

Vital Role of NGOs in Supporting Tribal Communities in Jharkhand

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Abstract:

Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) have become significant players in the world motivated by various goals to solve urgent societal problems. Focusing on their role, effect, and difficulties in driving social change, these organizations are vital in the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis) in Jharkhand, India. The study looks at how tribal communities' most important needs are handled by NGOs in the face of insufficient government and market support. Literature—including Ravi (2018), Thamminaina (2018), Singh (2018), Rajput (2015), and Sarmah (2007)—stresses how NGOs support education, healthcare, and jobs, yet notes difficulties like inadequate funding, weak cooperation, and the demand for culturally sensitive, ongoing efforts. Using a qualitative approach, this paper looks at projects run by organizations like Jharkhand Swabhiman, Citizens Foundation, JSLPS, Vikas Bharti, Ram Krishna Mission, PRADAN, and FLAC. Important results show that these groups boost education through schools and vocational training, boost health via mobile clinics and awareness campaigns, and promote economic empowerment through sustainable livelihoods including agriculture and tasar sericulture. They fight problems like witch-hunting, preserve cultural legacy, and safeguard land rights. Although there have been successes, challenges include funding volatility and local elite influence. The research focus on the need of grassroots adaptability and trust-building, therefore pointing out the importance of continuing cooperation among government, NGOs and communities along with enhanced funding and accountability for all-inclusive tribal development in Jharkhand.

Keywords: Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis), Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Economic empowerment, Education, Capacity building.

Introduction

Driven by various goals meant to address pressing social problems, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have become major players in the world stage. These non-profit, independent organizations are quite important for advancing human rights, encouraging sustainable development, and speaking for underprivileged groups. This article looks at the objectives, influence, and obstacles NGOs encounter as they work for social change.

Among NGOs are also social, political, and religious groups joining in the pursuit of common goals, such as human rights, health or education. Via lobbying, public campaigns and legislative advocacy, they are agents for social justice, focusing the voices of the oppressed. In the absence of government aid, in some places the role of basic service providers such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, education and vocational training can be carried out by NGOs. This work plays a critical role in enabling people to lift themselves up, increase living standards, and pursue sustainable community development.

Furthermore, NGOs are crucial in humanitarian relief which provide quick assistance in times of crisis including natural disasters and war. Working with governments, foreign organizations, and local communities to guarantee efficient and synchronized interventions, they offer essential supports like food, housing, medical care, and psychological services.

Research Objective:

- To assess how NGOs contribute to meeting the socio-economic problems Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis) in Jharkhand confront.
- To investigate the projects and activities of certain NGOs active in tribal areas of Jharkhand.
- To research the effect of NGO-led projects in legal advocacy, healthcare, livelihood improvement, and education.
- To gauge the problems NGOs face, including coordination gaps, elitist capture, and unstable financing.
- To examine how tribes development NGOs either support or make up for shortcomings in state and market systems.
- To find best practices and propose methods for more inclusive tribal development by way of better NGO-government-community engagement.

Transformative Impact of NGOs on Tribal Communities of Jharkhand

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through a great variety of activities, are absolutely vital in the elevation of Scheduled Tribes, often known as Adivasis. By elevating public knowledge of the difficulties tribal populations encounter and working to guarantee their participation in decision-making procedures at several levels, these groups champion their rights and interests.

Enhancement of educational possibilities for tribal children and adults is one of the main priorities of NGOs. Within tribal areas, they create and fund colleges, career training facilities, and adult literacy initiatives. By boosting access to good education, NGOs give Adivasis the skills and information needed for self-reliance, employment, and empowerment.

NGOs also seek to raise Scheduled Tribes' health and nutritional level. Establishing medical infrastructure, planning mobile clinics, and running awareness campaigns on important subjects including diet, cleanliness, hygiene, and mother and child health are among their projects. Working with governmental health programs, nonprofits aid tribal communities in gaining better access to basic medical care.

Another important target for intervention is financial empowerment. NGOs facilitate sustainable livelihoods among the tribal people through alternative income generating processes, trainings and materials for improved agriculture and marketing and credit linkage. Economic resilience is increased and dependency on traditional subsistence diminished by such activities. NGOs also vigorously protect tribal land and forest rights. They support native communities in their efforts to gain acknowledgment and ownership of ancestral lands, provide legal services, share information on relevant laws, and help defend protective policies and laws.

