CHAPTER VII
SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS

India is a land of unity in diversity and so is Indian life and culture. The tribes inhabiting this country speaking different dialects and following distinctive ways of life and customs etc., contribute to the many sided splendour and characteristics of the Nation, which by virtue of being a distinct entity, inspite of differences is unique in the World. The complex tribal life and culture provides excellent scope for cross-cultural research. Several measures of tribal welfare were executed but without achieving much success as there is lack of psychological approach. Thus, their problem is to be tackled dispassionately and psychologically. Every planner of tribal development should have a fair knowledge of human personality and the role of personality in primitive society, in order to adopt appropriate methods of dealing with the tribals.

The present study is an attempt to reveal some personality characteristics of tribal and non-tribal youth. The following objectives were studied in the present study:

(a) To study the personality characteristics of tribal youth (Tharus and Gonds) as measured by Hindi adaptation of 16 Personality Factor Test.

(b) To study the authoritarianism among the tribal youth (Tharus and Gonds) as measured by Indian adaptation of California F-scale.

(c) To study the rigidity among tribal youth (Tharus and Gonds) as measured by Hindi version of Rigidity Scale.

(d) To study comparatively the personality characteristics, authoritarianism, and rigidity among the tribal and non-tribal youth as mentioned through objectives a, b, and c.

(e) Comparison of two tribal groups (Tharus and Gonds) on above personality traits.
The sample consisted of two hundred tribal (100 Tharus and 100 Gonds) and two hundred non-tribal youth matched on the variables of age, education, sex, and socio-economic status (100 non-tribal youth were matched with Tharus and 100 with Gonds). In the present study only male subjects were selected. Respondents were in the age range of 16-25 years. Tharus of the terai area of Lakhimpur-Kheri district and Gonds from Mirzapur district were selected for the present study. Non-tribal youth were taken from the closest geographical region from where the tribals were sampled. The sample design used in the present study was quota sampling.

In the present study in all 68 hypotheses were tested. Hypotheses were formulated according to the objectives of the study. The main objective of the present study was to study some personality characteristics of the tribal and non-tribal youth. Authoritarianism and rigidity were also studied. For studying the above mentioned characteristics following three major tools were used:

(i) Raymond B. Cattell & Herbert W. Eber's Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form E) as adapted in Hindi by S.D. Kapoor (1970).

(ii) An Indian adaptation of California F-scale as prepared by L.I. Bhushan (1976).

(iii) Wesley Rigidity Scale as adapted in Hindi by L.K. Singh (1974).

In the present study Factor B (Less Intelligent Vs. More Intelligent) was not studied. The study was conducted with an assumption that there is no significant cross-cultural difference between tribal and non-tribal youth with reference to intelligence (Factor B). It was also considered that in view of the brevity and untested nature of the 16 PF intelligence scale (Factor B), however, group differences in this respect may better be ignored (Mehryar, 1972). Hence, only fifteen personality factors were studied in the present investigation.
Scoring of 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form E), F-scale, and Rigidity Scale was done as per procedure laid down in the manuals of respective tests. Descriptive statistics like mean was computed. In order to find out whether tribal and non-tribal youth differed significantly on above mentioned tools, the analysis of variance was used.

In the present study interpretation and analyses of data was done under four main headings. They are (i) tribals and non-tribals, (ii) Tharus and their non-tribal controls, (iii) Gonds and their non-tribal controls, and (iv) Tharus and Gonds.

The analyses and interpretation of data show that tribal and non-tribal youth were found to be significantly different on 13 out of 15 personality factors under study. These factors are: A, C, E, F, G, H, L, M, N, O, Q₁, Q₂, and Q₄. They, however, do not differ significantly on the remaining two factors: I, and Q₃. Results indicate that tribal youth are significantly reserved, emotionally stable, humble, conscientious, shy, tough-minded, suspicious, practical, apprehensive, conservative, group-dependent, controlled, and relaxed than their non-tribal counterparts. Tribal youth scored significantly higher than their non-tribal counterparts on both the F-scale and Rigidity Scale. This clearly reveals that tribals are significantly more authoritarian and rigid than their non-tribal counterparts.

Comparing the means of Tharu youth and their non-tribal controls, following differences have been noticed. Tharus were found to be significantly different on all the personality factors under study with their non-tribal controls except on factor Q₂ (Group-dependent vs. Self-sufficient). This clearly indicates that Tharu youth are significantly reserved, emotionally stable, humble, sober, conscientious, shy, tough-minded, suspicious, practical, shrewd, placid, conservative, controlled, and relaxed than their non-tribal counterparts. The means of Tharus and non-tribals do not differ significantly on F-scale. In other words, Tharu youth and
their non-tribal counterparts do not differ significantly so far as authoritarianism is concerned. However, the mean of the Tharu youth was found to be significantly higher than non-tribals on Rigidity scale thus Tharus were found to be significantly more rigid than non-tribals.

The analyses of data between Gonds and their non-tribal controls show that both the groups were found to be significantly different with each other on 13 personality factors. These are A, C, E, F, G, H, L, M, N, O, Q₁, Q₂, and Q₄. They, however, do not differ significantly on the remaining two personality factors: I, and Q₃. Results indicate that Gonds are significantly reserved, emotionally stable, assertive, happy-go-lucky, conscientious, shy, suspicious, practical, forthright, apprehensive, conservative, group-dependent, and relaxed than non-tribals. Gond youth scored significantly higher than their non-tribal counterparts on F-scale and Rigidity Scale. This shows that Gonds are significantly more authoritarian and more rigid than non-tribals.

