Tribal Youth Related Issues in India and Positive Youth Development Approach

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Abstract

The study attempts to understand the key questions pertaining to tribal youth residing in Indian territories. Such questions are: What are the key issues of tribal youths in India? What are the opportunities provided by government of India to solve those issues? And finally what can be done to overcome those issues related to tribal youths? The present study is based on the secondary sources i.e. Census 2011, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statistical data of Scheduled Tribes etc. It is true that tribal youths are more vulnerable in comparison to the general population of youths in India. Tribal youth constitute a numerically dominant, potentially resourceful and also adventurous segment of the population. Unlike urban youth who are mostly educated, organize in many forms and have access to facilities and institutions meant for youth services, Tribal youth are mostly illiterate are burdened with the needs of their families, lack of opportunities for organizing them to engage in constructive work and also lack guidance for participation in development activities. Despite being in vulnerable condition, they still have potential to overcome every issue through initiation of adequate intervention programme among them. Therefore, like the other section of the society, the issues of the tribal youths is one of the gravest that the nation is facing today and which need an urgent consideration of policy makers. If excluded this section of the population, it will remain an untapped resource in terms of increasing prosperity of the entire nation.

Keywords: Positive youth development perspective, Tribal youth, Tribal youth issues

Introduction

For centuries youth have had major roles to play in society. In fact they have been agents of most significant social change. More recently they have toppled governments, revived cultures and provided leadership in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres of life. In developing nations, youth are generally segregated from the rest of its peer groups. The alienation from its peer group and the mainstream of the traditional society often makes them unsure of their roots.

India is one of the few nations noted for tribal concentration. According to 2011 census, the tribal of India accounts for 8.6% of the total population. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. 89.97% of them live in Tribal areas and 10.03% in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribal's from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66% against the 17.69% of the entire population. Broadly the STs inhabit two distinct geographical areas - the Central India and the North-Eastern Area. More than half of the

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Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in Central India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh (14.69%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Jharkhand (8.29%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), Maharashtra (10.08%), Orissa (9.2%), Gujarat (8.55%) and Rajasthan

(8.86%). The other distinct area is the North East (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh). The Graph below shows the states' share of ST population out of India's ST population.
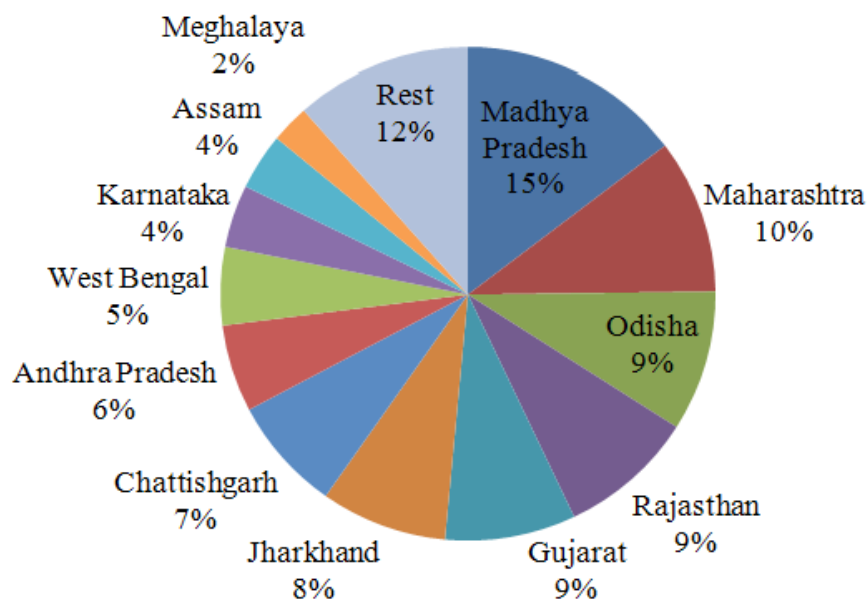

