

Role of Tribal Women in Administration

Ratnakar Ray

Asst. Professor, Political Science, Odisha State Open University

ABSTRACT

The participation of **tribal women** in India's democratic process has seen significant improvements over the years, but challenges persist. While government initiatives, constitutional provisions, and grassroots movements have increased their political engagement, socio-economic barriers still hinder their full and effective participation. This analysis explores their role in elections, governance, decision-making, and activism while addressing key challenges and suggesting ways forward.

Key words: *Tribal Women, community development, economic sustainability, socio-economic barriers*

INTRODUCTION

The participation of tribal women in various socio-economic and political spheres has been a subject of growing interest in academic research. Studies highlight their crucial role in community development, governance, and economic sustainability despite facing multiple socio-cultural and economic constraints. This literature review synthesizes existing research on tribal women's participation, emphasizing their involvement in education, economy, governance, and social movements.

Academic research on indigenous women's involvement in many socioeconomic and political arenas has grown in attention. Notwithstanding several sociocultural and financial obstacles, studies emphasize their vital role in community growth, governance, and economic sustainability. This study of the literature summarizes the body of knowledge regarding the participation of tribal women, with a focus on their roles in social movements, education, the economy, and governance.

1. Economic Participation

Tribal women contribute significantly to household and community economies through agriculture, handicrafts, forest produce collection, and small-scale enterprises. According to Research findings tribal women in India and other developing nations are integral to the informal labour market, often engaging in non-monetized labour that remains undervalued. It is noted that microfinance initiatives and self-help groups (SHGs) have positively

Address for correspondence :

Dr. Ratnakar Ray, Asst. Professor,
Political Science, Odisha State Open University
Email: dr.rayratnakar@gmail.com
ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-0144-7643>

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impacted tribal women's financial independence and entrepreneurial activities. However, challenges such as land ownership rights, wage disparities, and access to market linkages persist.

2. Educational Involvement

Education is a crucial factor in enhancing tribal women's participation in broader socio-economic contexts. Studies indicate that despite increased governmental efforts, literacy rates among tribal women remain lower than national averages due to geographical, financial, and cultural barriers. It is found that initiatives like mid-day meal schemes and tribal residential schools have improved educational retention among tribal girls, yet dropout rates remain high due to early marriages and domestic responsibilities.

3. Political Participation

Tribal women's political engagement has seen gradual growth, particularly after affirmative action policies such as reserved seats in local governance (Panchayati Raj institutions in India). It is argued that women's representation in local governance has led to increased community development initiatives. However, gender biases, patriarchal social structures, and lack of political training limit their effective participation.

4. Role in Social Movements

Tribal women have historically been active in social and environmental movements, particularly in resource conservation and rights advocacy. The documents justify their participation in protests against displacement due to industrialization and large-scale development projects. This highlights their leadership in movements like the Chipko Movement in India, where women played a critical role in forest conservation efforts.

5. Health and Well-being

Tribal women's involvement in social and economic activities is strongly influenced by their health. Major obstacles include malnutrition, inadequate sanitation facilities, and a lack of maternity healthcare. Access to high-quality healthcare is still a problem, despite recent research suggesting that community-based healthcare approaches have improved maternal and child health outcomes in indigenous areas.

LITERATURE REVIEW :

Empowerment of Tribal Women: Dhanasree (2014) asserts that for any culture to have quicker socioeconomic improvement, women's active engagement is essential. To achieve their complete empowerment and engagement in a society like India's, tangible measures must be implemented at various levels. Empowerment, equal opportunities for resource ownership, increased participation in the business and economic sectors, awareness of one's rights and responsibilities, improved living standards, self-reliance, self-worth, and self-assurance are some of the concepts that have surfaced in relation to elevating women's status. As previously mentioned, around 8% of India's population is tribal, and in most of these states, poor tribal women experience, low incomes, poor nutrition, and restricted access to healthcare, education. The average native woman is an active member of our workforce. In their houses, they work for no pay, but when they work outside the home, they must do paid for their labour. Therefore, even with constitutional protection, tribal women have not reaped the benefits of modernization. They continue to be at the bottom of the developmental ladder and are constantly exploited.

