CHAPTER- IX

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study of Human Resource Development of Tribals in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra: A Geographical Analysis is primarily based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data was generated to bring out the grass-root level realities of their living conditions or development in the remote areas, which have hardly been studied. Data for the said study was collected with great difficulties as their settlements are very much dispersed. However, in support of our arguments and comparative analysis the data and information on distribution of tribal population, their literacy rate, educational attainment, occupational structure and human resource development have also been collected from the secondary sources. But at village level for measurement of their poverty, per capita income, food sufficiency, intake of calorie, body mass index (BMI) and human resource development, primary data was the main base otherwise the census of India does not provide such information and data other than tribal population and their number of households, which does not solve the problem.

Dhule and Nandurbar districts are located in the northern part of Maharashtra mainly dominated by tribal population. Satpudas ranges, in the north and the sahyadri and their off shoots including several dykes in the west and south. The region is well drained by rivers Naramada, Tapi and its tributary. The climates of the region generally dry except during the south-west monsoon season. The average rainfall in the study area is 674 mm. and having moderate temperatures. The density of population is 230 per sq. km.

It is inferred that Dhule and Nandurbar districts have been identified with highest proportion of tribal population in the state of Maharashtra. It is further found that four tahsils i.e. Talode, Nawapur, Akkalkuwa and Akarni in Nandurbar district are entirely tribal as the
proportion of tribal population in all these is between 72 and 95 per cent and twice the average (43.16%) of study area. Talode is the only tahsil in which their proportion was augmented from 1981 to 2001 but in Nawapur, Akkalkuwa and Akarni their share has declined marginally but the distribution pattern in 1981, 1991 and 2001 has remained more or less the same.

The growth of tribal population was very high (above 30%) in Akrani and Shirpur in 1981-91. The tahsils like Akkalkuwa, Talode and Akarni were also identified with high growth rate of tribal population which was above 30 per cent in 1991-2001. It vindicated that very high growth rate has taken place in those areas, which are with high proportion of tribal population.

It is found that the tribal population is mainly concentrated in such areas, which are highly forested, that can meet their food requirement substantially. It is evidenced from the study, the tribal population is inhabited in hilly and rough and tough areas.

It is found that the tribal literacy in this part of the state has increased from 23.59 per cent in 1991 to 43.55 per cent in 2001. The literacy ranges from a minimum of 12.79 per cent in Akrani tahsil to a maximum of 30.37 per cent in Sindhkhede tahsil in 1991, and in 2001 the minimum and maximum literacy rates were 37.49 per cent and 50.27 per cent in Akkalkuwa and Sindhkheda tahsils respectively. The male-female disparity has declined from 0.450 in 1991 to 0.270 in 2001. Similarly the disparity in literacy between tribal and non-tribals has also declined from 0.599 in 1991 to 0.378 in 2001; but still there is a wide gap between tribal and non-tribal literacy rates in the study region as a whole. At village level, the male-female disparity is very high. The overall male-female literacy rates are also quite low because of poverty and very poor communication system. The enrolment rate at primary level is about 61.73 per cent, which comes down to 41.49 per cent at higher secondary level and at graduation level it further
declined to 12.57 per cent. The drop out rate between primary and graduation level is very high (49.16%). The educational attainment among the tribes at primary level was hardly 10.42 per cent, at SSC 5.19 per cent, at H.S.S 4.38 per cent, at graduation 1.08 per cent and at PG 0.26 per cent only. The educational attainment after primary is almost negligible. This is all due to their absolute poverty, unemployment, poor roads and communication system, location of school, teacher absenteeism, lack of hostel facility and social insecurity for girls are some of the reasons of their low literacy, high male-female disparity and high drop out ratio. It can be improved by increasing their purchasing power by providing employment, medical services and other essential needs for raising their living standard.

The scheduled tribes are predominately dependent on agricultural but the proportion has declined by 3.71 per cent from 95.09 per cent in 1991 to 91.38 per cent in 2001 in the study area.

Higher the concentration of tribals lesser is the modernization and proportion of agricultural labourers. Tribal women work in agriculture sector as agricultural labourers. It is found that, in 1991 more than (96%) tribals were engaged in primary sector. In secondary sector (1.26%) tribals are insignificant because of their illiteracy and backwardness. But in tertiary sector, their proportion (2.73%- 1991) was slightly higher than the secondary sector.