Figure 1.Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Population by States - 2011

Defining Youth

Youth is considered to be a word which has enthralled the minds of the intellects since the beginning. Now the question arises here, who is a Youth? "Youth is the period when people begin to be heard and recognized outside their families. They establish their identities as individuals while they begin to interact independently with the broader community".[17] In the Indian National Youth Policy-2003, "youth was defined a person of age between 13-35 years, but in the current Policy Document, the youth age-group is defined as 15-29 years with a view to have a more focused approach, as far as various policy interventions are concerned".[14]

Tribal Youth

Tribal youth constitute a numerically dominant, potentially resourceful and also adventurous segment of the population. Unlike urban youth who are mostly educated, organize in many forms and have access to facilities and institutions meant for youth services, Tribal youth are mostly illiterate are burdened with the needs of their families, lack of opportunities for organizing them to engage in constructive work and also lack guidance for participation in development activities. Though tribal youth have different fields of activities, they have not been involved and motivated to convert their might in the social contribution. This is due to several reasons, such as lack of nation-wide youth Programmes of training and guidance, lack of inter-dependence, lack of an appropriate network for youth organizations, lack of adequate youth organizations and

efficient programme in tribal sectors. In recent times, socio-economic conditions, changing families, modernization, social media and many other factors led tribal youths into the youth risk behaviors. In National Youth policy 2014, the broad lagging indicators are: create a productive workforce, develop a strong and healthy generation, instill social values and promote community services, promote participation and civic engagement and ensure inclusion and social justice.[14] So, knowledge, education and training have become even more important in order to have effective tribal youth development. Further, to convert such youth development into societal contribution activities. However, a Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework might be able to provide the template for building successful and active tribal youth that will produce resilient, educated, fully capable youths and social contributors.

Why Focus on Tribal Youths?

Tribal youth are tomorrow's entrepreneurs, responsible citizen, innovator, contributor and indeed leaders. Thus, there is now a growing awareness through the world about the role of youth in economic development. Some scholars have attempted to do research on tribal studies, but studies on youth, particularly tribal youth has not received much attention from the researchers and no major work has been done till now in Indian context. In this backdrop, there is a need for undertaking a study particularly in relation to the risk behaviors that can give comprehensive information on tribal youth. This study intends to bring attention towards youth related issues. The study on tribal youth is also essentially an exercise in

comprehending and combating with their various problems. The tribal youth as a disadvantaged social group undergo various crippling problems that retard their development keeping them relatively backward and marginalized in the contemporary period. They might have less experience but they are highly enthusiastic and potential to offer new innovative concepts.

Objectives

The main objective of the study was to identify key questions pertaining to tribal youth development in India are: What are the key issues of tribal youths in India? What are the opportunities provided by government of India to solve those issues? And finally what can be done to overcome those issues related to tribal youths? And to suggests some of the remedial measures.

Review Method

The author has undertaken most of the national level, population based and independent studies conducted in tribal areas. Various key words were used such as youth, young people, tribal youth, tribal problems, and Positive Youth Development. Several search engines were employed such as JStor, Economic and Political weekly, PubMed, Sage Journals, Academic.edu, Scrib, Taylor and Francis and Wiley Online Library. From a methodological perspective, the researcher has used meta-analysis design and used secondary data and analyzed these to make a critical viewpoint on the said issues.

Tribal Youth Issues

School Drop Out

Education forms an important component in the overall development of individuals, enabling them to greater awareness, better comprehension of their social, political and cultural environment and also facilitating in the improvement of their socio-economic conditions. These hold true in the case of the Scheduled Tribes in India. Literacy Rate increased by 11.86 %age points from 2001 to 2011 for STs and 8.15 %age points for total population during the same period. LR has however, all along been lower both for males and females STs as compared to SCs and Total Population.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has increased from 80.4 in 1990-91 to 119.7 in 2010-11 for the STs and from 78.6 in 1990-91 to 86.5 in 2010-11, for the total population. From 2003-04 to 2010-11, the GER was higher for STs than the SCs and the total population, both for male and female. Even with a high GER, still the school dropout problem exists among STs. In the case of tribal, dropout rates are still very high – 35.6% in Classes I to V; 55% in Classes I to VIII; and 70.9% in Classes I to X in 2010-11 and significantly higher than the all India figures (Table No. 1 below).