Puttaraja and Heggade (2012) looked at how women are important in tribal societies' social, cultural, economic, and religious practices and are regarded as assets in their communities. They still lag far behind in a variety of spheres of life, such as work, education, economic empowerment, and good health.

Thakur (2009): The poorest, most economically and socially oppressed groups are thought to be tribal communities. Compared to their male counterparts, women in these social categories live in the worst conditions. It addressed women's status, arguing that although individuals are two distinct human beings with different genders at birth and are equally significant, women are consistently treated as the weaker and second-class segment of society. Tribal women are sometimes disregarded; this marginalized, oppressed, and underprivileged minority needs more attention.

Education should help people better manage the demands of a dynamic, ever-changing world, according to Rani, G. S., Rajani, N., & Neeraja, P. (2011). Educational systems should be changed to appropriately recognize the ability to seek and develop talent to whatever level one is capable of, which should also help to bridge socio-economic divides. Throughout India, the

indigenous minority has experienced many forms of deprivation, such as the alienation of resources and land. Despite being excluded from most aspects of national life, tribal women are still vulnerable to the effects of socio-economic shifts in society.

Birinder Pal Singh (2010) provided a detailed anthropological account of seven denitrified tribes, also referred to as Vimukthi jets, lawbreaker tribes, wedding, family, life cycle, and economic activities. Religious characteristics, the results of development projects, the history of criminal tribes, their arrival in Punjab, their establishment, and the reasons behind their reputation as criminals have all been thoroughly explained. Marriage, family, life-cycle rituals, food habits, social divisions, and the impact of development projects are just a few of the subjects that are discussed separately for tribes. Tribes are affected differently by development projects. Each tribe has a different literacy rate.

Suri, K. (2014): Women account for roughly half of the world's population. Without the involvement of women, no nation or culture can even consider progress and development. Education is the only tool that allows women to be empowered all over the world because it is the only schooling that stimulates the awareness and rational thought of human beings, including women. We cannot deny the value of education for women in today's world and India, as it has the potential to elevate them to the same level as their male counterparts. In a changing world in which women are actively participating in social, political, economic, and other fields, women in India remain illiterate, taken advantage of, and backward.

Women make up about half of the world's population, according to Suri, K. (2014). No country or culture can even think about progress and development without the participation of women. Since education is the only thing that raises awareness and encourages logical thought among all people, including women, it is the sole instrument that enables women to be empowered globally. In India and the modern world, we cannot undervalue the importance of education for women since it can help them reach the same level as males. In a world that is developing and where women are actively involved in social, political, economic, and other spheres, Indian women continue to be ignorant, exploited, and regressive.

Smriti Sharma and Ashwini Deshpande (2015): Among the many drawbacks this study has found for India ,

caste and gender are projected as prominent, which are thought to be two of the same social stratification factors. Women and girls from lower caste groups are impacted by disparities in access to resources and assets, occupation and ownership, management, education, incomes, and nutrition and health. One of several studies on women's contributions to India's economic growth this study looked into the challenges and problems that Indian women confront. The research identifies several significant obstacles to development and empowerment, including poverty, child marriage, hunger, and illiteracy.

Dr. Ramakrishnappa (2015): The article's primary focus was Karnataka's Scheduled Tribes' socio-economic status and female empowerment. The study discovered significant gaps between the real independence of tribal women and scientific and policy developments. Women's economic, social, and political identities, in addition to their weight, impact their level of empowerment. A significant number of tribal women live in remote areas with limited access to resources like as production, health care, and education.

Murmu, S. C., and Bhattacharya, S. (2019): Women in India always have "dual obligations" that extend beyond the home. Their roles are significant in both non-economic and economic processes. In the interior regions of India, tribal women are economically essential to their families and communities. The study supports the notion that women who engage in substantial participation in fundamental subsistence activities enjoy a high status. Their contributions to the subsistence economy have placed them in a significant and irrevocable position, despite their limited control over material or resources.