Results show several inter-tribal differences were observed between Tharus and Gonds. Tharus were found to be significantly different with Gonds on 11 personality factors. These factors are: C, E, F, G, H, I, M, N, O, Q₁ and Q₃. However, Tharus and Gonds do not differ significantly with each other on the remaining four personality factors: A, L, Q₂, and Q₄. This clearly reveals that Tharus are significantly emotionally stable, humble, sober, conscientious, shy, tough-minded, imaginative, shrewd, placid, experimenting and controlled than Gonds.

Findings of the present study are discussed in the light of cultural practices prevalent among tribals. The present cross-cultural study was aimed at studying some personality characteristics of the tribal and non-tribal youth. On the basis of results, it is suggested that by understanding tribals psychologically, it would be possible for the psychologists to provide better deal to the problem of tribal youth and help them in achieving social and cultural
integration with the rest of society. Thus, the present study has its importance in the integration of cross-cultural research and also in the area of tribal welfare and development. The findings of the present study thus have considerable practical as well as theoretical significance.

SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of experience and insight gained during the study, the present investigator would like to offer certain suggestions in two aspects viz. suggestions for tribal welfare and development, and suggestions for further research in this field.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TRIBAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The chief characteristic or trait of the tribals of India is the strong desire to preserve the primitive traditional modes of thought and behaviour and maintain independence and freedom with regard to their social, religious, and cultural lives, though now-a-days, a majority of them realize that they are considered by many as backward in respect of modern civilization and culture. In view of their low technological development, general economic backwardness and some complex problems of socio-cultural adjustment, they are a special concern of the Nation. Notwithstanding the fact that constitutional safeguards have given them a measure of protection and provided for separate schemes for their welfare, they need sympathetic understanding of planners and development workers. As mentioned in earlier Chapters, that it is more than twenty eight years back, we gave ourselves a constitution which guarantees all the citizens of India, social, economic and political justice, liberty of thought, expression, belief and faith and equality of status and opportunity. It gave to the tribals protection against exploitation and discrimination. In order to meet this challenge of backwardness, it is also stipulated that the state would take active steps for promoting the welfare of tribals.

It is evident that several measures for tribal welfare and development were executed but without achieving much success as there is lack of psychological approach. An application of psychology
would unravel the hidden springs of tribal thought and action. The main aim of Social Psychology is not merely to formulate the basic principles of man's social behaviour but also to apply these principles in order to control concrete social fields. The most important objectives of Social Psychology, are to observe, control, and predict human conduct with regard to different situations. Social Psychology with these objectives helps us in understanding, controlling and predicting the social behaviours of the tribals, in different fields of their life. Thus the knowledge of Social Psychology helps us to understand completely socially and culturally conditioned human behaviour. In this way, the psychological approach towards the tribals is of great importance in the area of tribal welfare and their integrated development. Hence, psychological understanding of tribal people is very important in improving their conditions and help them in achieving social and cultural integration with the rest of society.

The findings of the present study reveal that tribal and non-tribal youth differ significantly in regard to their personality make-up. In the present study an attempt has been made to apply the basic psychological principles of human conduct and to show how they tie up with various aspects of tribal life by studying their personality characteristics. On the basis of insight gained during the course of present study, it is strongly suggested that proper attention should be given to the personality characteristics of the tribals in planning and implementing any development programme for them. The knowledge of personality characteristics would be helpful in understanding their behaviour and problems in a better manner. This understanding may prove to be useful for the planners to bring an upliftment to this neglected class of society. Therefore, it is further suggested that every planner of tribal development should have a fair knowledge of personality of the tribals and the role of personality in tribal society, in order to adopt appropriate methods of dealing with them. Thus, it is necessary to have knowledge of the personality characteristics of the tribals in order to solve their various problems. On the basis of their personality characteristics, one can better understand
their problems and suggest suitable measures for their upliftment. The knowledge of personality characteristics of tribals is of paramount importance in the area of tribal development and their integrated development and in achieving their social and cultural integration with the rest of society. Thus the findings of the present study have considerable practical significance in the area of tribal welfare and development.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

On the basis of experience and insight gained during the course of study, the present investigator would like to offer certain suggestions for further research in this field.

(i) More tribal groups representing larger sample like Kol, Santhal, Bhoksa, Bhil, etc. should be included in order to have a clear picture of their personality.

(ii) Personality characteristics of individual tribes may be studied intensively.

(iii) Projective tests may be used for studying personality of tribals. For this purpose some projective techniques like Thematic Apperception Test, Word Association, Sentence Completion, Rosenzweig Picture-Frustration Test, Rorschach’s Ink Blot Test may be used.

(iv) Some more psychological characteristics of tribals such as adjustment, motivational pattern, self-disclosure, ego-identity, self-concept, dependence-proneness, modes of frustration, level of aspiration, anxiety, and other personality characteristics may be studied.

(v) Personality characteristics of male and female tribals with their respective matched non-tribal counterparts may be studied.

(vi) Some developmental studies may be conducted to see the development and socialization of tribals at various stages like childhood, adolescent, and adulthood. Such
study may be more time consuming but is likely to give detailed information of their socialization and personality development.

(vii) Personality characteristics of the tribal and non-tribal children may be studied with reference to their parental child-rearing attitudes and practices.

(viii) Cross-cultural studies may be conducted to see the effect of cultural practices on certain psychological characteristics.

(ix) Some cognitive processes of tribals and non-tribals may be studied. For this purpose cross-cultural study may be conducted to see the differences in depth perception, perceptual judgement, visual memory skills, pictorial depth perception and other processes.

(x) Personality characteristics of tribals of least and most culture-contact groups may be studied to examine the effects of culture-contact on the personality structure of tribals. For this purpose socio-cultural and socio-economic schedule may be developed to differentiate most and least culture-contact groups.