Table 1. Drop Out Rates (DOR) (%)

Class	Boys		Girls		Total		
	ST	All	ST	All	ST	All	Gap
Classes I – V	37.2	28.7	33.9	25.1	35.6	27	8.6
Classes I – VIII	54.7	40.3	55.4	41	55	40/6	14.4
Classes I – X	70.6	50.4	71.3	47.9	70.9	49.3	21.6

Table 1 shows reveal that out of every 100 ST students who entered class I, while almost 67 completed class V, only 41.9 completed classes VIII and 13.9 studied up to class XII. The comparative data for all categories is that of 100 students entering class I, 79 completed classes V, about 64 completed class VIII and 30.3 studied up to class XII. For ST students the inflection points at completion of class VIII have to be urgently addressed.[11]

In the Class I-V and Class I-VIII, the maximum dropout is in the state of Meghalaya - 54.6 and 73.8 respectively. Among girls, the drop-out rates in 2010-11 was highest in the state of Odisha followed by the state of Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh. Among boys, it was highest in the state of Odisha followed by the state of Meghalaya and Jharkhand.[12]

Literacy

The future progress of any society depends on the quality of its youth population. The proportion of literates among youth in India has considerably improved over the years and reached 88.2% in 2009-10. The % age, however, is lower among STs and SCs with 80.46% this often discourages SC/ST parents from sending their children for higher education by foregoing their current income. The future progress of any society depends on the quality of its youth population. The proportion of literates among youth in India has considerably improved over the years and reached 88.2% 2009-10. The % age, however, is lower among STs and SC with 80.46% this often discourages SC/ST parents from sending their children for higher education by foregoing their current income.

For the scheduled tribe population in India, the literacy rate increased from 8.53% in 1961 to 58.96% in 2011 for STs; while the corresponding increase of the total population was from 28.30% in 1961 to 72.99% in 2011. But still ten states having literacy rates less than country's average (58.96%) for ST population in Census 2011 are indicated below Table 2.

Table 2.States having ST Literacy Rates less the Country's Average for STs

S. No.	State/UT	Literacy Rate
1.	India	58.96
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49.2
3.	Madhya Pradesh	50.6
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.6
5.	Bihar	51.1
6.	Orissa	52.2
7.	Rajasthan	52.8
8.	Tamil Nadu	54.3
9.	Uttar Pradesh	55.7
10.	Jharkhand	57.1
11.	West Bengal	57.9

The NSS 66th Round, Report no 543 compiles, data on % age distribution of persons of age 15 years and above by level of general education as given in the Table 3 below:

Table 3.% Age Distribution of Person of Age 15 Years and above by Level of General Education

Social group	Not literate	Literate and up to primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Diploma/ certificate	Graduate and above
Rural Male							
ST	35.8	26.4	18.3	11.1	5.7	0.6	2.2
All social group	26.0	25.3	20.5	14.7	8.0	1.0	4.5
Rural Female							
ST	58.3	21.7	10.3	5.7	2.7	0.3	0.9
All social group	49.8	22.0	13.5	8.2	4.2	0.4	2.0
Urban Male							
ST	12.7	17.6	19.3	18.2	14.3	2.6	15.3
All social group	10.4	15.9	17.5	19.5	13.9	2.9	19.8
Urban Female							
ST	31.3	16.7	15.3	14.7	11.1	1	9.8
All social group	23.6	17.2	15.3	15.9	12.1	1.3	14.7
Rural Person							
ST	47.0	24.2	14.3	8.4	4.2	0.4	1.6
All social group	37.8	23.7	17.0	11.5	6.2	0.7	3.2
Urban Person							
ST	21.8	17.1	17.3	16.5	12.8	1.8	12.6
All social group	16.7	16.4	16.4	17.7	13.0	2.1	17.3