A common misunderstanding that tribal women held a higher social status in their civilizations than Indian women was assessed by Khan, S., & Hasan, Z. (2020). However, some legal study challenges this assertion. In tribal societies, women are vital and abundant. Tribal people make up about 8.6% of a nation's total population, according to the 2011 Census. Demographic data indicates that they have been at a disadvantage for many years because so many of them reside in rural areas.

A study by Azra Musavi and Juhi Gupta (2020) provided a comprehensive analysis of a number of topics pertaining to women's marginalization in India. It evolved into an intriguing discussion about the many levels of difficulty women encounter and the

complexities of life that accompany them. The study clarified the constitutional, legal, and political facets of the topic in addition to examining issues and challenges. It also provided the most recent insights into the understanding of the current state of marginalized women in India.

Research shows that although tribal women are important in the political and socio-economic areas, structural obstacles are still there to prevent them from fully participating. In order to increase their engagement and enhance the general well-being of the community, policies that prioritize political inclusion, economic empowerment, and education are essential. They should also address health inequities. Future studies ought to examine the long-term effects of grassroots initiatives and legislative changes.

ROLE OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN ADMINISTRATION

Tribal women's administrative roles are changing, and they are becoming more involved in leadership, governance, and decision-making at all levels. An outline of their efforts is provided below:

1. Traditional Governance Roles:

- Women have long been integral to local governance and decision-making in many tribal societies.
- In certain tribal communities, such as the Khasi and Garo of Meghalaya, who adhere to a matrilineal system, women have a major say in social and political issues.

2. Engagement with Panchayati Raj Establishments (PRIs)

- Many tribal women participate in grassroots development as sarpanches, ward members, and district council members; the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) guaranteed 33% of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, allowing tribal women to assume leadership positions in local governance.

3. Role in Policy Advocacy and Social Movements

- Tribal women have been at the forefront of various environmental and land rights movements, such as:

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- **Chipko Movement** (Uttarakhand)
- **Narmada Bachao Andolan**
- **Dongria Kondh's anti-mining protests** in Odisha
- They advocate for **land rights, forest conservation, and tribal autonomy**.

4. Leadership in Government and Politics

- Many tribal women have taken up roles in **state assemblies, Parliament, and administrative services**.
- Examples include **Droupadi Murmu**, the first tribal woman to become the President of India.

5. Representation in Tribal Councils & Self-Governance Bodies

- Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and tribal self-governance institutions have increasing participation of women in decision-making.
- Tribal women actively engage in community dispute resolution and social welfare programs.

6. Challenges Faced

- **Patriarchal norms** still limit the participation of many tribal women in administration.
- **Lack of education and awareness** hinders their ability to take up leadership roles.
- **Political marginalization and exploitation** by dominant groups pose significant challenges.

7. Government Initiatives to Promote Tribal Women in Administration

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Microfinance Schemes are put into operation to empower women economically;
- Scholarships and Education incentives are provided for tribal girls for receiving education ;
- Reservation of ST women in Parliament and Assemblies to increase the scope for Political Participation ; and
- Skill Development Programmes like Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram for Capacity-Building

Tribal women are playing an increasingly significant role in administration, from grassroots governance to national politics. With better education, legal support, and political empowerment, their participation can further strengthen tribal self-governance and community development.

ROLE OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Tribal women play a crucial role in **local self-governance**, particularly after the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992)**, which mandated **reservations for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**. Their participation has strengthened decision-making, social welfare, and community development at the grassroots level.

1. Participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

(a) Reservation for Women in PRIs

- The **73rd Amendment Act** provided **33% reservation for women** in local bodies, including tribal areas under the **Fifth Schedule**.
- Some states, like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, have **50% reservation** for women, encouraging greater tribal women's representation.

(b) Roles Played by Tribal Women in PRIs

- **Sarpanches & Ward Members:** Many tribal women serve as village heads and decision-makers.
- **Decision-Making on Key Issues:** Land rights, education, health, forest conservation, and women's empowerment.
- **Social Welfare Implementation:** Ensuring access to schemes like **MGNREGA, PDS, and health programs**.