The proportion of tribal cultivators has declined by 4.10 per cent (from 46.10 to 42.00%) during 1991-01. Sample study has also proved that about 90.98 per cent tribals are in agricultural and quite a substantial proportion working as hired wage labourers.

Higher the proportion of cultivators lower is the proportion of agricultural labourers and vice versa. High proportion of wage labourers mostly confined to eastern part of the study area where commercialization of agriculture has been taken up.
A very insignificant proportion of tribals has got the opportunity to work in the Asharamshalas as teachers (2.93%), clerks (0.21%) and peons (0.34%).

It is inferred that tribals have been loosing land to non-tribals in their own land. More than 35 per cent tribal households were landless in the study area (in 2007-09). Four villages- Umbaripada, Dhaner, Raikot, and Kondaibari in Dhule district, were identified where majority is landless. The landlessness has been increasing.

About 18.12 per cent were marginal and small landholders were owning 28 per cent land. It is observed that about 21 per cent tribal households were semi-medium and were possessing nearly 41 per cent land.

Medium and large land holders constituted about 5.52 per cent and were possessing 17.92 per cent land. The wide inequality in land ownership also exists among the tribals.

Among the non-tribals at state level 1.66 per cent were large landholders and were owning more than 11 per cent land (1991).

One-third of the tribals in the state were marginal landholders and were owning only 9.10 per cent land (1990-91). Tribals are loosing land to non-tribals and this kind of exploitation is still going on.

It is found that on an average 40.55 per cent tribal land in the study area has been alienated to non-tribals. The major focus was made to dispossess the irrigated land of tribals.

Nearly two-thirds of the tribals (61.58%) live either in Zoparies or kucha houses. It is found that hardly 7.05 per cent tribals having pucca or RCC houses.

The villages like Vehgi in Akkalkuwa tahsil of Nandurbar district, Umbaripada and Raikot in Sakri tahsil of Dhule district are identified with very poor housing condition as they live in houses made out of grass and leaves.
A very predominant proportion of tribal populations live in kucha houses in villages of Bardi (82.24%), Bijaligavhan (85.19%), Pimpalkhuta (75.00%), Surgas (76.47%) and Vehgi (50.00%) in Nandurbar district. Living in a pucca or RCC house, is an indication of prosperity. The Boratipada village was the only with about 28.57 per cent tribals who were having pucca houses and little above 10 per cent living in RCC houses were in Dhaner village in Sakri tahsil of Dhule district.

Hardly 8.61 per cent households were having sanitary provision in the house and 28.76 per cent were having bath rooms.

About 28.29 per cent of tribals’ houses were electrified and 3.54 per cent households were having telephones. Barring a few households, tribals generally go for defecation in open.

It is found that 98 per cent tribals use Chulla for cooking purpose. Those who use gobar gas/ stove or LPG are a few particularly the chiefs of the village or teachers, otherwise not.

It is found that 40.31 per cent tribal households have access to drinking water supplied by government tap or having own tap (6.13%) and hand pump (54.97%).

About 9 per cent tribal households were having TV, 7 per cent fan, less than 3.07 per cent two-wheelers.

It is found that one per cent four-wheeler, about 18.71 per cent radio and 6.64 per cent households were having bicycles.

Malnutrition among the tribals in the study area is a serious problem especially among the children in the age group 0-6. It is found 51.90 per cent tribal population could not get sufficient food. It is observed that 52.59 per cent tribal population does not get sufficient food as per our survey in 2007-09.

Two villages i.e. Pimpalkhuta and Bardi in Nandurbar are identified as 80-90% malnourished.
In the villages like Pimpalkhuta and Bardi in Nandurbar district, tribal children in 0-6 age group suffer from extreme malnutrition that ranged 85-97 per cent.

About 37.25 per cent tribal population was found with high underweight with BMI below 18.5 and 28.64 per cent light underweight (18.5 to 21), that means two-thirds of the tribal population was with underweight and hardly one-fourth was with normal weight.

Majority of tribal population is stricken with poverty but Surgas and Pimpalkhuta villages were 100 per cent below poverty line.

It is found that 29.50 per cent tribal households in the study area were having very low per capita income below Rs 2500 and 10.50 per cent were with Rs 2500 to Rs 5000. In all more than 40 per cent tribal population was below poverty line.

It is found that tribals (3.86) as a whole barring a few tahsil, lagging much behind the non-tribals (6.84). The overall development index of tribals ends there from where the development of the non-tribals commences, which vindicates the inequality between the two is very sharp and to fill up the gap, it needs a well-thoughtful planning for the tribal development.

