1996): studied occupational structure of population in Rajasthan with spatial perspective. Sah and Bhatt (2008): discussed the poverty in respect to income, Deprivation, Continuity and mapping. Sah (2009): Studied the Tribals agriculture in respect to the modern culture, in Madhya Pradesh.
REFERENCES