(c) Examples of Successful Tribal Women Leaders

- **Phulwati Murmu (Jharkhand):** A tribal woman sarpanch who led initiatives for women's literacy and sanitation.
- **Dayamani Barla (Jharkhand):** An activist known for her role in tribal self-governance and land rights.
- **Nandini Sundar's Research:** Shows that tribal women in self-governance play a major role in resisting displacement and environmental destruction.

2. Role in PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996

The **PESA Act** empowers Gram Sabhas (village councils) in Scheduled Areas, strengthening **tribal self-rule**.

- **Tribal Women in Gram Sabhas:** They influence decisions on land use, forest management, and social justice.
- **Forest Rights Act, 2006:** Women participate in securing community forest rights and resisting illegal deforestation.

3. Challenges Faced by Tribal Women in Local Governance

- **Patriarchal Norms:** Many tribal women still struggle for equal say in decision-making.
- **Lack of Education & Awareness:** Low literacy rates hinder their political participation.
- **Political Manipulation:** Male-dominated structures sometimes use women as proxies in governance.
- **Limited Resources & Training:** Many tribal women leaders lack administrative skills and access to funding.

4. Government Initiatives to Promote Tribal Women's Leadership

- **Women's Reservation Bill (2023):** Proposed **33% reservation for women in Parliament & State Assemblies**, which will further empower tribal women.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):** Encourages Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for economic empowerment.
- **Capacity-Building Programs:** Training for elected tribal women representatives to improve governance skills.

Tribal women are becoming **agents of change** in local self-governance, shaping decisions that impact their communities. While challenges remain, policies like **PESA, PRI reservations, and skill-building programmes** are helping them take on leadership roles. Strengthening their participation further can lead to **more inclusive, sustainable, and effective governance** at the grassroots level.

PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN INDIA – AN ANALYSIS

1. Political Representation of Tribal Women

(a) Reservation and Electoral Participation

- The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992)** ensured **33% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and urban local bodies, benefiting tribal women in rural governance.
- Some states, like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, have **50% reservation for women in PRIs**, leading to greater tribal women's representation.
- The **Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservations** in Parliament and State Assemblies have led to increased tribal women leaders in mainstream politics.

(b) Notable Tribal Women Leaders

- **Droupadi Murmu** – First tribal woman President of India.
- **Phulmati Devi (Jharkhand)** – Tribal sarpanch leading local development.
- **Jual Oram & Anusuiya Uikey** – Women tribal leaders who contributed to policy-making.

(c) Voter Turnout & Participation Trends

- In several tribal-dominated states (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and northeastern states), **tribal women have shown higher voter turnout** compared to urban women.
- Awareness campaigns, self-help groups (SHGs), and NGO initiatives have increased tribal women's electoral participation.

2. Role in Grassroots Democracy and Local Governance

(a) Participation in Gram Sabhas and PESA Act, 1996

- The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) gives tribal Gram Sabhas the authority to make their own decisions.

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- Tribal women take an active role in social welfare, forest management, and land rights programmes.
- Concerns concerning relocation and environmental preservation have been raised by women's collectives in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

(b) Forest Rights and Movements

- **Forest Rights Act, 2006** empowered tribal women to assert **community forest rights**.
- **Dongria Kondh (Odisha) and Gond (Chhattisgarh) women** have resisted mining projects that threaten their livelihoods.

3. Challenges to Tribal Women's Political Participation

(a) Patriarchy and Social Barriers

- Many tribal communities are patriarchal, limiting women's political involvement.
- In some cases, elected tribal women leaders serve as "proxies" for male relatives.

(b) Low Literacy and Awareness

- The literacy rate among tribal women remains lower than the national average, affecting their ability to participate in governance effectively.

(c) Political Marginalization and Violence

- Tribal women in conflict-prone areas (e.g., central India's Maoist-affected regions) face **threats, displacement, and violence**, discouraging political participation.
- Political parties often neglect tribal women's concerns in electoral manifestos.

4. Government Policies and Initiatives for Political Empowerment

(a) Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023)

- Proposes **33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies**, which can **increase tribal women's representation in national politics**.

(b) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and SHGs

- SHGs like **Mahila Sangathans** have strengthened tribal women's leadership skills, making them more politically active.