NGOs try to preserve and advance tribal cultures, languages, customs, arts, and belief systems by appreciating their wealth. To protect tribal identity, they set up museums, plan cultural activities, and provide funding for community-led cultural preservation initiatives.

At last, non-governmental organizations work to empower tribal people for leadership and self-governance. Through workshops and legal rights training courses, as well as community mobilization against prejudice, abuse, and violence, they advance social justice.

Literature review

Minakshi Kumari Ravi (2018).

Ravi underlined how important NGOs serve as middlemen between civil society, local communities, and the government. Rising consciousness, carrying out development initiatives, and enabling underprivileged groups—including tribal communities—NGOs play a vital role in all of these efforts. NGOs greatly help to bring about more general social change in India by upholding cultural variety, fostering socio-economic growth, and promoting voluntary involvement. Notably in Jharkhand, NGOs have been very involved in tribal upliftment, emphasizing the need of constant cooperation among NGOs, government agencies, and local communities to create inclusive and sustainable development.

Apparo Thamminaina of 2018.

According to Thamminaina, NGOs that understand tribal peoples intimately and use culturally sensitive strategies are more successful in developing trust and long-lasting connections with them. Still, there are obstacles including problems with program implementation, maintaining results, uneven financing, and mistrust. Improving the effectiveness of NGOs in community development calls for open policies, teamwork, and proactive advocacy. Particularly in tribal regions, NGOs working together can increase their influence and speed general development.

Dr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, 2018.

In his study, Dr. Singh underlined that the participation of NGOs in tribal development all across India has produced good results in education, healthcare, and vocational education. Still, the general picture is still varied because of persistent problems resulting from both state and market failures. Though NGOs make laudable efforts, there is a serious need for more long-term and sufficient interventions to effectively solve the difficult problems tribals face.

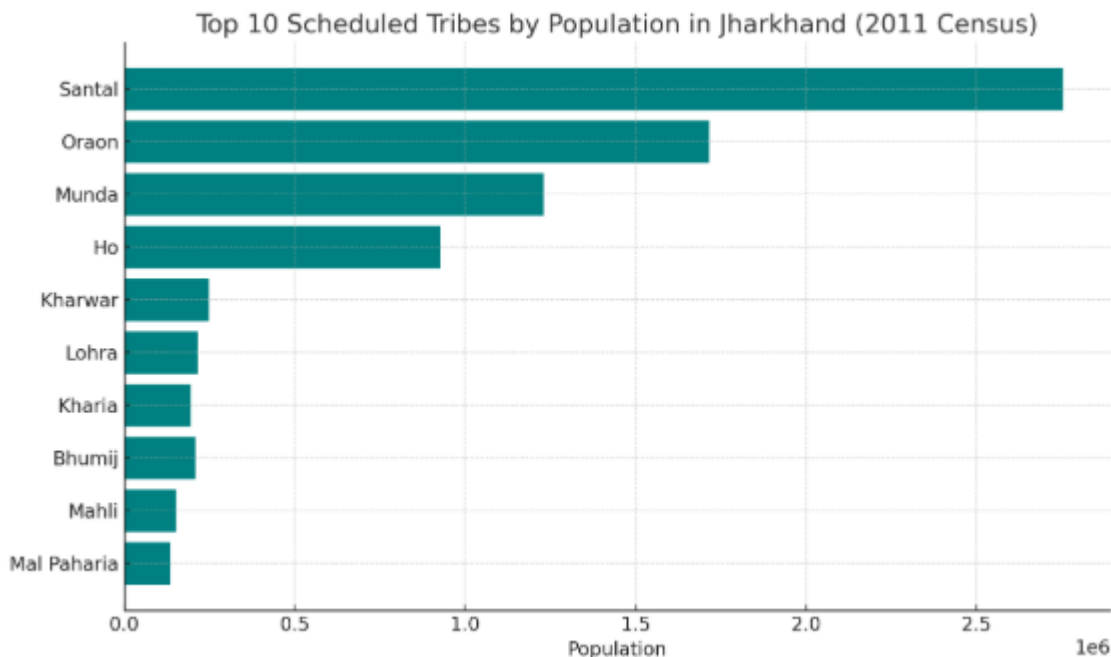
2015 Uday Singh Rajput.