Table 3 shows that, in the 'not literate' group % age of rural ST persons is way higher than urban ST persons, and also more pronounced in case of female ST persons. The trend is similar in other levels also. In case of higher education the % age of rural ST persons is very low (1.6%) in comparison to the Urban persons (12.6%) which is quite alarming and only 0.2% of ST rural females go for higher education even after the several provisions provided by government for the STs person for higher education, which is a cause of concern for India as a nation.

Health Issues

Despite being a curable disease, TB is still a stigmatizing illness, mainly due to people's ignorance of its etiology and transmission. 40.2% of ST women and 44.3% of ST men who have heard of TB mentioned coughing or sneezing as a mode of transmission for TB. Half of the ST men who heard of TB (50.5%) have misconception about transmission of TB. Results in NFHS-3 about health problems of diabetes, asthma, goiter or any other thyroid disorders among women and men age 15-49 per 100,000 shows that the number of people with asthma is high among both ST women and men as compared to SCs and OBCs. (1,749 per 100,000 for women and 1,973 per 100,000 for men).[12]

Tobacco use is associated with a wide range of major diseases, including several types of cancers and heart and lung diseases among tribal youths. According to NFHS-3 findings, the % age of ST women and men age 15-49, who use any kind of tobacco, is highest when compared to any other social group (26.3% for women and 71.2% for men). NFHS-3 finds that among all social groups, drinking is common among half (49.9%) of the ST men and 14.1% of ST women.

Though Government of India has been using mass media extensively, especially electronic media, to increase awareness of AIDS and its prevention in the population, the % age of ST men and women who have heard about AIDS is far below the general population. (38.6% of ST women and 63.9% of ST men compared to 60.9% women and 82.9% men in general population. The HIV prevalence rate among the STs is 0.25% compared to all India figure of 0.28%. The knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention is crucial in enabling young people to avoid HIV/AIDS. Young people may be at greater risk because they may have shorter relationships with more partners, or engage in other risky behaviors. Among STs, only 8% of women and 20% of men have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

Unemployment

The economic survey in 2012 stresses that in order to achieve inclusive growth; India must create adequate employment opportunities: the number of unemployed is large and there are more youth entering the job market. There are several reasons which cause unemployment among tribal youths that are: shortage of jobs, employability, skill mismatch, women-security and social restrictions and decent work deficit.[16]

The general category recorded the highest unemployment rate in rural areas but not so in the urban context (Table 3). Possibly, rural youth in the general category are better educated and belong to higher economic background and, hence, can afford to remain unemployed for longer in order to search for better jobs. On the other hand, in the urban areas, the scheduled tribes (among males) and the other backward classes (among females) reported the highest unemployment rate. Otherwise, the urban unemployment rates in general have been higher than their rural counterparts.[13]

Table 4.Unemployment Rate among Youths (15-29) by Social Categories, 2009-10

Social Category	Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Scheduled Tribe	4.8	2.2	3.8	12.3	12.9	12.5
Scheduled Caste	4.6	4.4	4.5	7.1	11.0	7.9
OBC	4.0	4.4	4.1	7.3	16.8	9.2
General	6.2	4.6	4.7	7.5	14.3	8.9
Total	4.7	4.6	4.7	7.5	14.3	8.9

It is also interesting to note that, in the rural areas, the differences in male-female youth unemployment rates are nominal among the schedule castes, other backward classes and the general categories. However, among scheduled tribes, the female rate is only half the male rate. Among rural youth, women, therefore, seem to be working at least as intensively as the males once they participate in the labour market. On other hand, in urban areas, women can afford greater spells of unemployment. Social factors are important determinants of women employment, which is reflected in the high unemployment rates of young women in urban areas. On the other hand, though economic conditions may not be varied between the general and the other backward classes, the youth unemployment rate among the females is sizably different, possibly because of differences in attitude towards women's work.[13]