(c) Legal and Policy Reforms

- More training programs and **capacity-building workshops** are being conducted for tribal women elected to local bodies.
- Special financial assistance is provided for women-led tribal enterprises and self-governance projects.

5. The Way Forward: Strengthening Tribal Women's Democratic Participation

- **Education & Awareness Campaigns:** Expanding literacy programs and leadership training for tribal women.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Providing financial independence through self-employment and entrepreneurship.
- **Stronger Legal Implementation:** Ensuring PESA and FRA laws are effectively enforced to benefit tribal women.
- **Protection from Political Violence:** Addressing security concerns in conflict-prone tribal regions.
- **Encouraging Youth Leadership:** More efforts to engage young tribal women in democratic decision-making.

Although reservations, grassroots activity, and policy changes have improved tribal women's involvement in the political process, obstacles still exist. Tribal women can have more role and play in governance and policy-making with improved training, awareness, and assistance, guaranteeing a more inclusive and representative democracy in India.

CAUSES OR CHALLENGES OF TRIBAL WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Tribal women face several challenges that affect their participation in social, economic, and political activities. These challenges arise from historical marginalization, socio-economic disadvantages, and cultural factors. Here are some key causes and challenges:

1. Socio-Cultural Challenges

- **Traditional Gender Roles:** Many tribal societies have deeply ingrained patriarchal

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norms that limit women's participation in decision-making.

- **Early Marriage:** Child marriage is prevalent in some tribal communities, restricting women's education and economic opportunities.
- **Superstitions and Customs:** Some traditional practices discourage women from actively engaging in public life.

2. Economic Challenges

- **Poverty:** Many tribal communities face severe poverty, and women often have to focus on survival rather than participation in other activities.
- **Lack of Economic Independence:** Tribal women frequently lack access to financial resources, credit, and land ownership.
- **Limited Employment Opportunities:** Economic activities in tribal areas are often limited to agriculture and labor-intensive work, which offer low wages and poor working conditions.

3. Educational Barriers

- **Low literacy rates:** Many women in the tribe have less access to education due to school absence, distance, and cultural factors.
- **Language barriers.** Education is often provided in a basic language, complicating effective training for breeding women who speak Indigenous languages.
- **Navigation indicator:** Girls are more likely to be abandoned due to the absence of proper hygiene at school, home duties, early marriage, absence of women teachers or proper sanitation in schools.

4. Health and Well-being

- **Lack of Healthcare Facilities:** Tribal areas often lack proper medical infrastructure, leading to high maternal mortality and poor health outcomes.
- **Malnutrition:** Many tribal women suffer from malnutrition due to poverty and lack of access to nutritious food.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Many tribal women are unaware of their rights to healthcare and reproductive health services.

5. Political and Legal Challenges

- **Limited Political Representation:** Tribal women are often underrepresented in decision-making positions at the local, state, and national levels.
- **Lack of Awareness of Rights:** Many tribal women are unaware of their legal rights and government schemes meant for their benefit.
- **Violence and Discrimination:** Many tribal women face domestic violence, exploitation, and harassment, discouraging them from participating in public life.

6. Infrastructure and Connectivity Issues

- **Poor Transport and Communication:** Remote tribal areas often lack proper roads, electricity, and internet access, making it difficult for women to engage in economic and political activities.
- **Limited Access to Markets:** Women engaged in traditional crafts or agriculture struggle to reach larger markets due to poor infrastructure.

7. Environmental and Displacement Issues

- **Loss of Land and Livelihoods:** Many tribal communities face displacement due to deforestation, mining, and large-scale industrial projects, impacting women's stability and economic participation.
- **Climate Change:** Environmental changes often affect agriculture and forest-based livelihoods, which are crucial for tribal women.

REASONS FOR NON-PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL WOMEN :

The non-participation of tribal women in various social, economic, and political activities can be attributed to several factors, including:

1. Socio-Cultural Factors

- **Traditional Gender Roles** – Many tribal communities follow patriarchal norms where women are expected to focus on domestic responsibilities rather than public participation.
- **Early Marriages** – In some tribes, early marriage limits women's mobility and opportunities for education and employment.