Research on Rajputs in the Jhabua area of western Madhya Pradesh showed that many NGOs are actively engaged in watershed preservation, natural resource management, forest preservation, microcredit availability, self-help group (SHGs) formation, and projects promoting health, education, and income generation. Still, the study also found issues like pervasive superstitions, the lack of good monitoring systems, influence wielded by regional elites, and a lack of cooperation among NGOs working within the same area.

Jayanta Krishna Sarmah (2007).

Sarmah emphasized that NGOs are crucial for the development and welfare of tribal people because of their special qualities and contributions. Their inventiveness, committed personnel, adaptability, strong community connections, high motivation, and effective organizational systems allow them to successfully meet the particular difficulties tribal groups face. Emphasizing NGOs' role in tribal growth can inspire better cooperation, inventive ideas, and positive results for tribal well-being.

Present tribal population condition in Jharkhand



Role of NGOs in Tribal Upliftment in Jharkhand

1. Jharkhand Swabhiman:

Jharkhand Swabhiman is a non-profit organization based in Ranchi, Jharkhand, dedicated to supporting all underrepresented or marginalized facets of society. It seeks to provide equitable services to all without discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, or race. On February 6, 2002, the organization was founded by a group of seasoned and passionate individuals already involved in the social and economic development of the community.

It was Established with a clear vision and a strong purpose, Jharkhand Swabhiman aimed to be realized by means of group initiatives and cooperation with social experts, educators, young people, and social activists.

2. Citizens Foundation:

A non-profit founded humbly in Jharkhand in 1997, Citizens Foundation (CF) has since grown its presence by managing the event industry across ten states in India as a national-level entity. Committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CF has been dedicated to its mission of Making People Self Reliant for almost 20 years.

3. Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS):

JSLPS was created by the Jharkhand Rural Development Department as a special purpose vehicle to effectively carry out poverty reduction projects like DAY-NRLM across the state. Several projects geared at poverty reduction and women empowerment are run by the organization. NGOs have been quite instrumental in enabling women to rise out of poverty in different regions of Jharkhand, a fact JSLPS saw directly. Programmes such as the Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Programme (MKSP), Gramin Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY), and others targeting social development are vigorously carried out by the society. These programs target problems concerning non-farm and off-farm operations, financial inclusion, food security, and skill building. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Deen Dayal Upadhyay, and

the Model Career Center Saksham, Jharkhand's Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) Among the government programs are the Craftsman Training Scheme, Tribal Entrepreneurship Skill Development, and Kaushal Vikas Yojana (SJKVY). However, just six industries account for 95% of MSMEs: metallurgy, glass and ceramics, mechanical, textiles, wood, and food processing. In partnership with Green Digital, a global non-profit, JSLPS has also started the Advancing Tribal Livelihood and Self-Reliance (ATLAS) program. Targeting over 20,000 beneficiaries, this project seeks to offer tribal women who market hadiya (rice beer) respectable employment via ICT-based agricultural instruction.

4. Vikas Bharti, Bishunpur:

Focused mostly on the poorest and most backward villages, Vikas Bharti is a people's group headquartered in Bishunpur operating throughout all 24 districts of Jharkhand. It was founded on January 14, 1983, and is registered under the Society Registration Act of 1860. Its main office is located in Bishunpur, Gumla, and it also has a coordinating office in Ranchi. For 36 years, Vikas Bharti has provided assistance to tribal people in the areas of education, healthcare, livelihood, agriculture, food processing, horticulture, beekeeping, water and environmental protection, and more. Gumla, which is renowned for its natural beauty and tribal cultural heritage, continues to be its top priority even though its efforts span the entire state. By means of traditional skills and arts, the group encourages self-employment and independence and helps tribes preserve their language, culture, faith, and customs. For rural areas, Vikas Bharti offers human resource development, technological assistance, financial aid, and marketing channels. Furthermore, advocating for the Right to Information Act (RTI), MGNREGA, the Van Adhikarita (Forest Rights) Act, the Right to Education Act, and the Right to Health, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and other participatory governance initiatives have been strongly supported. It has also helped local tribes and government agencies to cooperate more closely. Adopting the Prime Ministers' motto Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Vikas Bharti has developed into a genuine people's organization.