Schemes/Programmes for Tribal Youth Population

There are several schemes/programmes for the tribal youths in India from State and Central government but most of these programmes are need based programmes only. Most of the policies and programmes related to tribal youth development have focused on the following domains: (a) education; (b) Welfare; and (c) Employment. The list of the schemes/ programmes is as follows (Table 5):

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Table 5

S. No.	Particular	Activity
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan for employment-cum-income generation activities	This is a special area programme and 100% grants are provided to State based on annual allocation made by the Planning Commission. This is treated as an additive to the State Plan, for areas where State Plan provisions are not normally forthcoming to bring about economic development to tribal.
2.	Grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India	Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India: "Such sums as Parliament may by law provide shall be charged on the consolidated Fund of India in each year as grants-in aid of the revenues of such States as Parliament may determine to be in need of assistance, and different sums may be fixed for different States. A part of grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution is used for setting up of "Ekalavya Model Residential Schools" for providing quality education to ST students (both girls and boys) from class VI to XII.
3.	Scheme of Strengthening Education among Schedules Tribe (ST) Girls in Low Literacy Districts	The scheme is for promotion of education among tribal girls in the identified low literacy districts of the country. The scheme also aims to improve the socioeconomic status of the poor and illiterate tribal population through the education of women.
4.	Scheme of construction of hostels for ST Girls and Boy	The scheme is to provide Hostels for Scheduled Tribes including PTGs in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country.
5.	Scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas	The scheme is to provide one time grant residential school infrastructure for Scheduled Tribes including PTGs in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country.
6.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	The Schemes of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas is a self-employment or increasing employability of ST boys and Girls equally.
7.	Post-Matric Scholarship for ST Students	The scheme covers professional, technical as well as non-professional and non-technical courses at various levels including correspondence courses covering distance and continuing education.
8.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST Students	The scheme is intended to support education of children studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized.
9.	Up gradation of Merit of ST students	The scheme is to upgrade the merit of ST students by providing them remedial and special coaching in classes IX to XII.
10.	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for STs	To providing fellowship to Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D.
11.	Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for STs	To provide financial assistance to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies in foreign university in specified files of Master Level Courses, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes, in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science. Level Courses, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes, in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science.
12.	Top class Education for ST students	The Scholarship Scheme for ST students was introduced from the academic year 2007-08 with the objective of encouraging meritorious ST students for pursing studies at Degree and Post Graduate level in any of the Institutes identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the purpose.
13.	Grants-in aid to Voluntary Organization	Under which residential, nonresidential schools, computer training centers and knitting, weaving and handloom training centers run by NGOs for ST students are supported, apart from hospitals, mobile dispensaries etc.

Positive Youth Development Approach as an Alternative Approach

The emergence of the word positive youth development perspective has its origin from "academic research, to the voices of youth workers, to the discussion of national policies and the launching of funding initiatives designed to promote the healthy development of youth and families".[10] "The word positive youth development is used as alike to empowerment, health adjustment, positive well-being, effective development, positive behaviors and youth development".[9] Its aspiration is to understand, educate and involve youths in fruitful activities instead of correcting or treating them from their problems and issues.[4]

Defining Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Damon defines, "the positive youth development perspective emphasizes the manifest potentialities rather than the supposed incapacities of young people – including young people form the most disadvantaged backgrounds and those with most troubled histories.[4] Damon presents three central themes: 1) PYD undertakes a strength-based approach to understand and describe the development of the youths. It speaks about the expression of capabilities instead of supposed incapabilities of youths; 2) Several PYD advocates believe in the importance of the community both as a apparatus and multifaceted setting which impacts youth development to a great extent; 3) It also promotes positive attitudes and behaviors derived irrespective from customs, religious views, and cultural values in the face of secularism.[1]