- **Social Taboos and Restrictions** – Cultural taboos may prevent women from engaging in decision-making or public activities.

2. Economic Barriers

- **Poverty** – Many tribal communities face economic hardship, and women often have to engage in unpaid labor, limiting their time for participation in community activities.
- **Lack of Financial Independence** – Tribal women often have limited access to land ownership, credit, and financial decision-making.
- **Dependence on Traditional Livelihoods** – Dependence on agriculture, forest products, and informal labor can make it difficult for women to engage in broader economic or political activities.

3. Educational Constraints

- **Low Literacy Rates** – Many tribal women have lower literacy levels due to limited access to quality education.
- **Language Barriers** – Many tribal languages are not included in formal education, making learning difficult.
- **Lack of Awareness** – Due to low literacy, tribal women may not be aware of their rights, welfare schemes, or opportunities for participation.

4. Health and Well-being Issues

- **Poor Healthcare Facilities** – Lack of healthcare access leads to high maternal mortality and poor overall health, reducing participation in community affairs.
- **Malnutrition and Anemia** – High prevalence of malnutrition affects the physical ability of women to engage in public or economic activities.

5. Political and Legal Barriers

- **Limited Political Representation** – Tribal women have minimal representation in local governance and decision-making bodies.
- **Lack of Awareness of Legal Rights** – Many tribal women are unaware of their constitutional rights, such as land rights, voting rights, and protection against discrimination.

- **Fear of Exploitation** – Tribal women are often vulnerable to exploitation and harassment, discouraging active participation.

6. Geographical and Infrastructure Challenges

- **Remote Locations** – Many tribal communities live in remote areas with poor connectivity, making it difficult for women to engage in mainstream activities.
- **Lack of Transport and Communication** – Inaccessibility to markets, schools, and government offices restricts mobility and participation.

7. Discrimination and Social Exclusion

- **Marginalization by Mainstream Society** – Tribal women often face discrimination in education, employment, and governance.
- **Caste and Ethnic Biases** – In some regions, tribal communities face discrimination from dominant caste groups, further restricting women's participation.

8. Burden of Domestic and Community Responsibilities

- **Excessive Workload** – Tribal women often perform multiple roles, including farming, fuel and water collection, and childcare, leaving little time for participation in social or economic activities.
- **Lack of Support Systems** – Limited access to childcare and support from male members restricts their ability to engage in external affairs.

KEY ASPECTS OF SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

- **Education and awareness**: Provides access to quality education, raises awareness of social issues, promotes critical thinking skills, and allows individuals to make informed decisions and make arguments that affect their lives.
- **Health and well being** : Ensures access to health services, information and resources that enable individuals to maintain excellent physical and mental health, and enables them to take proactive action in a variety of social activities.

- **Civil Participation**: Encouraging active participation in public and civil matters, including participation in decision -making processes, public projects and local administration.

- **Equality of Gender and Diversity** :Promote equal rights and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their sex, their ethnic origin, their religion or their other characteristic, and discrimination and prejudices .

- **Social networks and support**: Promotesocial connections and networks that provide individuals with emotional support, information and resources to deal with challenges and seize opportunities.

- **Media and Communication**: Ensure access to a variety of media platforms that improve unresolved voices and outlook, allowing people to share their stories and experiences.

- **Legal and Human Rights**: Legal and Human Rights protection of all members of the Society.It allows individuals to protect their rights and aim for justice when necessary.

- **ommunity Development**: Community promotion – oriented initiatives that solve local problems, strengthen social cohesion and improve the general quality of life.

- **Capacity-Building**:Expanding the rights and capabilities of people to express their problems, needs and desires, both individually and collectively, in order to influence politics and practices that affect their lives.

KEY APPROACH FOR PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN:

- **Diversification of livelihoods**: Provides training and support to tribal women engaged in a variety of income-generating activities, including agriculture, breeding agriculture, crafts, weaving, and small and medium-sized businesses.
- **Skill Development**: Provide tribal women with skill development programs with marketable skills, allowing them to access better employment opportunities and start their own business.
- **Access to Finance**: Promote access to microfinance, credit and savings services tailored to the needs of

tribal women, invest in activities and manage their finances effectively.

