**Class Note**

**II SEMESTER 2020**

**M.Sc. Anthropology CBCS**

**Course Code- C-ANT 204**

**Course Name- Foundations of Anthropology**

**Topic - PROBLEMS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES (10.9)**

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PROBLEM OF INDEBTEDNESS

The nature of human society is such that mutual dependence is inevitable among the people for meeting their multiple needs. Some poor relatively lowly placed, have to depend upon others for their survival and development. These needs are both economic and social besides cultural and religions. Perhaps there is little to bother about such a mutually related interactional situation. But if the consequences of the poor class depending upon the rich class would mean exploitation of the former by the latter then there is violation of the principles of ethics, morality, equity, trust and humanity (Mumtaz Ali Khan, 1981). Indebtedness relates to one such problem. The problem arises in the context of money lending transactions where the money lenders are said to have exploited the debtors in such a way that the latter are virtually ruined and left with no hopes of survival . Indebtedness is almost universal, recurring and almost inevitable. Exploitation of the debtors by the creditors, though arising in the context of economic transaction is nevertheless a typical example of a social problem. Indebtedness becomes a permanent condition for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and is even passed on from father to son. The situation is due to economic factors and large scale exploitation (Government of India Report, 1967, P.No.75). The money lenders and traders still remains the major source of small loans in the tribal areas. The money lenders have no hesitation in advancing loans, for not only heavy compound interest, but also preemptive rights to purchase the standing crops ht rock-bottom price are their privilege. The tribal people approach the local money lenders for small loans such as festivals, marriages etc. The tribal people are illiterates. They don’t know arithmetic. Due to this they always leaves a comfortable arrear in favour of the creditor. Loan is available at all times and under any circumstances and the procedure is also so simple. So money lender easily attracted to the tribal people. One of the effects of indebtedness has been the increase in their poverty. Out of their inadequate incomes, some money goes to the money lenders by way of interest and thereby making them still poor. Inspite of the massive efforts launched by banks and other organisations, most of the tribal people find it difficult to escape the clutches of the money lenders. In many areas, Governmental institutions have not able to enter the interior tribal areas is also leads to increase the problem of indebtedness in the tribal people.

PROBLEM OF ILLITERACY

The rate of illiteracy among the Scheduled Tribes has been very low. Almost 90 per cent of the tribal people are illiterates in 1961, The literacy level range from 8.5 per cent to 16.3 per cent among the Scheduled Tribes during 1961-1981.In the recent years however, the rate of literacy has improved for the STs. As per 2011 Census, the rate of literacy for the STs is 59 per cent which is much below the general literacy of the country which is 74.04 per cent. Among the ST women, the rate of literacy is only about 50 per cent. The levels of literacy among females rose from 3.2 per cent to 8.04 per cent during the last decade. Education helps all-round developments of mind, body, culture and ultimately it leads to the welfare of individual and society, through with people can enjoy the economic fruits of their efforts. Economic development of a nationa always depends on education. If people are illiterate, the concerned authorities can not implement strict economic policies and programmes. Prior to 1950, the Government of India had no direct programme for the education of tribal people, with the adoption of the constitution, the promotion of Scheduled Trihes has become a special responsibility of both the Central and State Governments, Educational opportunities have not been equal for all, especially the tribals. Most of the tribal children man the race under severe handicaps owing to circumstances of family, peer group or social environment.

For a tribal family, to send its grown up girl or boy to school is essentially a matter of economics, and entails dislocation in the traditional pattern of division of labour — many parents can not 3ust afford to send their children to school (Elwin 1963, 84), Lack of education is a stumbling block to the tribals in attaining a higher standard of life. Though some of the tribal settlements have elementary schools within short distances and though education is free, many tribals refrain from sending their children to schools due to many reasons —» 1, Loss oh good chunk of their labour force, 2. The fear of expenditure on education, 3.The problem of motivating the children to take their studies seriously are the most important amongst them (Jacob John Kaltaka, 1983),Several expert bodies have made recommendations in respect of tribal education, the lasy comprehensive exercise having been done by the Sivaraman Committee which made forty four useful recommendations for improving the literacy rate in the tribal people. Though many developmental programmes have taken place in tribal areas, still then majority of tribal people illiterate.

PROBLEM OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Despite the constitutional protection promised to the tribals of India, they after more than four decades of independence, are the most backward ethnic group of India, on the major indicators of development—income, literacy, nutrition and health. The health conditions of the tribals are not in a good condition. Most of the tribal people in India are illiterates. They believe in faith cure and ageold methods. And also depends on local herbal medicines. Diseases are common between the tribal and non-tribal population. However, there are some diseases peculiarly prevalent in the hill areas. Malaria has been recently reduced, of not altogether eliminated. But there are certain social customs which facilitate propogation of diseases in the tribals. Diseases of the lungs are common among the tribesmen, even in the hills. Nutritional problems are also faced by tribals. Due to lack of balanced diet, tribals suffer various vitamin deficiency diseases. Ex: Night Blindness. Modern medicine has largely replaced the traditional practices of healers (veju)f and belief in such magicians has considerably declined.