The southern part of the study area particularly Dhule and Sindhkhede tahsils are relatively advanced areas in case of tribal population.

The non-tribal population in tribal areas is comparatively much better on the measurement of the same indices. Nawapur and Dhule are the top ranking and the best in terms of human resource development.

The villages identified as the most lagging in terms of tribal human resource development are Vehgi, Pimpalkhuta, and Umbaripada and closely followed by Bardi village in Akkalkuwa tahsil of Nandurbar district. The village with better status of human resource development was Dhaner and followed by Torankudi and Amli in Dhule district. The tribal villages located in marginalized areas are the most lagging ones.
SUGGESTIONS

Tribal problems like mass illiteracy, low per capita income, poverty, malnutrition, poor health, food insecurity, poor housing and living conditions, their exploitation by the non-tribals, tribal areas lacking transportation and communication and electricity, are some of the serious problems for which some suggestions given below could be useful to mitigate their problems.

Provision of accessibility by constructing roads, transport and communication should be made coupled with electrification but keeping in mind this sort of development should not lead to their further exploitation and degradation.

Provision of schools and other high learning educational institutions in the tribal areas with good accessibility to develop tribal human resource and skilled manpower with which they can earn their livelihood and can prevent themselves on their own from exploitation; it will bring self-inducing progress and sustainable tribal development.

In the malnourished and absolute poverty-stricken villages like Bardi, Pimpalkhuta in Akkalkuwa tahsil of Nandurbar district should be provided food-grains and health care service free of cost and the remaining poor tribals in other villages should get the foodgrains through public distribution system at minimum cost (Rs 3 per kg) fixed by the government. Delivery of foodgrains should be made directly to the affected tribal families and care should be taken that their rashan is not diverted to the market, in fact to them (tribals) only.

It should also be taken seriously that person incharge of delivering the food grains on ration cards; if not supplying the given quantity as prescribed by the government should be punished, so that people suffering from poverty and malnutrition can get the top priority for getting the adequate food grains.

Provision of medical aid and health centres with availability of necessary medical staff and medicines for the general health care of the
people and particularly for the malnourished children should be made on top priority and territorial merit base.

Due importance to female education has to be given to accelerate their literacy rate and educational attainment to be at par with their male counterparts and tribals as a whole to minimize the tribal and the non-tribal disparities in the levels of educational attainment.

After having restored health and economic stability to a certain extent all tribal children in school age group should be enrolled to make them well-educated citizens, this will augment not only their literacy and educational attainment, but also it will bring down the educational and socio-economic disparities between the tribals and the non-tribals. For that almost all impoverished tribal families should be provided free of cost education along with provision of lodging and boarding.

To improve their lot, they should be encouraged to acquire higher education with the provision of lodging and boarding free of cost, so that the qualified and well trained tribals can be made available for the posts reserved for them in government and private colleges and offices.

Since tribal economy is predominantly agricultural and dependent on forest produce therefore, to improve their lot the landless (35.18%) and marginal and small land holders (39.49%) should be provided sufficient and viable land resource with ownership and that should be non-transferable to any non-tribal community or individual.

Provision of good quality of seeds and local organic fertilizers should be made available.

Small watershed and percolation tanks in the dry or water scarcity areas in Nandurbar district with high concentration of tribal population areas especially northern and western parts of the study area should be constructed.

Tribals of such areas can also be given training to enhance the agricultural productivity, which is not only suffice for them but can be surplus to meet their other necessities out of it. It will help to reduce their
poverty and food insecurity problems. Their shift to wage labour force in non-tribal areas will also come under control. Reduction in the proportion of cultivators by 4.10 per cent (from 46.10 to 42.00 in 1991-01) means loosing land and joining landless wage force is a kind of exploitation, which should be put to an end by some legislation.

Land reform and redistribution of land to mitigate the large gaps among them can also be undertaken.

Cutting of forest by non-tribals especially by the government and non-government persons should be restricted.

Afforestation should be done on the hilly and steep areas exposed to erosion and common property tribal areas from which they can get fodder for their animals and fruits and roots for themselves also.

After having improved their overall living condition by raising their living status and reduction in their impoverished and malnourished conditions, they can construct quality houses from the material locally available. Otherwise Indira Gandhi Awas Yojana can be extended to them also by making special provision for the tribals living in kucha houses.