- Legal Rights and Land Ownership: Protect the safe land rights of tribal women, ensuring access and property for productive resources. This is often essential for economic activity.
- **Gender - Sensitive Policies:** Play for the gender - sensitive policies that contributes to equal economic capabilities and solves specific problems faced by women.
- Supporting child and mother management: Provide access to services to children and mothers that allow tribes to balance their responsibilities for the care of economic activities.
- Adding value to traditional skills: Recognize and Promote traditional skills and knowledge owned by tribal women, helping them add value to their products and generate income thanks to cultural heritage .
- Education and Training: Provides education and vocational training programs that enable tribal women to acquire modern skills and knowledge by increasing employment and earning potential.
- Awareness and Financial Literacy: To enhance women's conscience with tribal women with economic rights and capabilities, and to teach financial literacy to improve financial management skills.
- Monitoring and Assessment: Monitor and evaluate economic development programmes regularly and make necessary coordination with tribal women to assess their impact on well - being.

KEY STRATEGIES AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROMOTING POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN:

- Legal and Policy Reform: Advocate for legal and policy changes that ensure equal rights and opportunities for tribal women in politics. This may include reforms related to election representation, seat reservations and countermeasures against discrimination .
- Potential Expansion: Training and Potential Building is a programme to generate political skills, leadership abilities, and knowledge about tribal women. This

will allow them to effectively participate in political activities and decision-making.

- Awareness and education: Raises awareness among tribal communities about the importance of women's participation in politics and how this can be provided for community development and management.
- Support networks: Create platforms for women for tribes in order to exchange experience and support each other in their political efforts. These networks can ensure mentoring, encouragement and a feeling of solidarity.
- Seat Reservations: Advocate for reservation of seats in legislative Bodies for tribal women, ensuring that there is guaranteed space for them to represent the community and contribute to policy discussions.
- Local Governance: Promotes the participation of Tribal women in local governance agencies such as village councils and Panchayats.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Recognise and Respect the cultural standards and traditions of tribal communities while promoting gender equality and female participation. They will interact with community leaders to ensure that efforts to expand rights and opportunities are culturally sensitive and fully available.
- Leadership Development: Identify and nourish women from emerging tribes, providing the possibility of mentoring, leadership training and exposure to the political process.
- Advocacy and Expression: Encourage Tribal women to express their concerns and defend questions that are important to them, both within their communities and on more important political platforms.

WAYS TO IMPROVE PARTICIPATION

- **Promoting Education and Skill Development** – Encouraging literacy programs and vocational training.
- **Strengthening Government Policies** – Ensuring tribal women benefit from welfare schemes and reservation policies.
- **Enhancing Political Representation** – Encouraging women's participation in local governance through reserved seats and leadership training.

- **Improving Infrastructure and Healthcare** – Providing better roads, healthcare centers, and financial support for tribal women.
- **Encouraging Economic Empowerment** – Promoting self-help groups (SHGs) and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Increasing **awareness programs** about women's rights and legal protections.

CONCLUSION

Empowering tribal women politically not only benefits their individual rights and well - being but also contributes to more inclusive and effective governance, diverse policy perspectives, and the overall development of tribal communities. It requires a multi - faceted approach that addresses social, cultural, and structural factors while promoting active participation and representation. Promoting the economic development of tribal women requires a comprehensive and culturally sensitive approach that takes into account their unique social, cultural, and economic contexts. Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, non - governmental organizations, community leaders, and tribal women themselves are essential to achieving meaningful and sustainable economic empowerment. Social empowerment aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive and contribute. It involves shifting power dynamics, challenging social norms, and dismantling barriers that hinder the full participation and well - being of marginalized groups. Efforts to achieve social empowerment often require collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, community leaders, and individuals themselves. By fostering a sense of belonging, agency, and shared responsibility, social empowerment contributes to stronger communities, improved social cohesion, and sustainable development. Efforts towards tribal women empowerment in India need to be context - specific, culturally sensitive, and sustainable. By addressing economic, social, and political dimension, these initiatives contribute to the holistic development of tribal women and create amore inclusive and equitable society.

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