5. Ram Krishna Mission:

Based in Morabadi, Ranchi, the Ram Krishna Mission founded in 1909 operates in several fields including animal welfare, education, health and nutrition, renewable energy, prisoner welfare, vocational training, rural and tribal development, women's empowerment, youth affairs, and microfinance (SHGs). It also supports sustainable development. Particularly aiming scheduled tribes, the Divyayan residential institution—related to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Krishi Vigyan Kendra—provides instruction in agriculture, dairy, poultry, horticulture, beekeeping, farm equipment, and social service. The Mission has been very helpful in promoting farming methods in Ranchi and surrounding areas like Ramgarh and Khunti starting in 1977. It provides farmers with specialized training and runs awareness campaigns on scientific agriculture and animal husbandry. Understanding the challenges that women in these regions suffer from poverty, low productivity, and societal discrimination, the Mission has economically and socially empowered them by starting self-help organizations and offering skill-development training in fields like food preservation, mushroom growing, piggery, fishing, and related activities, so creating alternate income possibilities.

6. PRADAN:

Dedicated to advancing sustainable livelihoods for rural poor people throughout Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, PRADAN is a nongovernmental organization. Women mostly gain from it via the encouragement of self-help groups and a range of agricultural, forestry, livestock, and village business-based livelihoods. Particularly by

reviving tasar sericulture, PRADAN has enabled many families in Jharkhand—including those in Banka, Godda, Dumka, Koderma, Chaibasa, and Sarikela—to get free from poverty. Thousands of poor families have been able to live with dignity thanks to this rebirth. Funded by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Central Silk Board, PRADAN has collaborated with the government under two SGSY (Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana) programs in Bihar and Jharkhand to offer technology and financial aid to impoverished groups. Through tasar silkworm breeding and yarn manufacturing, this government-NGO partnership has successfully created sustainable livelihoods for backward and tribal areas.

7. FLAC, free legal help committee

Originally established in 1977 to defend human rights, FLAC has spearheaded initiatives to fight the dayan pratha, or witch-hunting, in Bihar and Jharkhand since 1991. Its advocacy helped anti-witch hunting legislation to be adopted in both states, Jharkhand's version enacted in 2001 and the Dayan Pratha Pratishedh Adhiniyam adopted in Bihar in 1999. Jharkhand, which logs a great number of witch-hunting events and fatalities, still struggles with this problem. Twenty-six people died in 2018 in the state, and forty-one were arrested on witchcraft charges. Between 2013 and 2016, Jharkhand was the country's witch-hunting killing leader. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 102 such deaths were reported in 2019 with Chhattisgarh having the most fatalities. Fifteen women died in Jharkhand in 2019 as a result of charges of witchcraft.

Findings:

- Operating adult literacy centers, vocational training courses, and tribal schools, NGOs greatly help to raise educational level among tribal groups.
- Mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, and health services coordinated with governmental initiatives have all helped to raise access to healthcare.
- Promoting sustainable livelihoods such agriculture, tasar sericulture, animal husbandry, and handicrafts shows economic empowerment.
- Legal advocacy by groups such FLAC has been essential in fighting societal evils like witch-hunting and obtaining tribal land rights.
- Promotion of tribal languages, festivals, and traditional knowledge systems forms part of cultural preservation initiatives.
- SHGs, skill development, and microenterprise expansion have especially championed women empowerment.

Challenges:

- Uneven or restricted money with the NGOs,
- Influence of local elites in NGOs;
- Insufficient NGO cooperation.
- Need for long-term, culturally sensitive initiatives.
- NGOs' main advantages are said to be their grassroots adaptability and trust-building capacity, which helps to drive successful community involvement.
- Long-term effect calls for greater cooperation among NGOs, government agencies, and indigenous communities as well as better accountability and funding systems.

Conclusion:

NGOs have been quite important in helping tribal people in Jharkhand to rise socioeconomically. These organizations have covered major deficits left by state and market failures by means of their committed initiatives in domains including education, healthcare,

skill development, women empowerment, legal aid, and sustainable livelihoods. NGOs like JSLPS, Vikas Bharti, Ram Krishna Mission, PRADAN, FLAC, and Citizens Foundation have carried out community-driven projects respecting cultural sensitivities while fostering self-reliance and social inclusion.

Their people-centric approach, adaptability, and ground-level presence have helped them to gain trust and bring about significant change in some of the most isolated and underappreciated tribal areas. For long-term effects, though, continuing cooperation among NGOs, government organizations, and local communities is critical. Enhancing the efficacy of NGO projects in achieving holistic and inclusive tribal development depends on strengthening these partnerships, guaranteeing consistent funding, and encouraging accountability.

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