Lerner (2005) shows that "the positive youth development (PYD) perspective is a strength-based conception of adolescence. Derived from developmental systems theory, the perspective stressed that PYD emerges when the potential plasticity of human development is aligned with developmental assets".[10] Gavin also promotes that "Positive youth development (PYD) may be a promising strategy for promoting adolescent health".[5] Kelley indicated "the need of a psychology grounded in fundamental causal principles that reveal clearly how such children and adolescents can become self-motivated, socially competent, compassionate, and psychologically vigorous adults".[7]

Hamilton defined PYD in three ways. First, youth development is often perceived as a natural process.[6] Second, the context – individual is bidirectional relationship in the developmental process of strength.[6] Third, "set of activities, which promote the developmental process of youth".[6] Larson drawn comparison between PYD and developmental psychopathology and proposed that the previous is concerned about "how things go right: and while the later is about "how things go wrong".[8] There are several other features linked with PYD approach, inclusive of holistic development instead of addressing a single youth issue, stress on individual-context perspective and foci on development models that how youth can grow, learn and transform positively.[2]

Many definitions as well as no agreement of authors on a specific definition – projects the newness of the field and its interdisciplinary character. But every definition of positive youth development depicts the amalgamation of some core ideas of the field which are as follows: 1) Developmental Contexts; 2) Inbuilt capability to develop and prosper through spontaneous involvement to the immediate context; 3) Developmental strength and success; 4) Dilute the high risk behavior and; 5) Promoting prosperity.[9]

Positive Youth Development Models

Some of the most PYD models can be useful to irradiate tribal youth issues in India. These models are used are tested with tribal youths living in Asia and Western countries. The models mentioned below are chosen based on their popularity which are as follows:

Targeting life skills

Patricia Hendricks at Iowa State University developed this model, which focuses on the life skills youth gain through youth development programming.

Assets

The Search Institute of Minnesota has promoted a framework focusing on assets or strengths, including those that youth have internally as well as external supports such as close relationships with caring adults.

The four essential elements

For the past several years, national 4-H and the California 4-H Youth Development Program has been promoting a specific youth development framework for 4-H, the Four Essential Elements of Youth Development.

The Five Cs

Several researchers building on one another's work have developed a framework called the Five Cs of positive youth development (sometimes the Six Cs), which are internal characteristics youth develop that help them to grow into healthy adults.

Community action framework for youth development

James Connell and Michelle Gambone of Youth Development Strategies, Inc., developed this framework, which focuses on supports and opportunities available to youth within a context such as a youth development program.

Table 6.Government Schemes/Programmes Verse Positive Youth Development

Government Schemes/Programmes	Positive Youth Development
Issue Based or Need Based	Strengths-based approach
Reaction to the necessity	Pro-active engagement
Troubled/Needy youths	All youths
Schemes/Programmes with minimal involvement of the society or community	Building relations with family, community and context (systematic change)
Professionals' interventions	Everybody's participation

Most of the government schemes/programmes follows top to bottom way pattern in which bureaucrats or technocrats develop programmes for the tribal youths in need. Most of the policies and programmes related to tribal youth development have focused on the following domains: (a) education; (b) Welfare; and (c) Employment. These initiatives make the tribal youths' dependent as a citizen instead of making them independent to fulfill their requirements. Generic way is employed to develop programmes for the tribal youths without their involvement during developmental process of the programmes. The developed programs for tribal youth are more objective in nature than subjective. The government fails to consider the tribal youth as unique in characteristics and different from other youth population. There's need and requirement are quite different from other youth population in India, in some cases might be similar though. This is the reason, despite being several governmental initiatives the lives of tribal youths are at stack. On the contrary, Positive youth development approach is strength based approach. In this approach, every youth with or without problem are included for their welfare. Every unit of the community i.e. family, neighbors and community members and youths are involved to participate in their welfare activities. Professional's work as a facilitators to help and support the youths in the developmental activities. Here youths' strengths are used believing plasticity or resilience of young ones to resolve their issues at several levels. It proactively involves and encourages youths to participate with enthusiasm in the welfare initiative.

From the above argument, one can draw inference that Positive Youth Development Approach can be preferable solution to resolve the issues of tribal youths in India with which they are struggling with.

Discussion

The review indicates that there is a high school dropout among tribal youths. Dropout rates are still very high – 35.6% in Classes I to V; 55% in Classes I to VIII; and 70.9% in Classes I to X in 2010-11 and significantly higher than the all India figures. LR has however, all along been lower both for males and females STs as compared to SCs and total Population. The proportion of literates among youth in India has considerably improved over the years and reached 88.2 per cent in 2009-10. The % age, however, is

lower among STs and SCs with 80.46 per cent this often discourages SC/ST parents from sending their children for higher education by foregoing their current income. According to Census 2011, ten states having Literacy Rates less than country's average (58.96%) for ST population. The trend is similar in other levels also. In case of higher education the % age of rural ST persons is very low (1.6%) in comparison to the Urban persons (12.6%) which is quite alarming and only 0.2% of ST rural females go for higher education even after the several provisions provided by government for the STs person for higher education, which is a cause of concern for India as a nation.

Half of the ST men who heard of TB (50.5%) have misconception about transmission of TB. Results in NFHS-3 about health problems of diabetes, asthma, goiter or any other thyroid disorders among women and men age 15-49 per 100,000 shows that the number of people with asthma is high among both ST women and men as compared to SCs and OBCs. The % age of ST women and men age 15-49, who use any kind of tobacco, is highest when compared to any other social group. NFHS-3 finds that among all social groups, drinking is common among half of the ST men and ST women. The % age of ST men and women who have heard about AIDS is far below the general population. Among STs, only 8 % of women and 20 % of men have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

There are several reasons which cause unemployment among tribal youths that are: shortage of jobs, employability, skill mismatch, women-security and social restrictions and decent work deficit. In the urban areas, the scheduled tribes (among males) and the other backward classes (among females) reported the highest unemployment rate. The review indicates that an important part of tribal youths have several issues and conditions that would eventually impact their growth and development. The problem related to the tribal youths are on the rise, and likely to increase in the coming years. There is a necessity to develop good and qualitative programmes for the welfare of the tribal youth in India.

Most of the policies and programmes related to tribal youth development have focused on the following domains: (a) education; (b) Welfare; and (c) Employment. Despite several governmental programmes for the welfare of the tribal youth the condition of the tribal youth is vulnerable. The

researcher proposed that Positive Youth Development can be used as an alternative to the government programmes or schemes. Conceptually speaking, there is an urgency to think on tribal youth related issues in India. Researchers and youth practitioners should develop some indigenous programmes keeping tribal youth issues in mind. Further, there should be systematic monitoring and evaluation to check improper implementation of the programmes. Tribal youths must be involved while preparing developmental programmes for them.

Conclusion

The present study though limited in nature clearly imparts significant information on issues concerning tribal youths in India. The highlighted issues in this study i.e. drop out school, illiterate, and health issues in multiple forms presents an emerging, significant and growing threat to the growth of tribal youths. There are several things which are contributing to the above discussed issues in this study. Despite being several governmental initiatives the plight of the tribal youths in India is vulnerable. The study proposes an alternate approach i.e. Positive Youth Development Approach to deal with the issues of tribal youths in India. This approach is used in several Asian and Western context specifically in tribal context and found out to be useful and produced authentic results with tribal youths at foreign land. Therefore, the researcher proposed that PYD approach can be useful and produce long lasting results with tribal youths in Indian context. Further, there is an urgent requirement to resolved tribal youth issues at various levels through the initiation of programmes which are holistic in nature instead of need specific.

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